

Living the
Gospel

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

MON, MAR 31 9:15 am	For the health & intentions of Lito & Dona Olindan
7:00 pm	
TUES, APR 1 7:00 pm	Costanzo Grelle †; Bokpri Zachane de Wagerson Kouamel †
WED, APR 2 9:15 am	
7:00 pm	
THUR, APR 3 7:00 pm	In thanksgiving - Adin Rodricks
FRI, APR 4 9:15 am	Donald Edward Ceveind †; Josph Lawrence McBain †; In thanksgiving for the birthday of Joshua Go
7:00 pm	Josph & Maria Pham †
SAT, APR 5 9:15 am	All Souls in Purgatory
5:00 PM	Guisseppe Cammalleri †; In thanksgiving for the 45th anniversary of Hazel & Oswald Colaso; In thanksgiving - Honoridez family
SUN, APR 6 9:00 am	Luisa Gomes †
10:30 am	Olga Medeiros †; Venancio Perez †
12:30 pm	Juanito & John Elmer Go †; In thanksgiving for the birthday of Gemma & Godwin Whitby
8:00 pm	For the People of the Parish

THIS WEEK AT SMDY

Monday, March 30th

10:00 am - Stiches from the heart

10:00 am - Rosary Apostolate

Tuesday, April 1st

1:00 pm - 55 Plus Club

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary - English

7:30 pm - TMIY

7:30 pm - RCIA

Wednesday, April 2nd

7:00 pm - Confirmation Class

7:30 pm - 9am Choir practice

Thursday, April 3rd

Friday, April 4th

Saturday, April 5th

10:00 am - Confirmation Class

3:30 pm - Children's Choir practice

6:15 pm - Bible Study

Sunday, April 6th

8:00 am - Legion of Mary - Vietnamese

As meaning deteriorates in the modern world, as our value systems and institutions crumble, all of us become increasingly aware that there is this eerily familiar awakening and beckoning figure that we've all known all of our lives, within us and around us. And for me, it's very exciting. The reason I wear a cross is because Christianity and, in particular, the figure of Christ, are, it seems to me, inevitably becoming more important as I become more familiar with suffering, purpose, self, and not-self. Like many desperate people, I need spirituality. I need God, or I cannot cope in this world. I need to believe in the best in people. I didn't have enough self-discipline to resist the allure of stardom; I fell face-first into the glitter, and I'm only just pulling myself out now.

- Russell Brand, English Actor and Podcaster

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, the gospel reading presents us with the classic parable of the Prodigal Son. The familiar narrative of restlessness, rebellion, reckless squandering, rock-bottoming, repentance and return is offered as an insightful echo into our own resistant hearts and as the ideal story line of conversion for those whom we hope would accept faith in Christ. The life of the now 48 year old Russel Brand fits the profile of the wayward lost soul who appears to have undergone a dramatic change from his former habits of decadence and profligacy. Details of his early childhood are typical of one who grew up with family breakdown; his exposure to promiscuity and substance abuse was as if encouraged by way of personal escape. His acting career was launched based on his capacity for outrageous behaviour. His reputation for scandal, depravity, misconduct and addiction has been publicly chronicled. His baptism, May 2024, in the Thames river in London offers a great sign of hope. His desire to combat his monstrous compulsions is being remedied through the prayer, especially of the Rosary. While he has not yet embraced the fullness of the Christian faith through reception into the Catholic Church, like any of the sinners the Church seeks to reconcile to herself in the Lenten season, prayers and pastoral care wanting his sobriety, safety, and sanctity are what this Sunday's parable best signifies.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David.

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple.

God is rich in mercy, as today's Epistle teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations. In Jesus, God keeps that promise Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself.

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

Fr. Roger

THIS WEEKEND IS SHARELIFE SUNDAY

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors, and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



Our parish goal this year is **\$62,000**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration, is a Eucharistic adoration held the first Friday of every month in the church. It begins with 9:15 AM Mass and is followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the remainder of the day. Adoration concludes at 7:00pm followed by Mass.

WHAT FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION PARTICIPANTS DO: Come any time during the adoration hours (approximately 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM) to spend some quiet, prayerful time with Jesus. Adoration participants commit to specific time (There will be a sign-up sheet in the office). These "Guardians of the Eucharist" ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone.

FIRST FRIDAY - HOLY HOUR

Please join us in this holy hour of prayers during the Eucharistic adoration on First Fridays of every month. We start with the 3 O'clock Prayer and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm. Then, we continue with Prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving, Reparation, and Intercession. We also pray the Eucharistic Rosary and the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament. We end the hour with a hymn of praise and adoration at 4:00pm. All are welcome.

MEET & GREET

The next Meet & Greet is on Sunday March 30 after the 9 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm masses hosted by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please come to enjoy coffee and snacks and get to know your fellow parishioners. Also, hear about how SSVp is helping to serve the poor in our community.

MARRIAGE PREP COURSE

The Spring Session dates for the Marriage Preparation Course have now been set. The Course will be held for four consecutive Saturday's May 31st, June 7th, 14th & 21st from 12:00pm - 5pm. \$250.00 per couple. To sign up, please contact the parish office.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one and require support, please contact the Bereavement Ministry by email at Bereavement.smdy@gmail.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a charitable Catholic organization, active throughout Canada. The work of the society is to assist those in need who live within our parish boundary. If you are in need of assistance please contact the St. Marguerite d'Youville Conference directly at 647-642-4906 or email: vincentdepauls-mdy@gmail.com

SERRA'S VOCATION SEEDS

Like the forgiving father of Luke's Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. Where are you at home? Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**



Weekday Morning Mass (Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday) Remains at 9:15 am.
Mass Every Weekday Evening (Monday - Friday) at 7:00 pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

will be held each Friday; honouring the Lenten tradition of meditating on our Lord's Passion. ***The Mass will begin at 7pm followed by the Stations of the Cross.***

Lenten Mission

April 8th, 9th & 11th at the 7pm Mass

Confessions

Tuesday, April 8th: 5-7pm

Wednesday, April 9th: 9:45am-12 & 5-7pm

Friday, April 11th: 5-7pm

Palm Sunday, April 12/13th

Saturday, April 12th - 5:00pm

Sunday, April 13th: 9:00 am; 10:30 am; 12:30 pm; 8:00 pm

Holy Thursday, April 17th

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 pm

Procession of Blessed Sacrament to Altar of Repose with Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until Midnight

Good Friday, April 18th

10:00 am - Passion of our Lord

12:00 noon - Passion of our Lord

3:00 pm - Passion of our Lord

5:00 pm - Divine Mercy Prayer/Novena

7:00 pm - The Way of the Cross – Taizé

Saturday, April 19th

4:00 pm - Divine Mercy Prayer/Novena

8:00 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 20th

9:00 am; 10:30 am; 12:30 pm; 8:00 pm

6:00 pm - Divine Mercy Prayer/Novena

Divine Mercy Novena – April 21st - 27th

at 6pm followed by Mass

Sunday, April 27th

Divine Mercy Sunday Anointing - 3pm

Afro-Caribbean Mass - 5pm

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in May 2025 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422.

Volunteers Needed!



If you are interested in volunteering at the parish, please email Linda at LYeh@archtoronto.org with the following information:

1. Your first and last name, phone number and email address.
2. Are you an Adult (18+) or Minor (under 18)
3. Which ministry you are interested in.



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