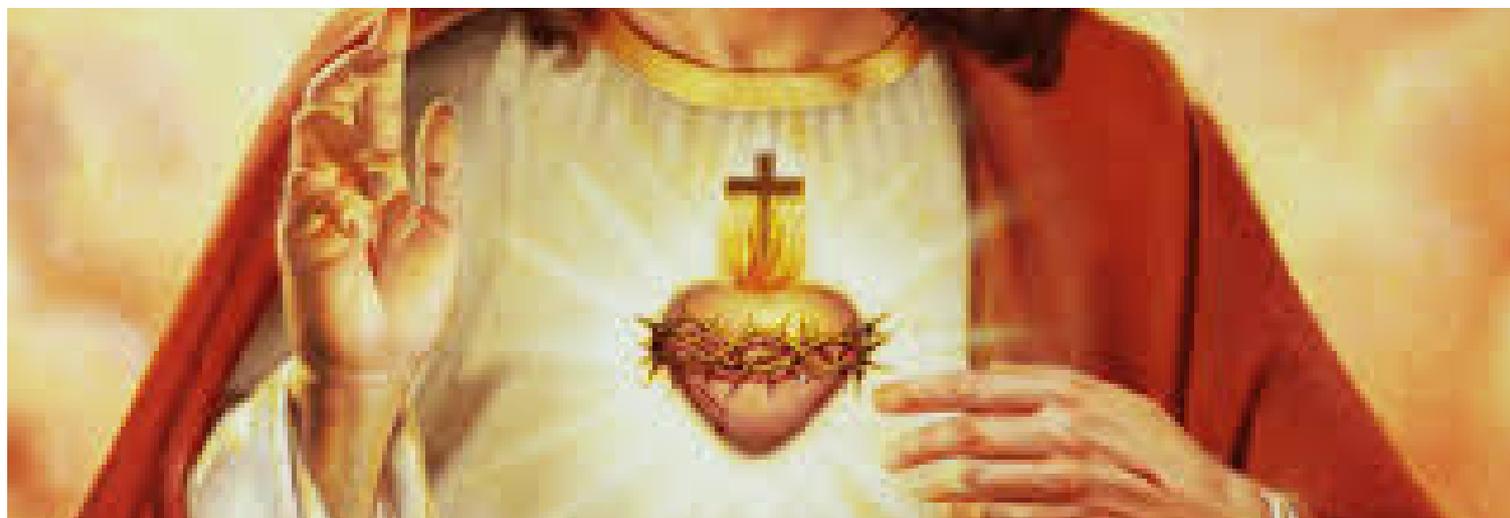


WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday, dear Parishioners!

We thank the Lord for his mercy and love, outpoured to us through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our Divine Mercy celebration shall be at 3pm this Sunday April 11. There are still spots available for in-person participation. It will also be streamed online.

The Easter Concert was an enormous success! Many thanks to all the presenters and all of our viewers. So much thanks to our parishioners and beyond who have helped us to be able to render such beautiful program by supporting our virtual project. *Thank you!*

On Sunday, 25th of April, at 3pm, we are hoping to celebrate the First Holy Communion for our children who went through the classes last year but could not have the celebration. I pray nothing changes before that time. We shall be in touch with the parents within the week as to modalities. The Church, like the rest places of worship in Ontario, continues to operate on 15% capacity. Please continue to book your spots for weekend Masses so we can adequately plan for you and keep us all safe. May the mercy of God be overflowing in your lives and that of your families and friends. God bless you,

Fv. Victor Amole

OVERVIEW:

- From the Administrator's Desk
- Parish News
- Around the Archdiocese & Beyond
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis
- St. Bernadette of Lourdes

in person MASS SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| April 12th | 9:00AM |
| April 13th | 9:00AM |
| April 14th | 7:00PM |
| April 15th | 9:00AM |
| April 16th | 9:00AM |
| April 17th | 5:00PM |
| April 18th | 9:00/10:30/12.30PM |



GOSPEL INSPIRATION

MY LORD AND MY GOD! (John 20:28)

“In today’s Gospel, the apostle Thomas personally experiences the mercy of God, which has a concrete face, the face of Jesus, the risen Jesus. Thomas does not believe it when the other apostles tell him, “We have seen the Lord” (John 20:25). It isn’t enough for him that Jesus had foretold it...He wants to see: he wants to put his hand in the place of the nails and in Jesus’ side. “And how does Jesus react? **With patience:** Jesus does not abandon Thomas in his stubborn unbelief; he gives him a week’s time, he does not close the door, he waits. And Thomas acknowledges his own poverty, his little faith.

“My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). With this simple yet faith filled invocation, he responds to Jesus’ patience. He lets himself be enveloped by divine mercy; he sees it before his eyes, in the wounds of Christ’s hands and feet and in his open side, and he discovers

trust: his is a new man, no longer an unbeliever, but a believer.

“Maybe someone among us here is thinking: my sin is so great, I am as far from God as the younger son in the parable, my unbelief is like that of Thomas; I don’t have the courage to go back, to believe that God can welcome me and that he is waiting for me, of all people. But God is indeed waiting for you; he asks of you only the courage to go to him....

“Let us find the courage to return to his house, to dwell in his loving wounds, allowing ourselves to be loved by him and to encounter his mercy in the sacraments. We will feel his wonderful tenderness, we will feel his embrace, and we too will become more capable of mercy, patience, forgiveness and love.”

Source: Living With Christ

Universal Intention of Pope Francis for April 2021: Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



Parish News

Message of Goodwill from Fr. Jeff

In these days when we celebrate the Victory of Christ over sin and death, the parishioners of St. Dunstan's are in my thoughts and prayers, and I send my best wishes for a joyous Easter season.

Even in this ongoing pandemic we must keep our hope alive that with Jesus, we can overcome every difficulty.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers during my illness. I hope to be back with you in a few months.

I wish to thank Fr. Victor for his dedication to our parish, and for arranging the concert of Easter music which expresses our faith in the Risen Lord and our joy at His Resurrection which is the promise of our own new life in Him. *God bless you all.*

New Intersessory Prayer in Times of Covid-19



Bishop Robert Kasun has issued a special prayer of healing and hope. He has asked that we lift up our voices to God together at this time of distress. Click on the prayerful hands (*top*) to be directed to the prayer.

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday to Everyone at St. Dunstan's Parish

Join us today at 3:00PM as we celebrate the Hour of Great Mercy. On this special Sunday whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.



Lector Formation Webinar

Lectors, readers and clergy are invited to join a webinar on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The webinar will provide an opportunity for everyone to learn more about the use of Scripture in the liturgy and to reflect on the role Scripture and liturgy have in deepening a relationship with God.

There is **no cost** to attend but registration is required. Information on how to join will be sent to you upon registration. To register, please visit <http://bit.ly/LFW-RegisterMay2021>.



It is often easy to think of the readings in Mass as the main place we hear from Sacred Scripture. However, the whole liturgy is filled with references to Sacred Scripture. The more we hear and understand the references, the richer the liturgy is, and the richer the liturgy is the deeper our appreciation for the Word of God will be.

This webinar is a chance for readers and lectors to come and reflect on various scriptural references in the liturgy and unpack how they can help them grow more deeply in love with both the Word of God and the liturgy. We will look at both direct scriptural references as well as some allusions that may be passed over at first glance.

Lector Formation Webinar

*A More Profound
Understanding:
Scripture in the Liturgy*

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
7 - 8:30 p.m.

To register, please visit
<https://bit.ly/LFW-RegisterMay2021>
by May 7, 2021.

Please register as soon as possible as space is limited. There is no cost to attend. Information regarding how to join the webinar will be provided upon registration.

If you have any questions please contact
Ella Okonkwo at 416-934-3400, ext. 523
or formation@archtoronto.org.



Click on the poster (*above*) to learn more about the event.

Or, if you have specific questions, please contact Ella Okonkwo at (416) 934-3400 ext. 523 or email: formation@archtoronto.org.



If you missed the live presentation of the Easter concert, please visit St. Dunstan's YouTube Channel. It will be posted for everyone to enjoy.

Easter PRAISE NIGHT

ONLINE PRESENTATION

APRIL 9, 2021

7:00PM



Celebrate Easter with a night of
song & praise to our Lord!
stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/



ST. DUNSTAN'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

Around the Archdiocese & Beyond

Songs from the Seminary

THIS IS A VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY ON THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 AT 7:00PM. Join the seminarians live from the seminary for an evening of music in honour of **Mary, Our Blessed Mother**. Visit:

www.youtube.com/archtoronto

The concert is free but donations are welcome to support the Chapel Restoration. To donate visit: <http://bit.ly/SeminaryChapelRestoration> (type "chapel" in the comments box to direct your donation to this specific project).

The 2nd Annual Theology of the Body Virtual Conference will take place from April 30 to May 2. Hosted by the Theology of the Body Institute, this conference will feature dozens of prominent speakers and artists — showing how the Theology of the Body applies to everyday life, how it will transform your prayer life, bring healing of the deepest wounds in yourself and with others, and how it will bring your Catholic faith alive in new and brilliant ways. Please visit their website for more information and to register (free).

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online single-session consultations for individuals, couples or families who need to address a **mental health or relationship concern**. To arrange for a session, please contact: info@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 or 416-222-0048.

Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs. Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees.

For the week of April 19–24, let us all join, as a community, in prayer for vocations to the priesthood, religious or consecrated life. We also ask that you pray for our six soon-to-be priests, along with all who are discerning and who are currently in formation at St. Augustine's Seminary. Thank you for your continued support as we work and pray together to the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into His vineyard. Click on the icon below to be re-directed to a special prayer for vocations.



The Vatican Museums are set to re-open to the public next month with strict new covid-19 measures. Visitors will be required to wear a face mask, have their temperature checked, and must stay three feet away from others at all times.



Sharelife Collection dates for the 2021 campaign have been moved to

- April 17-18, 2021 and
- October 2-3, 2021.

 ShareLife

Please note that the envelopes in your offertory box will have different dates on them, but donations will be accepted anytime. Thank you for your generosity.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Canada legalized euthanasia in June, 2016. A few weeks ago, the Canadian Senate voted to pass Bill C-7 with 5 amendments which included expanding euthanasia to people with mental illness. Oppose Bill C-7 now and demand that parliament reject euthanasia for grievous and irremediable mental illnesses.

To sign this petition opposing Bill-C7 and for more information about the organization please go to [Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Canada](http://EuthanasiaPreventionCoalitionCanada.org) or epcc.ca


Save the Date
I'm not perfect, you're not perfect.
BUT IT'S OK
Saturday, April 17, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
COST: FREE

 WITH 
COLLEEN CARROLL CAMPBELL DR. JOSEPHINE LOMBARDI

www.wowblessingstoronto.com Registration Required

A VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY WOMEN ON THE WORD TORONTO

Do you feel like everything in your life needs to be perfect? What does God's version of perfect mean? Women of the Word Toronto is hosting a virtual conference with guest speakers, Colleen Carroll Campbell, author of *The Heart of Perfection: How the Saints Taught Me to Trade My Dream of Perfect for God's* and Dr. Josephine Lombardi, theologian, author and presenter. Registration is required.

REGISTER:

www.wowblessingstoronto.com

Covid-19 Revised Restrictions

PLACES OF WORSHIP

On Friday, March 12th the provincial government announced changes to the restrictions on places of worship currently in the Grey (Lockdown) Zone. As of **Monday, March 15, 2021**, churches in this designation (in the archdiocese, currently Toronto and Peel Regions) will be permitted **15 percent capacity** for religious services.

We began to celebrate public Masses on Monday March 15, 2021 and we will continue to do so until instructed otherwise.

A few very important additional points:

- The Grey (Lockdown) Zones are still very much the areas where positive cases of Covid-19 are highest in the province. For the safety of all, it is imperative that everyone does their part to follow **WorshipSafe guidelines** to protect parishioners, clergy, and staff.
- Please **do not congregate in or around the church** after services in large numbers. Arrival and dismissal will be co-ordinated in such a fashion to ensure large groups do not congregate. This policy includes weddings, funerals, and baptisms.
- We hope our Livestreaming of services will continue, barring any technological difficulties. The dispensation from the Sunday Eucharist will continue for those of our brethren that find it difficult to attend church physically. **The elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions** are asked to exercise **extreme caution** about any outings, including attendance at church.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

ON SUNDAYS

The parish will be using Eventbrite to facilitate the return to in-person mass. This ticketing system will help us ensure that we do not exceed the **15% capacity on Sundays**. It also makes contact tracing possible.

Using Eventbrite is very easy. Visit our Eventbrite site by clicking on the orange Eventbrite button to reserve your ticket, or visit our website. If you still need help, please call **Jean (416) 694-2811** and she will secure a seat for you. Don't forget! Click on the orange button (below) to get your ticket for one of next Sunday's Masses.



FUNERALS IN GREY ZONE

Please note that for funerals, at present, the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) has indicated that funeral home staff will **not be permitted** to assist inside a church if there are more than 10 people present in the Grey Zone. If attendance exceeds that number, funeral home staff have been directed by the BAO to place the casket at the church entrance and return to their vehicles. Upon completion of the service, church personnel / family are to return the casket to the hearse for delivery to the cemetery.



All arrivals without a reservation will be **put on standby** and will be seated in the church **only if the church has not exceeded capacity** according to the **WorshipSafe guidelines** outlined by the Archdiocese of Toronto. Staff will be present at the entrance of the church at all Sunday masses to guide you.

*Dear brothers
and sisters,
good morning!*



Praying in Communion with the Saints

Excerpted from the General Audience on April 7, 2021

Today, I would like to reflect on the connection between prayer and the communion of saints. In fact, when we pray, we never do so alone: even if we do not think about it, we are immersed in a majestic river of invocations that precedes us and proceeds after us.

Contained in the prayers we find in the Bible, that often resound in the liturgy, are the traces of ancient stories, of prodigious liberations, of deportations and sad exiles, of emotional returns, of praise ringing out before the wonders of creation... And thus, these voices are passed on from generation to generation, in a continual intertwining between personal experience and that of the people and the humanity to which we belong. No one can separate themselves from their own history, the history of their own people. We always carry this inheritance in our attitudes, and also in prayer. In the prayers of praise, especially those that blossom from the hearts of the little ones and the humble, echo parts of the Magnificat that Mary lifted up to God in front of her relative Elizabeth; or of the exclamation of the elderly Simeon who, taking Baby Jesus in his arms, said: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word" (Lk 2:29).

Prayers — those that are good — are "expansive", they propagate themselves continuously, with or without being posted on social media: from hospital wards, from moments of festive gatherings to those in which we suffer silently... The suffering of each is the suffering of all, and one's happiness is transmitted to someone else's soul. Suffering and happiness are part of a single history: they are stories that create history in one's own life. This history is relived in one's own words, but the experience is the same.

Prayer is always born again: each time we join our hands and open our hearts to God, we find ourselves in the company of anonymous saints and recognized saints who pray with us and who intercede for us as older brothers and sisters who have preceded us on this same human adventure.

In the Church there is no grief that is borne in solitude, there are no tears shed in oblivion, because everyone breathes and participates in one common grace. It is no coincidence that in the ancient church people were buried in gardens surrounding a sacred building, as if to say that, in some way, the multitude who preceded us participate in every Eucharist. Our parents and grandparents are there, our godfathers and godmothers are there, our catechists and other teachers are there... That faith that was passed on, transmitted, that we received. Along with faith, the way of praying and prayer were also transmitted.

Saints are still here, not far away from us; and their representations in churches evoke that "cloud of witnesses" that always surrounds us (cf. Heb 12:1). At the beginning, we heard the Reading of the passage from the Letter to the Hebrews. They are witnesses that we do not adore — certainly, we do not adore these saints — but whom we venerate and who, in thousands of different ways, bring us to Jesus Christ, the only Lord and Mediator between God and humanity. A "saint" who does not bring you to Jesus Christ is not a saint, not even a Christian. A saint makes you remember Jesus Christ because he or she journeyed along the path of life as a Christian. Saints remind us that holiness can blossom even in our lives, however weak and marked by sin. In the Gospels we read that the first saint to be "canonized" was a thief, and he was "canonized", not by a Pope, but by Jesus himself. Holiness is a journey of life, of a long, short or instantaneous encounter with Jesus, but always a witness. A saint is a witness, a man or woman who encountered Jesus and followed Jesus. It is never too late to convert to the Lord who is good and great in love (cf. Ps 103:8).



twitter

Pope's Thoughts in Tweets: Let us never tire of seeking the risen Christ who gives life in abundance to those who meet him. To find Christ means to discover peace in our hearts #Easter.

Featured: Saint Bernadette of Lourdes - April 16th

St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844. Her parents were very poor and she was the first of nine children. She was baptized at St. Pierre's, the local parish church, on January 9. As a toddler, Bernadette contracted cholera and suffered extreme asthma. Unfortunately, she lived the rest of her life in poor health.

On Thursday, February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, when a very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle (Tuta de Massavielha).

The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray. Bernadette later described the woman as "uo petito damizelo," meaning "a small young lady. Though her sister and friend claimed they were unable to see her, Bernadette knew what she saw was real.

Three days later, Bernadette, her sister Marie, and other girls returned to the grotto, where Bernadette immediately knelt, saying she could see "aquero" again. She fell into a trance and one girl threw holy water at the niche and another threw a rock that shattered on the ground. It was then that the apparition disappeared.

On February 18, Bernadette said "the vision" asked her to return to the grotto each day for a fortnight. With each visit, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary and the period of daily visions became known as "la Quinzaine sacrée," meaning "holy fortnight."

Keeping You Posted

by Jay Franco



The image on the stamp is of St. Bernadette, praying. The stamp was issued by the Vatican to honour the centenary of the 1st apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette in Lourdes.

When Bernadette began to visit the grotto, her parents were embarrassed and attempted to stop her, but were unable to do so. On February 25, Bernadette claimed to have had a life-changing vision.

The vision had told her "to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there" as an act of penance. The next day, the grotto's muddy waters had been cleared and fresh clear water flowed.

On March 2, at the thirteenth of the apparitions, Bernadette told her family the lady said "a chapel should be built and a procession formed."

During her sixteenth vision, which Bernadette claims to have experienced for over an hour, was on March 25. Bernadette claimed she had asked the woman her name, but her question was only met with a smile. Bernadette asked again, three more times, and finally the woman said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." *Catholic.org*

“

*What have I done for Christ?
What am I doing for Christ?
What ought I do for Christ?*

-St. Stanislaus

”

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at St. Dunstan's

Wednesday
evenings at
7:00PM.

*Please
Join
Us in
prayer.*



Jokes of the Week



Traffic cop's mercy: A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*" (Mt 5:7). The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*"

Photographer's mercy: The story is told of a politician who, after receiving the proofs of a picture, was very angry with the photographer. He stormed back to the man's studio and screamed at him: "*This picture does not do me justice!*" The photographer replied, "*Sir, with a face like yours, what you need is mercy, not justice!*"

CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

3150 Danforth Avenue
Scarborough MIL 1B6

Office: 416-694-2811

Email: stdunstan@rogers.com

In this year of Saint Joseph, we are encouraged to say this special prayer, asking for his intercession.

Special Prayer to St. Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen



SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

BY FATHER VICTOR

Due to the limitations caused by the pandemic, many parishioners have not been able to offer their donations to help upkeep our Church.

I've listed a few ways in which you might like to continue supporting Saint Dunstan's Parish.

We appreciate your generosity at this difficult time.

- **ENVELOPES:** Envelopes can be dropped off at the church office. Please call ahead: 416-694-2811
- **MONTHLY WITHDRAWALS:** Consider pre-authorized giving For more information: <https://stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/About-Us/donate>
- **CREDIT / DEBIT:** Donate online using your credit card or your chequing account. Visit: <https://stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/About-Us/donate>
- **ON-LINE BANKING:** Contribute to the offertory via on-line banking. Visit: <https://stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/About-Us/donate>