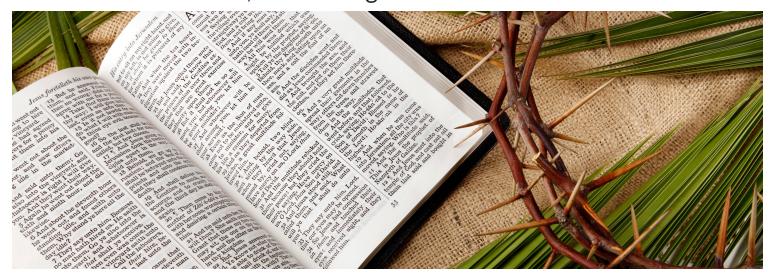
VOL. 1, ISSUE 17 | MARCH 28, 2021

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

May the passion and strength of Jesus the Christ be with you as we enter into the holiest week of the year.

We thank the Lord who has given us the grace to live out this graceful time - the purifying season of grace - offering us the possibility of more prayers, fasting and charity, as well as the opportunity to participate in a Lenten retreat.

Please be advised that the schedule for Holy Week is available on page 3. Please sign up in advance by using **Eventbrite** so we can make adequate planning to keep every parishioner safe. It is important for us to be mindful of our surroundings; therefore, please do not gather in groups at any time either inside or outside the church. Please respect a safe distance of 6 feet between people. Thank you for your cooperation.

May Jesus who suffers for us and goes to the cross for us accept our own sufferings, help us carry our crosses, and grant us a glorious resurrection with Him.

Happy Palm Sunday!

Fr. Victor Amole

OVERVIEW:

- From the Administrator's Desk
- Parish News
- Around the Archdiocese & Beyond
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis



March 29th	9:00AM
March 30th	9:00AM
March 31st	7:00PM
Holy Thursday	7:00PM
Good Friday	3:00PM
EASTER VIGIL	8:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00AM/10:30AM/12.30PM





GOSPEL INSPIRATION

They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Mark 14:1-15:47)

But what about Jesus? As Son of David, he came from a royal line of royal kings and rulers. As Son of God, he is the king of the universe. But look how he is treated. He is denounced by the crowd, even though Pilate calls him king (Mark 15:9-12). He is mocked by the soldiers, who pretend to give him homage. And he is taunted by those who think that a real king would come down from the cross and save himself.

But this is exactly what royalty in the kingdom of God looks like: a king who empties himself and takes the form of a slave. A king who rides into Jerusalem not on a chariot but on a donkey (Mark 11:1-7). A king who willingly submits to spitting, lashing, and a brutal death to save his people.

As you go through Holy Week, keep Jesus' kingship in mind. Today he sits at the right hand of the Father, reigning in glory. But he is also the servant King who loved you enough to die for you and who still loves you enough to forgive every sin. This is God's way of royalty. It's your way as well through Jesus' death because and resurrection, you have become grafted into the family of God. You have royal blood running through your veins! Through the grace that Jesus won for you, you can live out this royal calling as he did: in love, in service, and in laying down your life for his people. As you walk this road, know that a "crown of righteousness" awaits you, and all who serve in Jesus' royal household (2: Timothy 4:8).

Source: Living with Christ



Universal Intention of Pope Francis for March 2021:

<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u>: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Parish News

HOLY WEEK

Programme

PALM SUNDAY

Normal Mass Schedule

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Passion of the Lord: 3:00PM Stations of the Cross: 7:00PM

EASTER VIGIL

8:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY

Normal Mass Schedule

EASTER MONDAY

10:00AM



We all know that adjustments to our celebrations have been made these days to keep us all safe in the face of the pandemic. For Holy Week this year, the Archdiocese of Toronto has provided us with a few guidelines during Holy Week:

Palm Sunday: there will be a simple entrance, no gathering in the foyer. Ushers (with gloves) will hand us blessed palms at the entrance.

Holy Thursday: There will be no washing of the feet this year. There will neither be an alter of repose nor procession with the Blessed Sacrament after Mass. We are encouraged to adore and pray from our pews. The Tabernacle will be opened for adoration until 10:00PM.

Good Friday: There will be no individual veneration of the cross. General veneration from our pews is recommended. We are also encouraged to bring our own crosses for adoration, spiritual or physical.

Easter Vigil: The pascal candle will be lit and placed on the altar this year; there will be no service of light. Holy water will be sprinkled from the altar for the renewal of our baptism.

Sharelife Collection dates for the 2021 campaign have been moved to

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

SL 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.



More Movies on Formed.org

In this special feature-length episode, Benjamin Cello, Lolly Popular, and the Cheerful Chums join with traveling troubadour, Brother Joseph, to tell the story of the Passion of the Lord Jesus to little children. Using immersive and artful shadow puppetry and a soaring full orchestral score, Brother Joseph and Benjamin Cello bring the Greatest Love Story Ever Told to life!

Sign up today and enjoy this awesome resource which the parish has already subscribed to your use. Visit https://formed.org/. Simply search for Saint Dunstan Danforth and get free access. There are tons of faith materials so that we can learn more about our faith.

Divine Mercy Novena

As we enter into Holy Week, let's also remember that the feast of the Divine Mercy will be coming up in two weeks' time - Second Sunday of Easter (April 11th). We hope to celebrate at Saint Dunstan's at 3pm, in person and virtually. The link to register will be available online soon. In the meantime, the Novena starts on the 2nd of April, privately in our homes. Let us pray together, seeking the mercy of God through this powerful devotion to the Divine Mercy.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY 7:00PM



Parish News

LENT 2021



Virtual Easter Praise Night



The plan is on for another beautiful musical encounter! Let's gather together to celebrate Easter with a night of song and praise to our Lord. Be sure to

mark April 9th at 7:00pm on your calendars and invite your friends to watch. We will be making a social-media invite flier soon so you can send it to friends. There's still time to sign up to participate in this event, so if you're musically inclined, don't be shy! Contact Fr. Victor by phone or email. Share your talents with the community.

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM. Please Join Us in prayer.



As we journey through this season of grace, a couple of notes to remind us of the rules of the church to help us practice our faith and prepare for our Lenten journey.

- Canon 1250 All Fridays through the year and at the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.
- Canon 1251 Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Canon 1252 All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fasting up to the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevertheless, pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.
- Canon 1253: It is for the conference of bishops to determine more precisely the observance of fast and abstinence and to substitute in whole or in part for fast and abstinence other forms of penance especially works of charity and exercises of piety.

Get more videos & information about St. Dunstan's Church

Click Below to subscribe to Our YouTube Channel

SUBSCRIBE •





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 50 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 cemetary.



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.

Around the Archdiocese & Beyond



Click on the heart (*right*) to download free biblically-themed colouring sheets for children by artist

Daniel Mitsui

CARDINAL Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, and president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, has set aside **May 23-30, 2021** as a week of prayer for China. A new Children's Liturgy of the Word program called "Yes, Lord!" is being offered through Salt & Light Media for the entire Lenten period!

Full-length episodes are posted every Friday on: https://www.slmedia.org/programs/yeslord

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 <u>Euthanasia Prevention Coalition</u> <u>Canada or epcc.ca</u>

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/SeminaryChapelRestorati on (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).

Integritas Claritas Consonantia

Explore the gospel daily through art.

www.Christian.Art

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.



Lector

Formation

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.

electors 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 elance.

Webinar

A More Profound
Understanding: To repitate, please visit

Scripture in the Liturgy
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
7 - 8:30 p.m.

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.

Archdiocese of Toronto 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.

On March 9, 2021 Canadian Catholic Bishops released a statement about the different types of Covid-19 vaccines.

Please read the statement by clicking on the image (*right*) which will direct you to the article in the CNA.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Pope Francis:



Today the catechesis is dedicated to prayer in communion with Mary. It occurs precisely on the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Annunciation. We know that the main pathway of Christian prayer is the humanity of Jesus. In fact, the confidence typical of Christian prayer would be meaningless if the Word had not become incarnate, giving us in the Spirit His filial relationship with the Father. We heard in the Scripture of the gathering of the disciples, the pious women and Mary, praying after Jesus's Ascension. The first Christian community was awaiting Jesus's gift, Jesus's promise.

Christ is the Mediator, Christ is the bridge that we cross to turn to the Father (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2674). He is the only Redeemer: there are no co-redeemers with Christ. He is the only one. He is the Mediator par excellence. He is the Mediator. Each prayer we raise to God is through Christ, with Christ and in Christ and it is fulfilled thanks to his intercession. The Holy Spirit extends Christ's mediation through every time and every place: there is no other name by which we can be saved: Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and humanity (see Acts 4:12).

Due to Christ's one mediation, other references Christians find for their prayer and devotion take on meaning, first among them being the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

She occupies a privileged place in the lives of Christians, and therefore, in their prayer as well, because she is the Mother of Jesus. The Eastern Churches have often depicted her as the Odigitria, the one who "shows the way"; and the way is her Son, Jesus Christ. The beautiful, ancient painting of the Odigitria in the Cathedral of Bari comes to my mind. It is simple. The Madonna who shows Jesus, naked; then they put a shirt on him to cover his nakedness, but the truth is that Jesus is naked, he himself, man, born of Mary, is the Mediator.

And she indicates the Mediator: she is the Odigitria. Her presence is everywhere in Christian iconography, sometimes very prominently, but always in relation to her Son and in connection with Him. Her hands, her eyes, her behavior are a living "catechism", always indicating the hinge, she always points out the center: Jesus. Mary is completely directed toward Him (see CCC, 2674) to such an extent that we can say she is more disciple than Mother. The directions she gave at the wedding at Cana: "He: do whatever he will tell you". She always refers to Christ. She is the first disciple.

This is the role Mary fulfilled throughout her entire earthly life and which she forever retains: to be the humble handmaid of the Lord, nothing more. At a certain point in the Gospels she almost seems to disappear; but then she reappears in the more crucial moments, such as at Cana, when her Son, thanks to her caring intervention, performs his first "sign" (see Jn 2:1-12), and then on Golgotha at the foot of the cross.

To read the entire message, please simply click here.



twitter

Pope's Thoughts in Tweets: How many times have we told the Lord: "Lord, I will come to you later... I can't come today. Tomorrow I will begin to pray and do something for others". In this life, we will always have things to do and excuses to offer, but right now is the time to return to God. #Lent

Featured: Saint Francis of Paola, March 27th

Francis of Paola was a man who deeply loved contemplative solitude and wished only to be the "least in the household of God." Yet, when the Church called him to active service in the world, he became a miracle-worker and influenced the course of nations.

After accompanying his parents on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, he began to live as a contemplative hermit in a remote cave near Paola, on Italy's southern seacoast. Before he was 20, he received the first followers who had come to imitate his way of life. Seventeen years later, when his disciples had grown in number, Francis established a Rule for his austere community and sought Church approval. This was the founding of the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi, who were approved by the Holy See in 1474.

In 1492, Francis changed the name of his community to "Minims" because he wanted them to be known as the least (minimi) in the household of God. Humility was to be the hallmark of the brothers as it had been in Francis's personal life. Besides the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Francis enjoined upon his followers the fourth obligation of a perpetual Lenten fast. He felt that heroic mortification was necessary as a means for spiritual growth.

It was Francis's desire to be a contemplative hermit, yet he believed that God was calling him to the apostolic life. He began to use the gifts he had received, such as the gifts of miracles and prophecy, to minister to the people of God. A defender of the poor and oppressed, Francis incurred the wrath of King Ferdinand of Naples for the admonitions he directed toward the king and his sons.



Image of The Vision of Saint Francis of Paola by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, circa 1670.

Following the request of Pope Sixtus IV, Francis traveled to Paris to help Louis XI of France prepare for his death. While ministering to the king, Francis was able to influence the course of national politics. He helped to restore peace between France and Brittany by advising a marriage between the ruling families, and between France and Spain by persuading Louis XI to return some disputed land. Francis died while at the French court at the age of 91.

Source: Franciscan Media

Keeping You Posted by Jay Franco



This stamp (above) is one in a series of five stamps issued by the Republic of Burundi at Easter, 1974. The artwork, an image of Christ's crucifixion, was painted by Belgian painter, V. der Weyden.

The second stamp (right) was issued in Italy on December 21, 1957. This black and white stamp represents St. Francis of Paola's micracle, known as the crossing the Strait of Messina. A similar multi-coloured stamp was issued on January 27, 2007 to commemorate



the 500th anniversary of his death.

66

Be converted, then, with a sincere heart. Live your life that you may receive the blessing of the Lord. Then the peace of God our Father will be with you always.

-St. Francis of Paola



Parishioners' Reflections

ABUNDANT

by Theresa Kellen, RCIA coordinator

I came across this joke the other day which caused me to reflect on God's abundant blessings:

A couple wanted to have children but they were having no luck despite what they tried.

They went to their priest for advice. He told them that they came at the right time as his superior was sending him to Rome to study. The priest told them he would light a candle for them when he got there.

Ten years later, the priest returned home and went to visit the couple. When he knocks on the door, he is greeted by the wife holding a toddler in her arms. "Well isn't this a pleasant surprise!" exclaimed the priest. "It seems your prayers were answered."

"Oh yes," she responds. "In addition to little Suzy here, we have two pairs of twins, a set of triplets, and our eldest who is playing in the backyard with them."

"Oh my goodness! Congratulations!" the priest said. "How is your husband? I understand he is away."

"He flew to Rome, actually" she replied.

"To Rome? Why?" asks the priest. The woman smiled at the priest and said:

"To blow out your candle!"



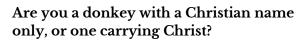
The couple in this story would have been overjoyed to receive the gift of one child and ecstatic to have a second. But God blessed them with many more. So much more that they were overwhelmed.

This is how God answers our prayers if we let Him. He only wants to give us all that we truly need. He is just waiting for us to ask.

We are wounded by original sin which causes us to hold back. We recognize our weaknesses and sins and, like Adam and Eve, we hide from Him. Sometimes, we find it hard to believe that God will answer our prayers. Or perhaps we need to do this thing or that to be heard. Or we shouldn't 'bother' God with such a minor request. Maybe we even limit our requests because we doubt God's love for us. But Jesus tells us we are to "ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. ...how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Mt 7:7, 11) When you pray, are you asking for God to give you what you want or for what He wants?

God has amazing gifts and bountiful blessings to give. He has awesome plans for each and every one of His children. We dream too small; hope too small. We try to fit God's big plans for us into our little plans. God is the perfect loving Father who only wants the best for us. By being that perfect Father, He allows us to make our own decision to work with Him or not. He loves us so much that He gave us that freedom. If we just truly and completely say yes to His plans, we would be overwhelmed with blessings, just like the couple. It is there for the asking. Are you going ask? Imagine if we all did.

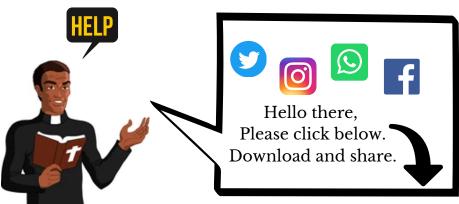
Anecdote of the Week





An interesting as well as challenging old fable tells of the colt that carried Jesus on Palm Sunday. The colt thought that the reception was organized to honor him. "I am a unique donkey!" this excited When he asked his mother if he animal might have thought. could walk down the same street alone the next day and be honored again, his mother said, "No, you are nothing without Him who was riding you." Five days later, the colt saw a huge crowd of people in the street. It was Good Friday, and the soldiers were taking Jesus to Calvary. The colt could not resist the temptation of another royal reception. Ignoring the warning of his mother, he ran to the street, but he had to flee for his life as soldiers chased him and people stoned him. Thus, the colt finally learned the lesson that he was only a poor donkey without Jesus to ride on him. As we enter Holy Week, today's readings challenge us to examine our lives to see whether we carry Jesus within us and bear witness to Him through our living or are Christians in name only. Credit: Fr. Anthony Kadavil

Friendly Reminder!







CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

3150 Danforth Avenue Scarborough M1L 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



BUILDING THE CHURCH TOGETHER

BY FATHER VICTOR

In the name of Jesus Christ, dear parishioners, I am reaching out to you today because our church - like many churches in Toronto and the GTA - is struggling financially. Money is needed for many expenses at Saint Dunstan's including: heat, hydro, phones, insurance, snow plow services and staff salaries.

Standing behind the ambo giving a homily that I prepared is easy compared to asking for donations during a pandemic. Many parishioners have experienced unemployment and great hardship at this time, so to ask parishioners to open

their purse strings to sustain the church is a deeply humbling experience for me.

The Church is <u>not</u> a business. It has never been a business and it will never be a business. We do our best to rely on the generosity of volunteers and the kindness of local businesses to sustain us, but the limitations caused by the pandemic have created a large shortfall. If you are able to donate, please consider one of the options listed at the end of this short article. Any amount is greatly appreciated at this time of need.

The situation we are living through brings to mind St. Francis of Assisi. He trusted completely in the providence of the Creator. His entire existence was Christ-centred, and he lived with complete confidence in Him. God has always provided, dear friends in Christ. He will always provide! I have confidence that God's miraculous love will get us through this difficult moment in time.

Thank you from the depth of my heart.

- FATHER VICTOR

- ENVELOPES: Envelopes can be dropped off at the church office. Please call ahead: 416-694-2811
- MONTHLY WITHDRAWLS: 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

100% of all monies collected will be put towards St. Dunstan Parish.