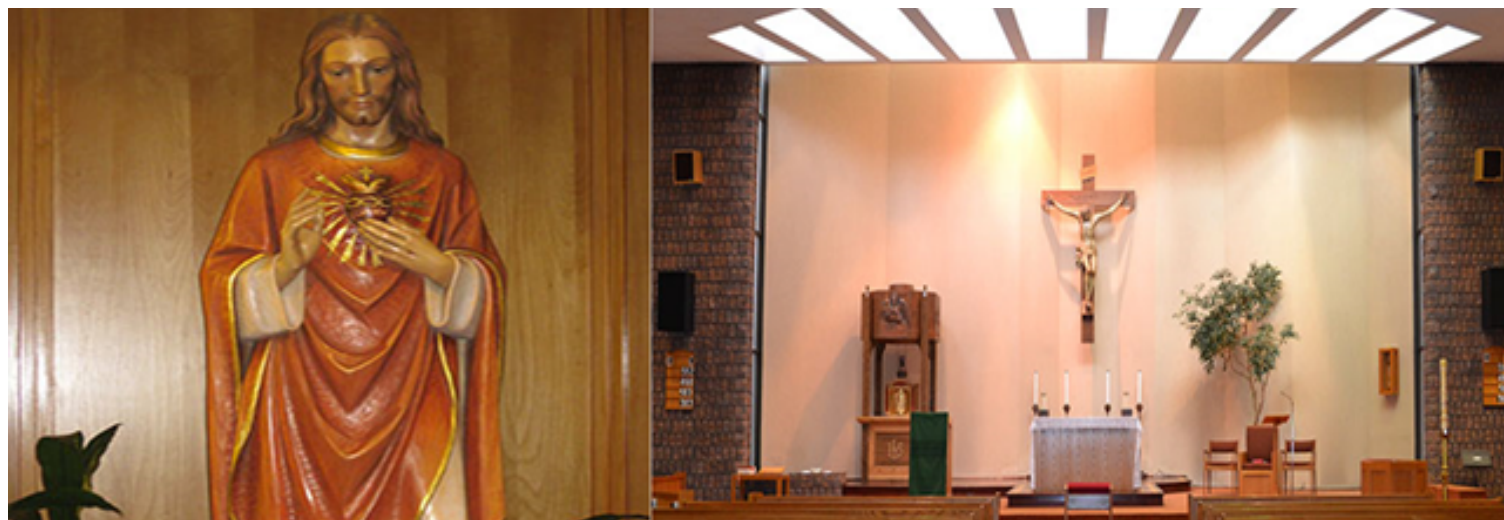


WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The abundant sunshine and warmer temperatures have given us a reason to smile this week. The liturgical season of Lent coincides with springtime, calling to mind the new life and growth, the hope and change, that characterizes this time of prayer, penance, and conversion. May the Lord, through his passion and cross, grant us copious blessings so that we may grow closer to Him.

Please be advised that our Parish Lenten Retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, March 13th from 10:00AM to Noon**. Given the fact that churches have been requested to stay in the Grey-Lockdown Zone, we will have the retreat virtually. And talking about the Grey-Lockdown zone, please have a look at [this page](#) for an urgent request from Cardinal Collins.

I'd also like to remind you that The Stations of the Cross continue every Friday evening during Lent. Again, they will be **live-streamed** until further notice. Please check our website regularly for updates. We continue to thank God for His blessings and ask for His help to sustain us through these troubling times.

May Christ bless us as we travel this Lenten journey with Him. Keep safe and well.

Fr. Victor Amole

OVERVIEW:

- From the Administrator's Desk
- Parish News
- Around the Archdiocese & Beyond
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis
- Reflections from Parishioners
- Feature: SS. Felicity & Perpetua



MASS SCHEDULE

March 8th	9:00AM
March 10th	7:00PM
March 12th	9:00AM
March 14th	10:00AM



GOSPEL INSPIRATION

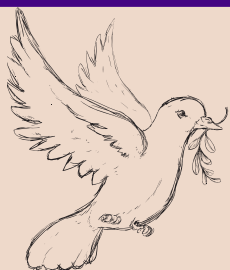
(John 2: 13-25)

As we listen to today's readings, we do well to remember that Jesus himself was a Jew. The Ten Commandments (the first reading) were fundamental to Jesus, as they are to both Jews and Christians today. At Passover, many people were coming to the temple in Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice, an animal or a dove. Some individuals saw this as a wonderful business opportunity. Why not ignore the holiness of the temple and set up shop there for a few days?

The Gospel passage describes a tense confrontation between Jesus and these individuals, who may even have thought of themselves as religious but who were choosing their personal gain over God. Jesus' love for the Father inspires his strong reaction.

This episode invites us to journey deeper into Lent, examining the consistency between our own faith and our intentions and actions. Do "the precepts", the teachings of our faith, revive and enlighten us, as the psalmist says?

Are we growing in love for God and for others? Are we loving ourselves, caring for our own body, mind, and spirit? When we live according to God's law, the psalmist promises, this law will "rejoice our hearts." Of course, we face many challenges and distractions. In the Gospel, Jesus gives hope as he points to his coming victory over sin and death. *(by Beth Porter, from the missalette, Living With Christ)*



Universal Intention of Pope Francis for March 2021:

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

Parish News



Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph's feast day, **Friday, March 19th** will be celebrated with a Live-streamed Mass on YouTube at **7:00 p.m.** All parishioners are invited to celebrate the Patron of the Universal Church and Patron of Canada. Canada was first consecrated to Saint Joseph by the Franciscan Recollet Fathers in 1624. Devotion to Saint Joseph was brought to our area by the Jesuit missionaries who dedicated the land of Huronia to the foster-father of the Saviour. The church at the mission of Sainte-Marie near Midland, where the bodies of Saints Jean de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lalement were first interred is named after Saint Joseph

as is the present Martyrs' Shrine church. The largest church in the world dedicated to Saint Joseph is here in Canada: St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, founded by Saint André Bessette. Let us pray to our great Patron, Saint Joseph, so that our society may protect and defend the sanctity of human life, marriage and the family.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches (March 19th), let us unite in prayer as the community of St. Dunstan to pray his novena in **our homes at 8:00PM daily from March 11th to March 19th.** Click on the family (below) to be directed automatically to the website for the words to the special prayer.



Visit Formed.org

A new film has been made available for us on Formed.org entitled **Saint Peter**.

Sign up and enjoy this awesome resource which the parish has already subscribed to for your use.

Don't delay! 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.

WATCH

Celebrate the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter with this beautiful film from Ignatius Press.

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM.

Please Join Us *Online.*



Lenten Retreat

We have been waiting eagerly and prayerfully for the re-opening of the Church. Unfortunately, we received disappointing news on Friday, March 5th. Churches remain closed for the time being. Our Parish Lenten Retreat will take place **online Saturday, March 13th**, from 10:00AM to 12 Noon.

Lenten Confessions

- Offered from March 16, 2021 to March 20, 2021
- Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

Communion Services

Please remember to call Jean to schedule a time to receive Holy Communion on Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. *Thank you.*



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- Live-streaming every Friday during Lent at 7:00PM. Reflections at each of the 14 Stations will be read by parishioners.



Income Tax Receipts

We are pleased to announce that Income Tax receipts for 2020 contributions to St. Dunstan's Church are **available** for pick-up after Communion Service this weekend. **Kindly retrieve your own tax receipt.** If you would like to give permission for someone to pick-up a receipt for you, please advise Jean in the parish office. If you'd like us to mail the receipt to you, that can be arranged as well.

For parishioners and friends who contributed on-line through the Archdiocese, your tax receipt will be issued directly by the Archdiocese. Contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Society are also separate from parish donations. A receipt will be issued by the SVDP Society.

We thank everyone who gave so generously throughout the past year and hope for your continued support in 2021. Offertory envelopes are available for pick-up in the lobby. If you are unable to attend the church, but would like to receive your envelopes, please call Jean.

As we begin 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 

 SUBSCRIBE

You
Tube

LITANY: OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

God of the Journey, lead us this Lent into the desert, where we fast on simplicity, and to the oasis, where we feast on your companionship.

May we fast from anger.

And feast on reconciliation.

May we fast from selfishness.

And feast on generosity.

May we fast from resentment.

And feast on gratitude.

May we fast from fear.

And feast on courage.

May we fast from self-absorption.

And feast on compassion.

May we fast from exploitation.

And feast on justice.

May we fast from despair.

And feast on hope.

May we fast from antagonism.

And feast on unity.

May we fast from foolishness.

And feast on wisdom.

May we fast from weakness.

And feast on perseverance.

May we fast from distraction.

And feast on reverence.

May we fast from recklessness.

And feast on responsibility.

May we fast from deception.

And feast on honesty.

Loving God, may our Lent be a holy preparation. May our preparation be blessed and never finished until we rest completely in You. Amen.

Around the Archdiocese & Beyond



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE®
UNDERSTAND, LIVE, AND SHARE YOUR FAITH



Are you seeking to grow in your love and knowledge of God's Word? Would you like to prepare for Holy Week? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then join some of the nation's most dynamic Scripture scholars on **March 27, 2021** for a one-day Bible Conference that will be live-streamed via Zoom. This virtual event is **FREE** for all registrants. For more information and to register for the event, click on the button to be directed to the Augustine Institute website.

REGISTRATION



Twins Ordained Priests in Uganda

According to the Catholic News Agency, two twin brothers were among the 12 ordained priests of the Diocese of Kasese in Uganda.

Fr. Peter Katuramu Isingoma and Fr. Andrew Kato Katuramu told ACI Africa their Feb. 6 ordination was the fulfillment of dreams they had harbored from childhood. "There were so many of us being ordained priests ... I had never seen such a big number of priests ordained on the same day in our diocese," Fr. Peter said.

Meet Don Alberto, Italy's new YouTube Sensation



Pope Francis will offer Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on March 14, 2021 to mark 500 years of Catholic faith in the Philippines.

LIVE

Tune in on March 7th at 7:00PM

Lectio Divina is not a catechesis or a teaching but it is a prayer, a divine reading, a personal encounter with God in Sacred Scripture. Next prayer: My God, My God (Psalm 22)

LECTIO DIVINA
with Cardinal Thomas Collins



Pope Francis: Jesus is the Open Door for a loving dialogue with God

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our journey of catechesis on prayer, today and next week we will see how, thanks to Jesus Christ, prayer opens us up to the Trinity—to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—to the immense sea of God who is Love. It is Jesus who opened up Heaven to us and projected us into a relationship with God. It was he who did this: he opened up to us this relationship with the Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is what the Apostle John affirms at the conclusion of the prologue of his Gospel: “No one has ever seen God: the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made Him known” (Jn 1:18). Jesus revealed the identity to us, this identity of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. We really did not know how to pray: what words, what feelings and what language were appropriate for God. In that request the disciples addressed to the Master, which we have often recalled in the course of these catecheses, there is all of humanity’s fumbling, repeated attempts, often unsuccessful, to address the Creator: “Lord, teach us to pray” (Lk 11:1).

Not all prayers are equal, and not all are convenient: the Bible itself attests to the negative outcome of many prayers, which are rejected. Perhaps God at times is not content with our prayers and we are not even aware of this. God looks at the hands of those who pray: to make them pure it is not necessary to wash them; if anything, one must refrain from evil acts. Saint Francis prayed: *Nullus homo ène dignu te mentovare*, that is, “no man is worthy of naming you” (Canticle of the Sun).

But perhaps the most moving acknowledgment of the poverty of our prayer came from the lips of the Roman centurion who one day begged Jesus to heal his sick servant (cf. Mt 8:5-13). He felt totally inadequate: he was not a Jew, he was an officer in the detested occupying army. But his concern for his servant emboldens him, and he says: “Lord, I am not worthy to have



twitter

Pope's Thoughts in Tweets: All of us are specialists in crucifying others to save ourselves. Jesus allowed himself to be crucified to teach us not to shift evil onto others. #Lent

you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed” (v. 8). It is the phrase we also repeat in every Eucharistic liturgy. To dialogue with God is a grace: we are not worthy of it, we have no rights to claim, we “limp” with every word and every thought... But Jesus is the door that opens us to this dialogue with God ...

Why should humanity be loved by God? There are no obvious reasons, there is no proportion... So much so that most mythologies do not contemplate the possibility of a god who cares about human affairs; on the contrary, they are considered bothersome and boring, entirely negligible. Remember God’s phrase to his people, repeated in Deuteronomy: “*For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us?*” This closeness of God is the revelation! Some philosophers say that God can only think of himself. If anything, it is we humans who try to convince the deity and be pleasing to his eyes. Hence the duty of “religion”, with the procession of sacrifices and devotions to be offered again and again to ingratiate ourselves with a mute God, an indifferent God. There is no dialogue. It was only Jesus, it was only the revelation of God to Moses before Jesus, when God presented himself; it was only the Bible that opened us up to dialogue with God. Remember: “What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as ours?” This is God’s closeness, that opens us up to dialogue with him.

A God who loves humanity: we would never have had the courage to believe in Him, had we not known Jesus.

Reflections from Our Parishioners

WIPING MY HEART CLEAN

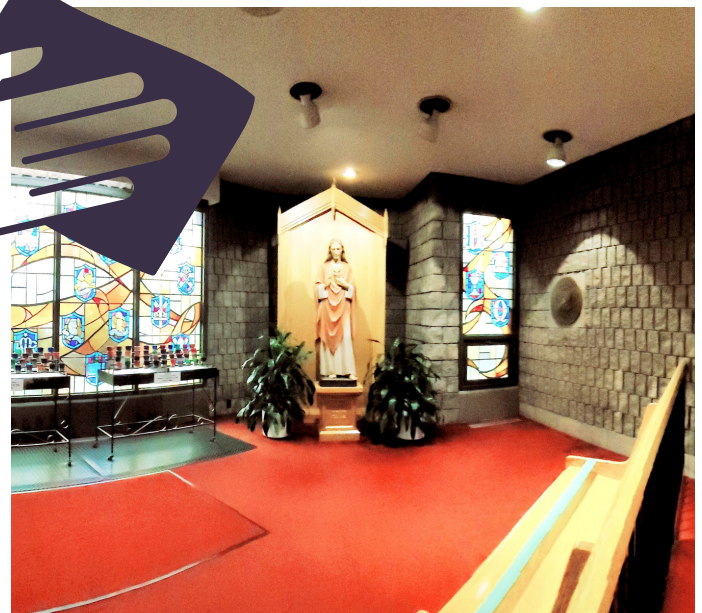


by Theresa Kellen, RCLIA Coordinator

Over the course of the past year, we have been very vigilant in keeping everything clean and sanitized in our church, including all pictures and statues.

The statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stands in the chapel in the vestibule. For some, touching the statue or picture brings them closer to that which the object represents. This means I have been wiping the Sacred Heart on a very regular basis.

Recently, when I was wiping the heart, I was drawn to the eyes of the statue. They were sad and plaintive, seeming to say to me 'you are wiping my heart, but you fail to wipe your own'. This struck me to the core. Jesus' heart is clean and pure. It was pierced by a spear at His death, and is pierced daily by our sins. The paint is starting to fade on the statue's heart but the love and caring in the heart it represents will never fade. Jesus' heart is a human heart, just like mine.



Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Dunstan's Church

My heart, on the other hand, is heavy with my sins, negative thoughts and pain. My heart loves, most of the time, but not necessarily without counting the cost. My heart yearns to do better; to be closer to Jesus' heart and cries with frustration when I don't do better. My heart is hard.

The season of Lent is a time for us to do some soul searching, some internal spring cleaning as it were. I need to cleanse my heart. How can I do this? By following the three disciplines of Lent – fasting, prayer and almsgiving. This is how God works to create a clean heart in us. Fasting from food can be easier than fasting from gossip or thinking poorly of another.

Perhaps instead of gossip, I can offer a prayer for that person. Praying for the strength to think first of what the other's heart needs, not what my heart needs.

Giving not only money but giving of self with time and effort to help each other. There are many lonely, sad, desperate hearts right now who are longing to hear a friendly word or see a friendly face (albeit wearing a mask and being six feet apart). The opportunities to offer that brief comfort are available everywhere.

It is what Jesus' Sacred Heart calls us to do. May I take that step to open my heart to those who need it.

Keeping You Posted

Saint John of God, O.H. (1495-1550) was a Portuguese-born soldier turned health-care worker in Spain. The stamp was issued by Spain on March 8, 1950 to honour the 400th anniversary of the saint's death. It shows an image of St. John saving patients at the Hospital Real fire (1880).



Featured: SS. Perpetua & Felicity - March 7th



SS. Perpetua and Felicity, Christian Martyrs

Saints Perpetua and Felicity were third-century Carthaginian martyrs, who resisted pressure to renounce their faith, preferring imprisonment and ultimate death at the hands of gladiators, to turning their back on Jesus Christ.

Perpetua and Felicity were part of a group of five catechumens apprehended in Carthage (modern-day Tunisia) in 203 A.D. for practicing their faith. Perpetua was a well-educated twenty-two-year-old married mother with a nursing infant, and Felicity was her servant - herself seven months pregnant.

Together they and their companions were imprisoned and mistreated by the Roman soldiers as they awaited their martyrdom.

The group was baptized in the early days of their arrest. For Perpetua, however, the joy of the sacrament was clouded by anxiety over her family. Perpetua did not have the support of her father, who visited her often and pleaded with her to denounce her faith for his sake and for her infant son. Her mother and brothers were believers, but they, too, were suffering on her account. Perpetua by this time was in great pain from not having nursed her baby for several days, and she was greatly distressed over her son's lack of nourishment.

She endured these trials until it was arranged that the baby be allowed to stay with her in the prison, where they both quickly regained strength. Felicity gave birth to her child in prison in her eighth month.

The time came, however, for all the catechumens to be brought to the amphitheater to face fierce animals and gladiators. Felicity and Perpetua, who had been stripped and bound with nets, were exposed to a mad heifer. The account relates that the crowd *“shuddered as they saw one young woman of delicate frame, and another with breasts still dropping from her recent childbirth”* meet the beast. Both women were mortally wounded by the cow, yet Perpetua was in such a state of ecstasy that she had felt no pain. Their companions, too, had felt uninjured, though gored by lions, leopards and tigers. In the midst of the bloody spectacle, the martyrs encouraged other catechumens who were looking on not to be troubled but rather confirmed in their faith. When it was time for Felicity and Perpetua to be slaughtered by the gladiator's sword, the martyrs gave each other the kiss of peace and awaited their heavenly reward.

No saints are more uniformly honoured in all the early calendars and martyrologies. The names of SS. Felicity and Perpetua appear not only in the Philocalian calendar at Rome of the year 354, but also in the Syriac calendar compiled near Antioch at the end of the same century.

“
Stand fast in the faith and love one another, and don't let our sufferings be a stumbling-block to you. (Perpetua)
”

Anecdote of the Week



“I don't smoke during Lent.”

The story is told of a priest who was coming back to his parish house one evening in the dark only to be accosted by a robber who pulled a gun at him and demanded, “Your money or your life!” As the priest reached his hand into his coat pocket the robber saw his Roman collar and said, “So you are a priest? Then you can go.” The priest was rather surprised at this unexpected show of piety and so tried to reciprocate by offering the robber his packet of cigarettes, to which the robber replied, “No, Father, I don't smoke during Lent.”

Credit: Fr. Anthony Kadavil

ANNUAL MASS OF ST. PATRICK

Live from St. Michael's
Cathedral Basilica

March 17, 2021

10:00AM

Click Here:



CHILDREN'S

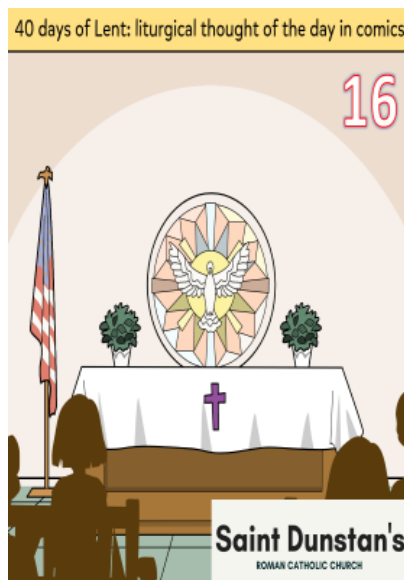
Corner



Did you know that the first comic strip was created on February 16, 1896? That's 125 years ago!

Click on the comic strip (*right*) to be directed to the 40-days of Lent feature on the parish's new website. One comic strip per day will be featured during Lent.

Give the Lord five minutes of your time during Lent!



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



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 not 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 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>

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