

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Blessings and grace of Jesus the Lord be with you all. Happy celebration of the Ascension of the Lord. The Lord indeed ascends amid shouts of joy; the Lord ascends with the sound of trumpet blasts!

This week is the feast day of Saint Dunstan: May 19. Congratulations to all of us and all lovers of Saint Dunstan's parish. We beseech his intercession at this precarious time and seek his paternal protection. We shall celebrate our Wednesday, May 19th Mass as that of Saint Dunstan's memorial. On behalf of Fr. Jeff, I wish all of us a blessed celebration (albeit simple this year) and pray for the protection and intercession of our patron saint.

Our Marian Devotion continues, together with the Holy Spirit Novena. As suggested, please do both privately on Saturday and Sunday when we do not meet online. Hoping and praying we all keep safe and well. The Lord of hosts is our strength, the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Have a blessed Sunday.

Fr. Victor Amole

OVERVIEW:

- From the Administrator's Desk
- Parish News
- Around the Archdiocese & Beyond
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis
- Featured: St. Bernadino of Sienna

LIVE  **STREAM**

MASS SCHEDULE

May 17th	9:00AM
May 18th	9:00AM
May 19th	7:00PM
May 20th	9:00AM
May 21st	9:00AM
May 23rd	10:00AM

GOSPEL INSPIRATION

As they were looking, he was lifted up. Acts 1: 1-11



There is so much mystery surrounding Jesus' ascension into heaven. For example, why did the risen Christ leave the earth after forty days (Acts 1:3)? How was he lifted up physically into the sky? Did it happen instantaneously or over a period of time?

We may never know the answers to these questions on this side of heaven. But we can understand something of God's great love for us as we meditate on this feast.

First, the ascension tells us that when Jesus took on our human nature in the Incarnation, he didn't do it temporarily. The Word became flesh, not just for thirty-three years Jesus walked the earth, but forever, The Incarnation of Christ was an act of great humility, God stooping down to become a creature. But it was more than God stooping down.

He was also lifting us up because Jesus, as much man as he is God, has taken his seat at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). Now our own human nature is caught up in the life of the Trinity. That's how much God loves us!

Second, because we are praying to a God who is still both human and divine, our relationship with Jesus is very personal. As we pray, we can picture a real human being standing before us, looking into our eyes and comforting us with a warm embrace. Not only that, but we know that in heaven, Jesus in his human body is physically interceding for us. How reassuring it is to know that he understands our human condition! He has experienced it himself and so sympathizes with our weaknesses. Today, spend some time reflecting on the great wonder of a God who loves us so much that he would become one of us, not just for a short time, but forever.

Source: Living With Christ

Universal Intention of Pope Francis for May 2021: The World of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



Parish News

FEAST OF ST. DUNSTAN

Let us join together in spirit on Wednesday, May 19th to celebrate the feast of St. Dunstan. The mass celebrated on Wednesday will be dedicated in honour of our patron saint. Please join us online as we beseech his intercession and seek his paternal protection at this precarious time.



The Saints' Corner

CLICK HERE

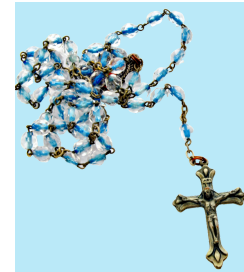
Saint Bernadette of Lourdes

by Paula de Rushe - Quintal

Saint Dunstan's Catholic Church
Toronto, ON

Want to become Catholic?

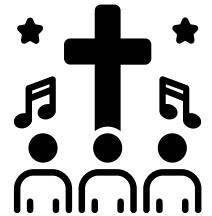
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process whereby individuals explore their relationship with God and enter into a faith journey which takes them to a study and reflection on the Bible, the Trinity, the sacraments and the liturgy. We invite all who are interested to contact the parish for information.



MONTH OF MARY MAY DEVOTION

Join us at 8 pm from Monday to Friday for the recitation of the rosary on our livestream page. Let us pray, aspire, reflect and rest together in the peace and reassurance of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she intercede for us, for our families, and for the entire world.

Holy Spirit
Novena Hymn
& Prayer



Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM. Please Join Us Online.



New Covid-19 Restrictions

PLACES OF WORSHIP, AS OF APRIL 19, 2021

Eventbrite

Kindly book a spot for Communion service on the website. It is a very short service of the word and the Eucharist which nurtures us and keeps us going while these restrictions last. We continue to follow proper WorshipSafe measures to keep us all safe.

Kindly wear your mask before entering the church, use the sanitizer by the door.

The Passion of Bernadette

This beautiful film by Jean Delannoy tells the story of Bernadette Soubirous's life after the Marian visions--the life that made her a saint.

Don't miss it on [Formed.org!](https://www.formed.org/)

The PASSION of
Bernadette



The Cardinal Virtues

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Michael Schaub, and Theresa and Charles Kellen, we now have the "Cardinal Virtues Series" on our website.

The team is exploring the meaning of four cardinal virtues (Justice, Prudence, Fortitude and Temperance) in a delightfully fresh way. Follow the weekly series by clicking on the red button (above).

Around the Archdiocese & Beyond

Please Help India During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Since the pandemic began, India's Catholic Church, acting through Caritas India, has been supporting some of the most disadvantaged groups, such as those with inadequate housing, migrant labourers, persons with special needs and widows.

If you would like to contribute to relief efforts through St. Dunstan's Parish, please make cheques payable to: **St. Dunstan's Church - India's COVID-19 Outbreak - Disaster Relief** and drop them off at the parish.

For further information about other ways to provide financial help India fight off covid-19, please click on the image here:



New Intercessory 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.



Pope Establishes Lay Ministry of Catechist

On Tuesday, May 11, 2021 Pope Francis created a new lay ministry to encourage greater participation of secular women and men in the teaching of the Catholic faith, especially in places where priests are in short supply. To read the entire apostolic letter issued *Moto Proprio*, please click on the insignia above.

Polyglot priest beatified after miraculous healing of unborn baby

A polyglot priest and founder of the Society of the Divine Savior was beatified at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in Rome on Saturday, May 15, 2021.

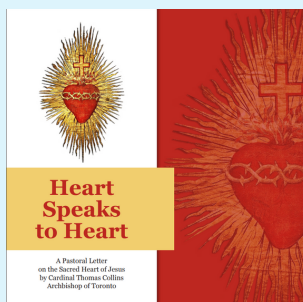
Blessed Johan Baptist Jordan, also known by his religious name of **Francis Mary of the Cross**, was declared blessed during a Mass offered by Rome's vicar general, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis.

Pope Francis approved the beatification of Francis Mary of the Cross last summer, after recognizing a miracle through his intercession involving the unborn child of a couple in Brazil.

The couple, lay members of the Salvatorian family, asked for Francis Mary of the Cross' intercession for the healthy birth of their child after she was diagnosed with a severe form of skeletal dysplasia during the 23rd week of pregnancy.

Months later, the **baby girl was born completely healthy on Sept. 8, 2014, the anniversary of Bl. Francis Mary of the Cross' death.** Now six years old, the girl attended the beatification Mass with her family in Rome. Bl. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan was born to a poor family in a German village in 1848.

On April 28, 2021, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, released a new pastoral letter on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is a significant reflection on one of the most sacred symbols in the Catholic faith and what it can teach us in these difficult times.



If you wish to read the document in its entirety, simply click on the image on your left and you will be directed to it.

However, we will be featuring a section *each week* for several weeks as we approach the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart on **Friday, June 11, 2021.** Part 3 of the letter follows.

3. The Meaning of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The love of Jesus for us all, which is symbolized by his Sacred Heart, is a basic theme of our Christian faith, and of our life of discipleship. That divine love made humanly manifest in our world through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is a consequence of the fact that “the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14) This theme of the Sacred Heart is rooted in the Bible and in the living tradition of the Church, and was developed over the centuries by many great saints and popes, enriching the spiritual life of countless Christians.

An important moment in the development of devotion to the Sacred Heart came with the great spiritual teacher and Doctor of the Church, Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622). His masterpieces, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and the *Treatise on the Love of God* continue to guide Christians to holiness, especially laypeople engaged in the duties of the secular world.

Francis had great insights into the human heart, and famously gave this advice on preaching: “The lips speak to the ears, but heart speaks to heart.” That phrase, *Cor ad Cor Loquitur*, was later chosen as the motto of Saint John Henry Newman. In a world of upheaval and religious strife, Saint Francis de Sales was a model of gentleness, and always proclaimed the Faith with both clarity and charity. With Saint Jane Frances de Chantal (1572-1641), in 1610 he founded the Order of the Visitation nuns. The spirituality of the two founders emphasized the love of Jesus, especially as symbolized by the heart.

The saint most associated in recent centuries with the devotion to the Sacred Heart is Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a Visitation nun who between 1673 and 1675 received private revelations, visions during prayer of Our Lord, in which he speaks of prayer to the Sacred Heart.



St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Devotion to the Sacred Heart leads us to ponder the sacred humanity of Jesus, God with us. Using the universally accepted symbol of the heart as the sign of the center of who we are, this devotion focuses on Jesus as the man for others, who showed humans how, in a human way, to love as God loves, and to act as God wants us to act.

It is a devotion, not so much a liturgical prayer like the sacraments, though there is a liturgy for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. But the devotion to the Sacred Heart is more a way for each of us to intensely encounter Jesus in practices of prayer that move us to be better disciples, and to grow personally in holiness.

3. The Meaning of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (continued)

Meditation upon the loving humanity of Jesus represented by the Sacred Heart, leads each of us to become more on fire for the Lord, to become not a superficial Christian, but a devoted Christian, a dedicated Christian, an intentional Christian committed to living out our baptismal mission to bring Christ into the world.

This devotion works in harmony with two other Christian devotions, also solidly founded on doctrine, which engage the whole person, emotionally as well as intellectually, and which impel the Christian to holiness: devotion to the real presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist, and devotion to Mary.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is most fully expressed through adoration of Our Eucharistic Lord in the Holy Eucharist, and it is no accident that each year the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart occurs on the Friday following the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Devotion to the Sacred Heart has also always been closely linked to devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All three of these are doctrinal devotions, intimate experiences of personal prayer which are founded on the objective doctrinal fact of who God is and how God acts among us. All three are rooted in the incarnation, for God came among us by being born as one of us through Mary, and the night before he offered himself for us on the cross, on that Good Friday of the Sacred Heart, he gave us the sacramental way to be joined to him down through the ages in the Holy Eucharist.



The great English spiritual writer, Msgr. Ronald Knox, sums up the breadth of the meaning of devotion to the Sacred Heart as an expression of our personal experience of the Lord whom we encounter in the Gospels:

“The Sacred Heart is the treasury of all those splendid qualities with which a perfect life was lived; it is the repository of all those noble thoughts which mankind still venerates in the gospels. It was the Sacred Heart that burned with anger when the traders were driven out of the temple; it was the Sacred Heart that loved the rich young man, yet would not spare him; it was the Sacred Heart that defied Pilate in his own judgment-hall. It is strong and stern and enduring; it hates prevarications and pretences. The perfect flowering of a human life, not on this occasion or that, but all through, all the time, the utter sacrifice of a human will – that is what the Sacred Heart means, and there is no picture, no statue on earth that can portray its infinite beauty.” (Ronald Knox, “The Heart of Christ,” in Pastoral and Occasional Sermons, Ignatius Press: San Francisco, 2002, p. 488.)

The doctrinal and spiritual foundations of the devotion to the Sacred Heart are found in Scripture, but it only gradually developed into its present form. For a most thorough study of that development, and of the theology and history of devotion to the Sacred Heart, I **highly recommend the excellent book by Timothy O’Donnell, Heart of the Redeemer: An Apologia for the Contemporary and Perennial Value of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2018.**

Weekly Catechesis by Pope Francis

*Dear brothers
and sisters, good morning!*

I am happy to resume this face-to-face meeting, because I will tell you something: it is not nice to speak in front of nothing, to a video camera. It is not nice. And now, after many months, thanks to the courage of Msgr Sapienza, who said, “No, let’s do it there”, we are gathered here again. Msgr Sapienza is good! ... Thank you for your presence and your visit. Take the Pope’s message to everyone. The Pope’s message is that I pray for everyone, and I ask you to pray for me, united in prayer.

And speaking of prayer, Christian prayer, like all Christian life, is not a “walk in the park”. None of the great people of prayer that we meet in the Bible and in the history of the Church found prayer “comfortable”. Yes, one can pray like a parrot — blah, blah, blah, blah, blah — but this is not prayer. Prayer certainly gives great peace, but through inner struggle, sometimes difficult, which can accompany even long periods of life. Praying is not something easy, and this is why we flee from it. Every time we want to pray, we are immediately reminded of many other activities, which at that moment seem more important and more urgent. This happens to me too: I go to pray a little ... and no, I must do this and that... We flee from prayer; I don’t know why, but that is how it is. Almost always, after putting off prayer, we realize that those things were not essential at all, and that we may have wasted time. This is how the Enemy deceives us.



twitter

Pope’s Thoughts in Tweets: The Solemnity of the #Ascension lifts our gaze upwards, beyond earthly things. At the same time, it reminds us of the mission the Lord has entrusted to us here on earth. May the Holy Spirit guide us in the good battle we must wage

All Godly men and women report not only the joy of prayer, but also the tediousness and fatigue it can bring: at times it is a difficult struggle to keep to the time and ways of praying. Some saints continued it for years without finding any satisfaction in it, without perceiving its usefulness. Silence, prayer and concentration are difficult exercises, and sometimes human nature rebels. We would rather be anywhere else in the world, but not there, in that church pew, praying. Those who want to pray must remember that faith is not easy, and sometimes it moves forward in almost total darkness, without points of reference. There are moments in the life of faith that are dark, and therefore some saints call this “the dark night”, because we hear nothing. But I continue to pray ...

In times of trial, it is good to remember that we are not alone, that someone is at our side, watching over and protecting us. Saint Anthony the Abbot, the founder of Christian monasticism, also faced terrible times in Egypt, when prayer became a difficult struggle. His biographer recounts one of the worst episodes in the life of the hermit saint when he was about 35, a time of middle age that for many people involves a crisis. Anthony was disturbed by the ordeal, but he resisted. When calm finally returned, he turned to his Lord with an almost reproachful tone: “But Lord, where were you? Why did you not come immediately to put an end to my suffering?” And Jesus answered: “Anthony, I was there. But I was waiting to see you fight” (Life of Anthony, 10). Fighting in prayer. And very often, prayer is combat.

Excerpt from General Audience of May 12, 2021

Featured: St. Bernadino of Sienna (May 20th)

Most of the saints suffer great personal opposition, even persecution. Bernardine, by contrast, seems more like a human dynamo who took on the needs of the world.

He was the greatest preacher of his time, journeying across Italy, calming strife-torn cities, attacking the paganism he found rampant, attracting crowds of 30,000, following Saint Francis of Assisi's admonition to preach about "vice and virtue, punishment and glory." Compared with Saint Paul by the pope, Bernardine had a keen intuition of the needs of the time, along with solid holiness and boundless energy and joy. He accomplished all this despite having a very weak and hoarse voice, miraculously improved later because of his devotion to Mary.

When he was 20, the plague was at its height in his hometown of Siena. Sometimes as many as 20 people died in one day at the hospital. Bernardine offered to run the hospital and, with the help of other young men, nursed patients there for four months.

The last degree of love is when He gave himself to us to be our Food; because he gave himself to be united with us in every way.

- San Bernadino of Siena



He escaped the plague but was so exhausted that a fever confined him to bedrest for several months. He spent another year caring for a beloved aunt whose parents had died when he was a child, and at her death began to fast and pray to know God's will for him.

At 22, he entered the Franciscan Order and was ordained two years later. For almost a dozen years he lived in solitude and prayer, but his gifts ultimately caused him to be sent to preach. He always traveled on foot, sometimes speaking for hours in one place, then doing the same in another town.

Especially known for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, Bernardine devised a symbol—IHS, the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek—in Gothic letters on a blazing sun. This was to displace the superstitious symbols of the day, as well as the insignia of factions: for example, Guelphs and Ghibellines. The devotion spread, and the symbol began to appear in churches, homes and public buildings. Opposition arose from those who thought it a dangerous innovation. Three attempts were made to have the pope take action against him, but Bernardine's holiness, orthodoxy, and intelligence were evidence of his faithfulness. General of the Friars of the Strict Observance, a branch of the Franciscan Order, Bernardine strongly emphasized scholarship and further study of theology and canon law. When he started there were 300 friars in the community; when he died there were 4,000. He returned to preaching the last two years of his life, dying while traveling.

Source: Franciscan Media.org

Keeping You Posted *by Jay Franco*



This stamp features Sts. Juan Capistrano (left) and Bernadino of Siena (right). It is a painting by the famous Spanish painter, Alonso Cano, in 1969.

St. Bernadino was born in 1380 to a noble family, and he spent his time evangelizing to thousands of people and gaining many converts. He died in 1444 and was canonized in 1450.

Joke of the Week



Is this thing working?

There is the funny story of the raw army recruit standing at attention on the drill field. The drill instructor yells, "Forward, march!" And the entire ranks begin to move, all except this one raw recruit. He's still standing there at attention. So, the drill instructor strolls over to him and yells in his right ear, "Is this thing working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" the recruit yells. Then the drill instructor walks around to the other ear and yells, "Is this thing working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" The soldier says. "Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?"

"Sir, I didn't hear you call my name."

Some of us are like that soldier standing around waiting for God to call our names. But the great commission given by Jesus on the day of his Ascension is a blanket order. It has everyone's name on it. And you can be sure that the Man in charge says, "Go! Make disciples! Teach!"

It is your mission and my mission. Fr. T

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>

CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

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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