

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Sunday to you all!

Our Marian devotion for the month of May will begin on the evening of **Monday, May 3rd**. We shall pray the rosary together, every Monday to Friday, at 8pm. Please invite your family and friends for prayers and spiritual fortification. May God hear our prayers.

Simply visit our livestream page at <https://stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/en/> to participate.

We pray especially for our brothers and sisters in India who are experiencing unimaginable hardship and heartache at this time. We shall remember them in our supplications to our Lord through his Blessed Mother.

May the Lord keep us in his love and safety. May our Mother Mary intercede for the whole world.

Have a blessed Sunday.

God bless you today and always,

Fr. Victor Amole

OVERVIEW:

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



MASS SCHEDULE

May 3rd	9:00AM
May 4th	9:00AM
May 5th	7:00PM
May 6th	9:00AM
May 7th	9:00AM
May 8th	10:00AM

Fifth Sunday of EASTER

GOSPEL INSPIRATION

He tried to join the disciples (Acts 9:26)

There's a lot of adventure in today's first reading, isn't there?

Paul, fresh from escaping death threats in Damascus, arrives in Jerusalem, where he faces suspicion from Christians and an attempted murder from some Greek-speaking Jews. Why so much drama?

Quite possibly God was using all this upheaval to "prune" Paul, to further purify him from remnants of his old life (John 15:1-3).

We are used to talking about the saints as if their holiness were a given, but that's rarely the case. For many of them, the road to holiness was as long and winding as it is for many of us. After all, we know that Paul had a strong, assertive personality.

Humility doesn't always come easily!

**Anyone who
does not live in
me is like a
withered
branch**



By his own admission, Paul was "an arrogant man" before his conversion. You can imagine how some of that arrogance might still have been present as he tried to convert people. Maybe the man who had once spent his life "breathing murderous threats" against Christians still needed to learn Jesus' teaching about being poor in spirit (Acts 9:1). So it is possible that God was using the chaos Paul encountered in Jerusalem to help him examine his heart and see where he still needed to change.

Anyone who has lived more than a few decades will tell you how valuable it is to be pruned by the Lord. They probably didn't enjoy it at the time, but looking back, they could appreciate the fruit of such pruning. Come face-to-face with our selfishness or arrogance or resentments can move us to turn to Jesus and ask him to purify us and set us free.

So let Jesus prune you from time to time. He promises that if you do, you will bear "more fruit". You'll become more like him, just as Paul did.

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

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 and keep 6-feet distance as marked out on the pews. Please do not congregate. Please arrive promptly for it is also important to keep the program swift and safe for us all. Thank you for your consideration.

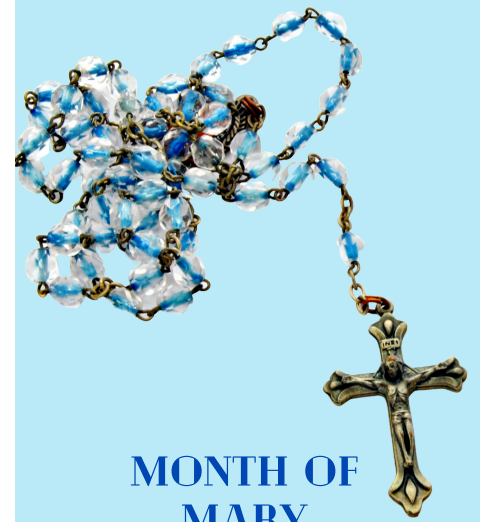


The Cardinal Virtues

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Michael Schaub, and Theresa and Charles Kellen, we now have the first of the "Cardinal Virtues Series" posted 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).

The Saints' Corner - a new feature on the website



MONTH OF MARY MAY DEVOTION

Saint Dunstan's parish celebrates the month of May with rosary devotion throughout the month, from Monday to Friday.

Join us at 8 pm on our livestream page and 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.

New Covid-19 Restrictions

PLACES OF WORSHIP, AS OF APRIL 19, 2021

- Parishes must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people, including priests hearing confessions or a staff member/volunteer required to monitor capacity restrictions. **Public masses must be temporarily cancelled. Sunday Mass at St. Dunstan's Church will be livestreamed at 10:00AM.**
- **Holy Communion services at St. Dunstan's will continue on Saturday afternoon from 4:00PM to 6:00PM and on Sunday from 11:00AM to noon, as in the past, if desired. Please use Eventbrite for reservations.**
- St. Dunstan's Church will be open for private prayers during the week (Monday to Friday) from 10am to 12noon.
- No meetings can take place in parish halls or other church spaces at this time.
- Weddings, funerals and baptisms are restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry (priest, cantor, etc.).
- The office will be closed. Staff will work remotely wherever possible. Parish offices closed to the public - limited essential appointments only.

Movie Night on Formed.org

The inspiring true story of the holy Franciscan priest and theologian who won a famous debate against the Dominicans in the thirteenth century, in which he defended Our Lady's great privilege of her Immaculate Conception.



Around the Archdiocese & Beyond

Reclaiming Love Theology of the Body

This event is for Everyone. The realities of masculinity, femininity, and gender, and the relation of these to our identity, are being questioned like never before. In this free webinar, Jason Evert, internationally-known Catholic speaker and author, will lead the discussion beyond feelings to help us embrace an integrated understanding of the truth of our identity.

REGISTER NOW



REMEMBER!

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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



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.



Our sincerest condolences to the family of **Emily Victoria Viegas** who passed away this week of Covid-19

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

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>

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 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 right 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**.



Heart
Speaks
to Heart

A Pastoral Letter
on the Sacred Heart of Jesus
by Cardinal Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto



I. The Need for Devotion to the Sacred Heart

After a year of Covid, we are all heavy laden, and in great need of rest for our souls. The spectre of sickness and death wears us down, as does the devastating effect of pandemic restrictions, which grow ever more burdensome in response to the spread of the virus. Many people are desperately sick in hospitals, and those who serve them grow weary, while even more people see their livelihoods destroyed; the toll of human misery grows ever greater. We are meant for one another, and the unnatural and seemingly unending isolation and distancing can be unbearable. And at a time when spiritual strength is needed most, access to the essential spiritual oxygen of the sacraments is curtailed; that restriction cannot endure for long. *In the midst of this grief, we also see extraordinary examples of love and sacrifice, and selfless service to those who are afflicted, but the tensions of our times are starkly before us all.*

Quite apart from the pandemic, these are indeed days of suffering, with so much conflict in the world, and such contention in civil society. Across the globe refugees flee oppressive regimes, and the blood of martyrs rebukes us in our comfortable Christianity. In our own country, social trends antagonistic to the Gospel gather strength. Anger mounts in the social media, in political discourse, and sometimes in the streets. Even in the Church, and especially in the Church, we cannot escape from the tides of acrimony.

In the face of all that, we listen even more intently to Our Lord:

“Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

(Matthew 11:28-29)

There never was a golden age and we, like each generation of Christians, must serve where God has placed us, battered by the wind and the waves, often afraid, but ready to encounter Jesus walking on the stormy waters, saying to us: “Be not afraid.” (John 6:20) Especially in these tempestuous times we have a mission, received in Baptism and Confirmation, to move outward with compassionate love, in the imitation of Christ, to share his healing love.

To be able to do that, however, we need first to go deeper in our own life of faith, through prayer, through meditation on sacred Scripture, especially the Gospels, and through the sacraments. As the prophet Isaiah says: *“with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”* (Isaiah 12:3)

I firmly believe that to give us the guidance and strength required to fulfil our mission as disciples of Jesus more effectively, in a world so much in need of his love, we also need to rediscover a treasure, central to our life in Christ, that is hidden in plain sight in our Catholic spiritual heritage. It seems ever more clear to me that especially in these days we would all do well to focus intently on the symbol of the compassionate love of Christ: the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And so I am inviting all Catholics in this archdiocese, in all our families, religious communities, parishes, hospitals, schools, and institutions, to focus on the significance of this sign of the sacrificial and compassionate love of Christ, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and to make devotion to the Sacred Heart a vital part of our life of faith.

*Dear brothers
and sisters,
good morning!*



Today we will talk about the form of prayer called meditation. For a Christian, to “meditate” is to seek meaning: it implies placing oneself before the immense page of Revelation to try to make it our own, assuming it completely. And the Christian, after having welcomed the Word of God, does not keep it closed up within him or herself, because that Word must be met with “another book”, which the Catechism calls “the book of life” (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2706). This is what we try to do every time we meditate on the Word.

The practice of meditation has received a great deal of attention in recent years. It is not only Christians who talk about it: the practice of meditation exists in almost all the world’s religions. But it is also a widespread activity among people who do not have a religious view of life. We all need to meditate, to reflect, to discover ourselves, it is a human dynamic. Especially in the voracious western world, people seek meditation because it represents a barrier raised against the daily stress and emptiness that is rife everywhere. Here, then, is the image of young people and adults sitting in recollection, in silence, with eyes half closed... But what are these people doing, we might ask? They are meditating. It is a phenomenon to be looked on favourably. Indeed, we are not made for rushing all the time, we have an inner life that cannot always be trampled on. Meditating is therefore a need for everyone. Meditating, so to speak, is like stopping and taking a breath in life.



twitter

Pope’s Thoughts in Tweets: Let’s not wait for our neighbours to be good before we are good to them, for others to respect us before we serve them. Let’s begin with ourselves.

The Meditation

But we realise that this word, once accepted in a Christian context, takes on a uniqueness that must not be eradicated. Meditating is a necessary human dimension, but meditating in the Christian context goes further: it is a dimension that must not be eradicated. The great door through which the prayer of a baptised person passes — let us remind ourselves once again — is Jesus Christ. For the Christian, meditation enters through the door of Jesus Christ. The practice of meditation also follows this path. And when Christians pray, they do not aspire to full self-transparency, they do not seek the deepest centre of the ego. This is legitimate, but the Christian seeks something else. The prayer of the Christian is first of all an encounter with the Other, with a capital “O”: the transcendent encounter with God. If an experience of prayer gives us inner peace, or self-mastery, or clarity about the path to take, these results are, so to speak, side effects of the grace of Christian prayer, which is the encounter with Jesus. That is, meditating means going to the encounter with Jesus, guided by a phrase or a word from Holy Scripture.

Throughout history, the term “meditation” has had various meanings. Even within Christianity it refers to different spiritual experiences. Nevertheless, some common lines can be traced, and in this we are helped again by the Catechism, which says the following: “There are as many and varied methods of meditation as there are spiritual masters... But a method is only a guide; the important thing is to advance, with the Holy Spirit, along the one way of prayer: Christ Jesus” (n. 2707). And here, a travelling companion is indicated, one who guides us: the Holy Spirit. Christian meditation is not possible without the Holy Spirit. It is he who guides us to the encounter with Jesus. Jesus said to us, “I will send you the Holy Spirit. He will teach you and explain to you. He will teach you and explain to you”. And in meditation too, the Holy Spirit is the guide to going forward in our encounter with Jesus Christ.

Excerpted from General Audience 2021-04-28

Saints for Children

Do you think you're too young to be a saint? Dominic Savio (April 2, 1842-March 9, 1857) is the youngest person that the Catholic Church has ever declared to be a saint on the basis of his heroic virtue alone—that is, his exceptional goodness. Dominic's life shows that no one is ever too young to grow close to God.

Dominic was the son of poor working-class people; his father was a blacksmith, and both of his parents taught him about Jesus, Mary, and the saints, and they taught him how to pray. Dominic loved God very much. Once, on the long, three-mile walk to school, an elderly man asked him whether he was afraid to walk alone so far. Dominic answered that he was not, because his guardian angel went with him.

When he received his First Communion, Dominic made a private vow to befriend Jesus and Mary, to receive Communion and the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as often as possible, and to prefer death over sin.

At the age of twelve, Dominic met a priest who would himself become a saint, St. John Bosco, and asked to attend the Oratory of St. Francis De Sales, a school, youth center and hospice that Don Bosco had begun as part of his work with young boys. Don Bosco agreed, and the oratory became Dominic's home for the rest of his short life.



“Do you want many graces? Go and visit the Blessed Sacrament often.”

- St. Dominic Savio

Don Bosco helped his young charge grow in holiness. At first, Dominic thought that being a saint meant being very serious and doing many penances for his sins. But Don Bosco taught him that the best way to be a saint is to do ordinary things every day with extraordinary zeal, and especially to be cheerful. Dominic, who had always been prone to illness, died at home just before his 15th birthday, possibly from a lung illness.

His last words were: “Goodbye, Dad, goodbye . . . what was it the parish priest suggested to me . . . I don't seem to remember . . . Oh, what wonderful things I see...”

Dominic was named a saint almost 100 years after he died.

Keeping You Posted

by Jay Franco



St. Dominic Savio was a pupil of St. John Bosco. He died at the age of 14 due to illness. His motto was “**Death Rather Than Sin.**” This stamp was released to commemorate 100 years of his death, and has one of his favourite sayings – “**To work is to pray.**”

Joke of the Week



An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. “Where would you like to sit?” he asked politely. “The front row please,” she answered. “You really don’t want to do that,” the usher said. “The pastor is really boring.”

“Do you happen to know who I am? I’m the pastor’s mother,” she declared indignantly. “Do you know who I am?” the usher asked. “No.” she said. “Good,” he answered. Credit Fr. Anthony Kadavil



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

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