

# WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



## From the Administrator's Desk

My dear friends in Christ,

Hello and Happy Sunday! Even though we cannot see each other in person these days, please know that you are always in my prayers. I pray in a particular way for those who have been affected by the coronavirus and for all those caring for them.

We are certainly passing through some difficult moments, but God's unconditional love for us gives us courage, joy and hope. It is for this reason that we are preparing an evening of song and praise for everyone to enjoy. Please mark **Friday, December 18, 2020** on your calendars. Click on our website at 7:00pm for some virtual Christmas Carols.

We are also continuing to reach out to all parishioners in an effort to update and unify our directory. Please spread the word to your friends in the parish who have not communicated with us by email. *Let's keep in touch!*

May God bless your week, your families and friends.

Sincerely in Christ,

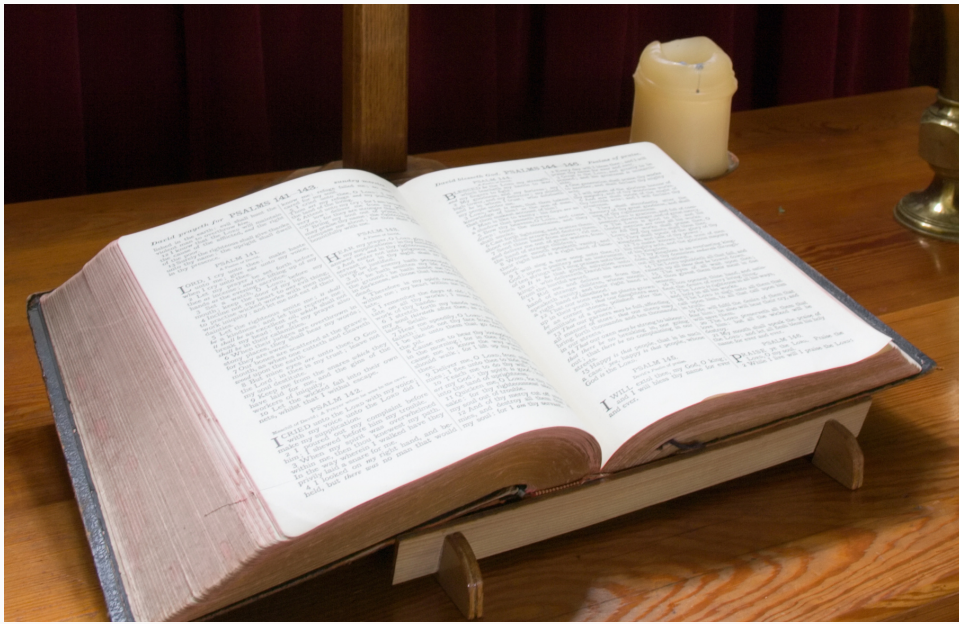
*Fv. Victor Amole*

## OVERVIEW:

- From the Administrator's Desk
- Gospel Inspiration
- Ongoing Parish Projects
- Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas
- The Year of St. Joseph

## ONLINE MASS SCHEDULE

Mondays	9:00AM
Wednesdays	7:00PM
Fridays	9:00AM
Saturdays	5:00PM
Sundays	12:30PM



## GOSPEL INSPIRATION

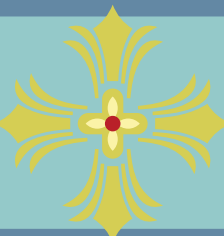
This Sunday we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called Gaudate Sunday because it comes from the antiphon to the Mass today which says “**Gaudete in Domino semper**” – “Rejoice in the Lord always.” It is a Sunday to rejoice!

Even though every Sunday is a **Dies Domini** (a day to rejoice), we rejoice in a special way today because the Lord is near. John the Baptist presents Jesus to us as the light of the world, the one coming to enlighten our hearts. The one who enlightens our paths in a world that could be sometimes really dark. Right now, our world reels under the darkness of the pandemic.

We know, however, that the Lord has the final say, and we shall come out of this situation with a victorious acclamation of His name as Lord. He is the Lord of light who conquers all darkness, including the darkness cast over us by the virus.

Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. As we light the pink candle today as a mark of the joy that is breaking forth in our hearts in anticipation of the long-expected saviour, let us get those same hearts ready for the Messiah.

*God  
Bless and keep you!*

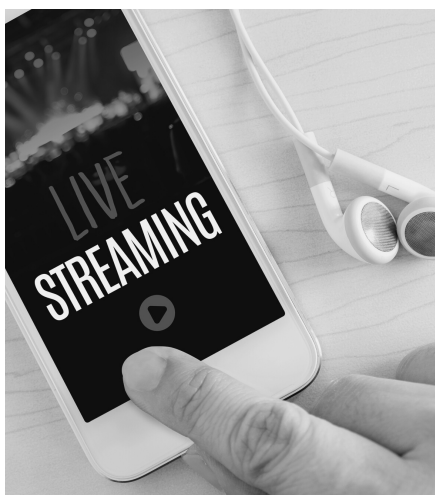
 **Universal Intention of Pope Francis for Dec. 2020: for a Life of Prayer.** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## Ongoing Parish Projects

### Parish Website

Take a few seconds to poke around the parish's new website. Do you have any suggestions? How about jotting down your ideas and sharing them so that they may be published in the new e-bulletin? Email [stdunstan@rogers.com](mailto:stdunstan@rogers.com) or simply give us a call.

A word of **special appreciation** to Dora and the online content staff at the Archdiocese of Toronto who worked tirelessly to bring the website to life. Parishioners now have access to daily readings, online mass schedules, and information about how to support the parish.



### Livestreamed Masses

St. Dunstan's Parish launched its first livestreamed mass on **Saturday, November 28 at 5:00pm**. Although we continue to experience a few initial audio and video glitches, the team is working hard to improve your viewing experience. Thanks to **Jose and Greg** for their expertise, dedication, and good will.

## Digitizing Telephone Communication

We are delighted to report that we've now completed the upgrades to our telephone system. Please feel free to call and keep in touch with us. Let us know how we may serve you better.



### Weekly E-Bulletin

**Don't forget!** If you wish to receive the newsletter directly, please email us so that we may add your name to the mailing list: [stdunstan@rogers.com](mailto:stdunstan@rogers.com)

## Preparing Our Hearts For Christmas

During Advent, the Church calls all her children to return to their Father's house with repentant and contrite hearts by inviting them to receive the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation. The Liturgy repeats the cry of John the Baptist, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near*".

Amidst all our Christmas preparations, the most important preparation takes place in our own heart to welcome Christ the Saviour. Let us heed the Church's invitation to seek and find God's forgiveness by making a good confession. If you missed our days of confession last week, please call the parish

office at 416-694-2811 to schedule a time to speak to Father Victor.



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Dunstan Conference



### Volunteers Needed

Just a few hours can enrich your relationship with God and bring great value to others. If interested, please leave a message for Paula on the SSVV Helpline at 416-698-0044.

### Who We Are

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ through the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. More than 97% of all donations made to the Society are used in direct service to persons in need - regardless of faith or creed.

Each parish-based group is called a "Conference", and it is made up of volunteers called "Vincentians" after our patron saint, St. Vincent de Paul. We benefit from the support of our pastor and rely on the financial generosity of parishioners to fulfill our mission of service.

### What We Do

All donations are put to work within our local community through personal contact with neighbours-in-need. We provide emergency assistance in the form of grocery cards, vouchers for clothing and/or household items. Some may be provided with basic furniture after a needs assessment is done. We also provide a compassionate ear and referrals to other services as appropriate. *"The poor are hungry not only for food; they are hungry to be recognized as human beings. They are hungry for dignity and to be treated as WE are treated. They are hungry for our love."* – Mother Teresa

## Pope Francis Proclaims "Year of St. Joseph"



With the Apostolic Letter "*Patris corde*" ("*With a Father's Heart*"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

### A creatively courageous father, example of love

*Patris corde* highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants. In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect."

Pope Francis added another prayer to St Joseph, and he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and  
defend us from every evil. Amen.

### A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work

As a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become "a burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "There is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes. Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "*review our priorities*" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!"

Source: Vatican News



### **Christmas Eve**

*Thursday, December 24th*  
7:00pm and 12:00 midnight

### **Christmas Day**

*Friday, December 25th*  
10:30am and 12:30pm

### **Sunday Liturgy**

*December 27th*  
9:00am, 10:30am, 12:30pm

### **Mary Mother of God (January 1st)**

*Thursday, December 31st at 5:00pm*  
*Friday, January 1st at 10:30am and 12:30pm*

### **Sunday Liturgy**

*Saturday, January 2nd at 5:00pm*  
*Sunday, January 3rd at 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:30am*

**Please note:** We are hopeful that the Christmas and New Year Masses will take place publicly as in previous years.

Should the lockdown continue beyond Monday, December 21st, we will be sure to update the schedule in the weekly bulletin and on our website. We continue to pray for a healthy and happy Christmas for everyone.



## **CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH**

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### **Joke of the week**

A soap manufacturer and a pastor were walking together down a street in a large city. The soap manufacturer casually said, "The Gospel you preach hasn't done much good, has it? Just observe. There is still a lot of wickedness in the world, and a lot of wicked people, too!"

The pastor made no reply, until, they passed a little child with dirty linen, making mud pies in the street. Seizing the opportunity, the pastor said, "I see that soap hasn't done much good in the world either; for, there is much dirt still here, and many people with dirty linen are still around." The soap manufacturer said, "Oh, well, soap only works when it is applied."

Then, the pastor said, "**Exactly! So it is with the Gospel.**"

