

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Happy 2021!

Welcome to a New Year, brothers and sisters in Christ! It's a time for new beginnings, for new resolve, for new strength and for new possibilities!

I know that you're probably praying - just as I did when I typed those first two words - that 2021 will be a very different year from the one that has just come to an end. What is certain is that we can always take comfort in the fact that the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary will be there to help us and guide us in our journey on this earth.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, accompany our steps this year and intercede for us. As we begin the year with Her, may She be our succor and intercessor all through the year and beyond.

God bless and keep you. To a great year ahead!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Victor Amole

OVERVIEW:

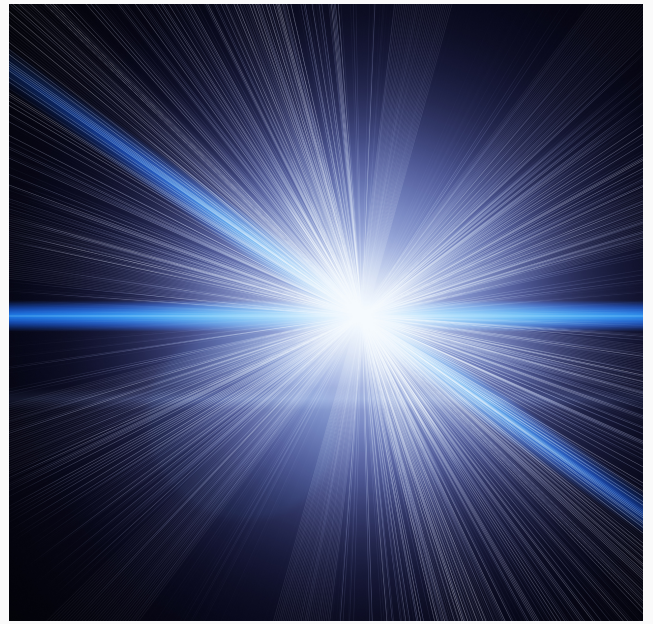
- From the Administrator's Desk
- Ongoing Parish Projects
- Around the Diocese
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis
- Feature: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

LIVE  **STREAM**

MASS SCHEDULE

Please be advised that streamed masses will be suspended temporarily from January 4th to January 8th. Fr. Victor will continue to say masses privately for your intentions. Streamed weekday masses will resume the week of January 11th.

January 3rd	12:30 PM
January 10th	10:00 AM



GOSPEL INSPIRATION

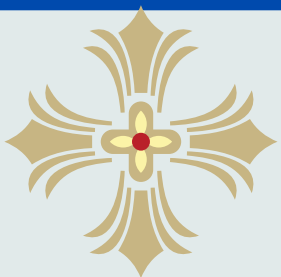
What a season of festivities we've had: from Christmas Day on December 25th, to the Feast of the Holy Family on December 27th, to the celebration of Mary Mother of God to start the New Year, culminating in today's joyous occasion - the Epiphany of the Lord.

Today is truly the happiest of days. It is the day that God is drawing back the veil and allowing all of us to see who He is, and who we are.

Originally a Greek word, *epiphany* signifies the manifestation of the Lord; the making known of the saviour, the Messiah, to us. Hence, the tight connection between the Epiphany and some happenings in the life of Jesus, such as His baptism, the wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the transfiguration. All these feasts make known and manifest the saviour.

Today, the gospel tells us that the magi brought sacred gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh as they fell on their knees to adore the Christ Child. These are beautiful, meaningful gifts for their time and ours: gold for a great King, frankincense for God Himself seen in the perfumed smoke of prayer rising up to heaven, and myrrh to indicate the paschal, salvific experience that awaits Him.

Jesus is God for all peoples. He is the star that calls us each and every day to follow him, and He leads all of us by faith on our journey to the eternal Bethlehem. The Messiah is born for us and we are called to walk through this valley of tears with Him. May His light shine bright in our lives. May He bless you and your families.



Universal Intention of Pope Francis for January 2021: *For Human Fraternity.* May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Ongoing Parish Projects

Free Subscription

The parish has subscribed to Formed.org. FORMED is an excellent platform to find all the best Catholic media in one place. It unites more than 60 Catholic publishers including The Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, The Saint Paul Center, Herald Entertainment and many others. Enjoy Catholic study programs, entertainment, audio and ebooks on any device—Desktop, iOS, Apple TV, Android, Roku and Amazon Fire. **Many thanks to the generous parishioner** who graciously helped us to achieve this. To access these resources, just click on the Formed button on our website.

You can also subscribe at <https://formed.org>. Once you've click on this link, search for Saint Dunstan Danforth Ave., and sign-up. You will enjoy many programmes, write-ups and countless hours of good movies and great cartoons for the children. Please make use of it. It's free, thanks to your dear parish of Saint Dunstan.



Share the Gift of your talents with St. Dunstan's Church

If you have some extra time and would like to become more involved with the e-newsletter at St. Dunstan's Parish either as an editor, writer or photographer - or if you'd like to share your talents and skills remotely in some other capacity, please call or email Fr. Victor Amole. Let's work together to continue to build the community of faith!

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Around the Diocese

The Little Douglins

Due to popular demand from several of our viewers of the Virtual Christmas Carol, I am providing further information about one of our star artistes for the carol night, **Carissa Douglas** and the little Douglins. You can read more about the wonderful project of Carissa at www.littledouglings.com

We thank her, Patrick and the little Douglins for their great witness to our world.

FAITH . FAMILY . FUN



Celebrating 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines



Gifted to Give is the theme, taken from Matthew 10:8, for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines.

A series of online events have been scheduled throughout the year to mark this celebration. **On March 16, 2021**, for example, there will be an inaugural mass and celebration to officially launch the Qincentennial Celebration, featuring Holy Mass streamed from Our Lady of the Assumption Parish with celebratory blessings and greetings from church and public speakers. **Please visit www.ph500toronto.com for more information.**

Christianity was brought to the Philippines in 1521 when the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, landed there. He headed a Spanish expedition in his bid to reach the East Indies, sailing west.

LIVE

January 3, 2021

LECTIO DIVINA
with Cardinal Thomas Collins



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. Each episode begins with a glimpse of Cardinal Collins presiding over Vespers at St. Michael's Cathedral in downtown Toronto. Lectio Divina follows immediately afterwards. In each session, Cardinal Collins slowly reads an excerpt from Scripture, offers a short reflection, and invites the congregation to quietly meditate on the passage. More than that, Lectio Divina is not intended to increase our intellectual knowledge of the Bible [though it also has that effect]; instead, it is intended to draw us closer to God, and to transform our attitudes and behaviour. **Next prayer: In Life's Struggle: Despair and Trust (Psalm 13 & 14)**

Weekly Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis



by Vatican News Staff Writer

Continuing his series of catechesis on prayer, Pope Francis, during his general audience this week, dwelt upon the importance of gratitude in prayer, which he said makes the world better and brings hope.

The Ten Lepers

As a case in point, he took the episode of the healing of the ten lepers in the Gospel of Luke. The ten not only suffered physically but also from social and religious marginalization. "However, Jesus did not back off from meeting them. Sometimes, He surpassed the limitations imposed by the law and touched, embraced and healed the sick person. However, in this case, there was no contact": He heard their prayer, their cry for mercy, and sent them to the priests who were designated by law to certify their healing and re-admit them to normal life. But on their way, when they found themselves healed, only one returned to thank Jesus and praise God before proceeding to the priests. That man was a Samaritan, a sort of "heretic" for the Jews of that time. And Jesus comments: "Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (17:18).

Grace Precedes Thanksgiving

This episode, the Pope said, "divides the world in two: those who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those

"Thank you becomes the driving force of our day."

- Pope Francis

who welcome everything as a gift, as grace." The Catechism says, "Every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving."

Hence, the Pope said, the prayer of thanksgiving always begins with recognizing that "grace precedes us". "We were thought of before we learned how to think; we were loved before we learned how to love; we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire." "If we view life like this," he pointed out, "then 'thank you' becomes the driving force of our day."

Gift of Life

Pope Francis then explained that the word "Eucharist," the most essential Sacrament, is derived from the Greek word, which means thanksgiving. And Christians, as all believers, bless God for the gift of life. "All of us are born because someone wanted us to have life. And this is only the first of a long series of debts that we incur by living. Debts of gratitude." After God, educators, catechists and others "gazed on us with pure eyes and carried out their roles above and beyond what was required of them. They provoked us to be grateful. Even friendship is a gift for which we should always be grateful."

Love Begets Gratitude

Continuing his catechesis, the Pope said that this "gratitude" grows in meeting Jesus.

Jesus often provoked joy and praise to God in those whom He met. We too are called to participate in this immense jubilation as the episode of the ten lepers points out. They were happy for recovering their health, which allowed them to "end that unending forced quarantine that excluded them from the community".

DON'T SINK THE BOAT

WRITTEN BY THERESA KELLEN

*** *Theresa is the coordinator of St. Dunstan's RCIA Program.*

As part of my preparation for Christmas or Easter, I usually buy a book of daily reflections to help direct my prayers and thoughts toward the coming feast. This year, I was unable to purchase a new book. So, I dug around on my bookshelf and found one from 2015 that matched this year's calendar. The reflection for December 7th started with this story:

Three men were in a boat fishing. The day wore on without much success. One fisherman got bored and took a small drill out of his tackle box and began drilling a hole in the bottom of the boat. The other two looked around in alarm and said, "What are you doing!? You'll get us all drowned!" The man said calmly, "What I do in my part of the boat is my business." [1]

What a story for 2020!

The phrase we have been hearing all year is 'we are all in this together'. We are all in the same boat. We need to keep afloat and not drill holes in the bottom of the boat. There are those who have a more selfish, or it-is-all-about-me, attitude. But it's not about any one of us.

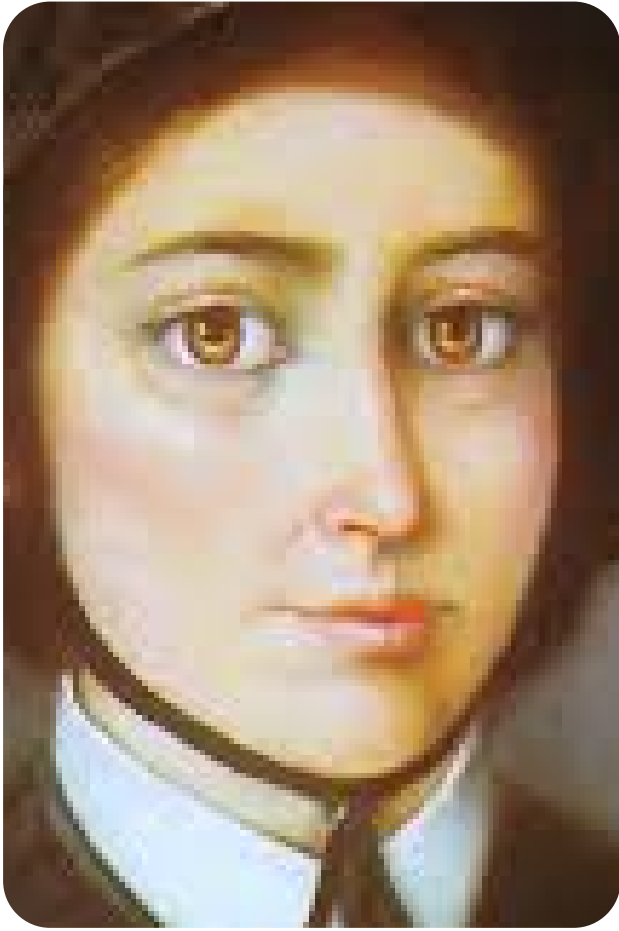


As Cardinal Collins has said on more than one occasion, we are restricting our lives for love of neighbour - all in the same boat. Jesus can and will calm this storm brought upon the world by this pandemic. He will bring us safely to shore. But we have to co-operate with Him. We can't keep putting holes in the boat and sink not only ourselves, but our brothers and sisters. When you feel the storm is too strong, turn to the Spirit and ask for the gifts of faith, hope and love. Our loving Father is watching over us; offering us His help. Cling to the hope that faith in the Trinity gives us and know that, by caring for each other, all of us are made stronger. Keep paddling and casting the net together, and don't sink the boat!



[1] Genevieve Glen and Jerome Kodell, **Waiting in Joyful Hope**, Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas 2015-2016 (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2015), page 24.

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON - JANUARY 4TH



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City on August 28, 1774 to a prominent Episcopal family. She lost her mother at the age of three. In 1794, at the age of 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. William died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving Elizabeth a young widow. After discovering Catholicism in Italy, where her husband had died, Elizabeth returned to the United States and entered the Catholic Church in 1805 in New York.

After a number of difficult years, in 1809 Elizabeth moved to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, the first community for religious women

established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, planting the seeds of Catholic education in the United States.

Her legacy now includes religious congregations in the United States and Canada, whose members work on the unmet needs of people living in poverty in North America and beyond. Mother Seton, as she is often called, was canonized on **Sunday, September 14, 1975** in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI.

She was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "Saint." Her remains are entombed in Emmitsburg in the Basilica at the National Shrine that bears her name.



- In November 1803, Elizabeth was **quarantined in a cold, damp lazaretto in Italy with her husband William and daughter Annina**. William suffered from tuberculosis, and they had sailed to Italy with the hope to improve his health. However, when they arrived, they were put in quarantine, which lasted for close to a month. Her husband survived the quarantine, but only briefly. He died just a few days after they were released from quarantine, and about a month before they were to celebrate their 10-year wedding anniversary.

Information sourced from: setonshrine.org



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - January 1

The Rosary in the Rear-view Mirror

I'm trying to remember the exact day I decided to hang a rosary on the rear-view mirror of my car. It's so long ago that I can't even venture a guess. All I know is that the same rosary beads dangled there for years and, for the most part, went unnoticed. I say for the most part because on certain days, when the sunlight hit the crystal beads at just the right angle, they reflected the prettiest blue light onto the dashboard. It was hard not to notice how the sunshine brought the beads to life. Perhaps that's why I hung the rosary there in the first place: a penchant for Martha Stewart-like décor. I certainly cannot claim that it was my special devotion to Mary or the fact that I was proud of showing love of Mary for all to see. I did not understand the relevance of the rosary in my life as a simple lay person.

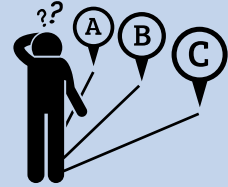
After my father-in-law passed away in March during the first wave of the pandemic, my husband and I were invited to pray the rosary out loud. We were in quarantine at the time, just like the rest of Toronto, so I went out and plucked the rosary from the car. We connected online with the others and pushed through the all-too-familiar mess of muting and unmuting microphones, background noise, echoing and countless technical glitches that would have made any sensible individual quit while they were ahead.

We didn't quit. And no one has been more surprised that we didn't quit than me. What started off as an obligatory participation in rote prayer on a Saturday afternoon has turned into a font of inner healing. I discovered a sweetness inherent in the rosary that is hard for me to put into words. It is nothing short of grace that draws one closer to what is good and true and beautiful. There has been no magical change in me: I am the same lay person that hung that original rosary on my car's rear-view mirror, with the same shallowness, the same problems and the same doubts. But, in the sacred space and time during which the rosary is prayed, my everyday anxieties, my angers and my frustrations have taken a back seat to a deeply personal conversation which has had the power to strengthen and console in times of despair and heartache. - Elaine Sambugaro

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Smile of the Week

A boy asked his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hangs over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?"

The dad replied, "Two."

"No," the son said. "Here is the question again: There are three frogs and one decided to jump, how many are left?"

The dad said, "Oh, I get the point! If one decided to jump, the others would too. So there are none left." The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three. The frog only **DECIDED** to jump." 😊😊

Does that sound like our last year's resolutions? Great inspiration and great resolutions, but oftentimes we only decide, and months later we are still on the same limb of doing nothing? *Another chance is here, new year 2021. Let's go make the best of it!*

Credit: Fr. Tony Kadavil



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 bottom 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.