

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Welcome to the year 2021! Dear friends in Christ, today I simply want to wish you the very best of this year. There is no denying that the past year was stressful for everyone, from many points of view.

But we thank God for his love and grace, the strength to forge ahead and hope anew. As we start this year in the name of the Lord, may He give us the grace to seek the ultimate good which, as Saint Thomas Aquinas reminds us, is God himself.

May he protect us from all evil and lead us along his good pasture.

God bless and keep you.

To a great year ahead!

Fv. Victor Amole

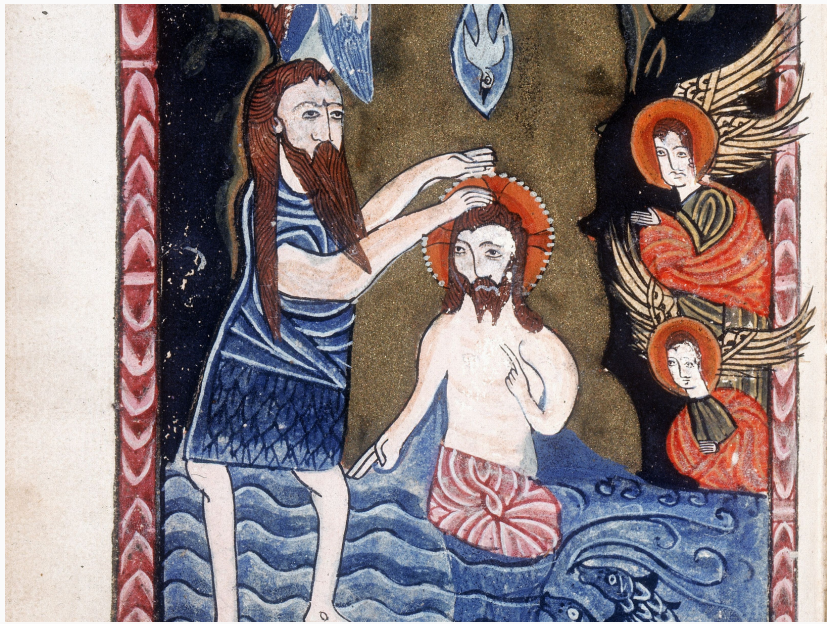
OVERVIEW:

- From the Administrator's Desk
- Ongoing Parish Projects
- Around the Archdiocese
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis
- Feature: Word of God Sunday



MASS SCHEDULE

January 10th	10:00AM
January 11th	9:00AM
January 13th	7:00PM
January 15th	9:00AM
January 17th	10:00AM



GOSPEL INSPIRATION

This weekend, the last day of Christmastide, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. And with this solemnity, we round up our festive days of Christmas and return to the ordinary time of the year.

Interestingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season, the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead, the Gospel manifests Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

How appropriate that we begin the ordinary time of the year right after the baptism of Christ. With our baptism, we become regenerated in Christ and put on imperishability, having been redeemed in Him. But with that same sacrament, we receive the insignia of Christ and thus have

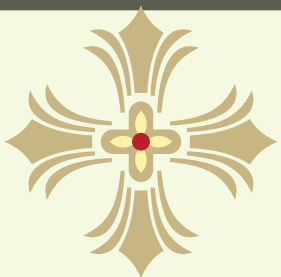
the obligation to live, as Saint Paul would say, no longer for ourselves but for Him.

Baptism, therefore, invites and obliges us to live out our baptismal promises. These promises are lived out in our daily, ordinary life, exactly like in the ordinary time of the liturgical season which we are about to start. The shiny decorative lights may be taken off now; it is our turn to start shining the light of Christ in our oftentimes gloomy world.

May Christ into whom we have been baptized and for whom we live, strengthen our resolve and lead us in our daily encounters and ordinary experiences to live for him.

Happy celebration.

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

Communion Services

Good news! Given the success of the Communion Services at Christmas, the Archdiocese of Toronto has permitted parishes to continue to offer a Holy Communion service where it is both safe and feasible to do so.

I wish to help us avail of this opportunity and give willing parishioners the opportunity to receive Jesus sacramentally. As announced last Sunday, we shall start the Communion Services *this weekend* on **Saturday**, from **4pm to 6pm**; and on **Sunday** from **11am to 1pm**. To help us achieve this, we will stream the weekend Mass only once - at 10am on Sunday.

The Holy Communion Service will be similar to the one celebrated at Christmas time: we will have a 5-minute liturgy with a maximum of 8 people standing in front of the sanctuary (plus myself and an usher) to receive the Eucharist.

This will be followed by a few minutes of prayer and a safe exit to allow the next group to arrive. Strict compliance to protocol is necessary in order to keep everyone safe.

Please call the office and book your time slot with Jean. To hear a special telephone message from Fr. Victor, please click on the telephone icon below.

We look forward to seeing you on the weekend.



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!

Get more videos & information about St. Dunstan's Church

Subscribe to Our New **YouTube** Channel



Step 1

Visit our website



Step 2

Click on YouTube Videos



Step 3

Click on Subscribe

Around the Archdiocese

A Virtual Event Offered by St. Augustine's Seminary

On January 23, 2021, from 9:30AM to 1:00PM Monsignor A. Robert Nusca will be giving an online workshop via Zoom entitled: "The Songs of the Angels in the Book of Revelation".

After a brief introduction to the Book of Revelation, this talk will explore the hymns of the Apocalypse, their role and function, and St. John's message of hope in a time of crisis. Everyone is invited to attend. The cost of attending the event is \$25.00. To register, visit:

<https://bit.ly/HymnsoftheAngels>



Episcopal Ordination of Fr. Ivan Camilleri

Fr. Ivan Camilleri was named as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto on November 28, 2020.

As previously announced, the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-designate Camilleri will take place on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Monday, January 25, 2021 at 2 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica in Toronto.

While the preference would be to welcome a large number of attendees for this joyful occasion, as you know, current lockdown measures have restricted church attendance to no more than 10 people. This directive will be in place until at least Saturday, January 23, 2021, and most likely beyond that date.

The ordination will be livestreamed at www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live, and we hope that everyone will participate virtually.

If circumstances change between now and January 25 to allow for greater capacity, more information will be provided. We look forward to a more public Mass of Celebration and reception to welcome Bishop-designate Camilleri to the episcopate when it is safe to do so.

The Making of a Jewish Nun

VIRTUAL EVENT: January 12, 2021 at 7:00PM

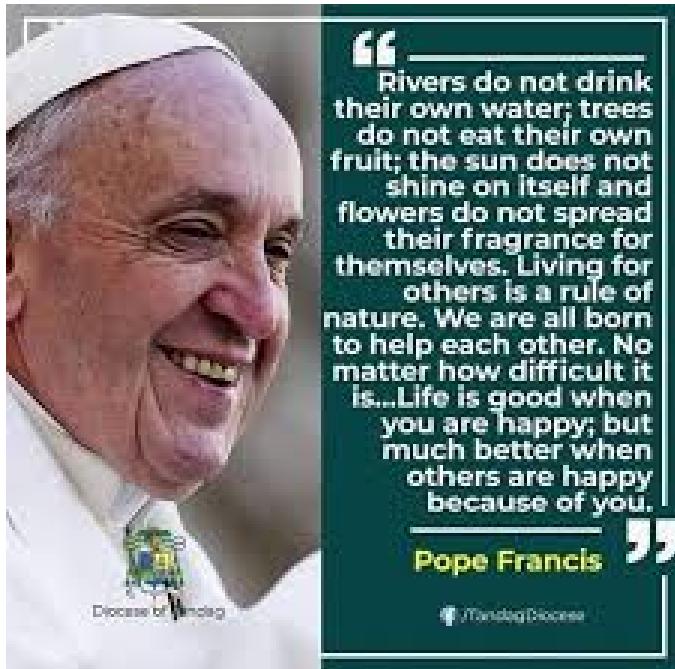
Raised in a conservative Jewish home in New York, Mother Miriam came to faith in Yeshua as Messiah after many years as a business executive. Then, later on, after being convinced of the "beauty, goodness and truth" of the Catholic Church, she came into full communion. Mother Miriam is a dynamic speaker,

teacher, radio personality and writer who is now the founder of a religious order that promotes the faith in families and schools. In this evening she will share her amazing journey from Judaism to being a Jewish Catholic Nun.

No registration is required.



Contact AHC Toronto for the Zoom link at: ahctoronto@gmail.com



by Devin Watkins, *Vatican News*

As the Church marks the feast of the Epiphany on Wednesday January 6th, Pope Francis joined Catholics around the world in praying the Angelus. Standing in the library of the Apostolic Palace, the Pope reflected on the light which the liturgical feast brings to our world. He said Epiphany celebrates the same mystery as Christmas—the birth of Christ—but from the perspective of light and the manifestation of the Lord to all peoples. That light, the Pope noted, should be “welcomed in faith and the light to bring to others in charity, through witness, in the proclamation of the Gospel.”

Light In Darkness

Reflecting on Isaiah’s vision (60:1-6), Pope Francis said the prophet’s description of his time is more relevant than ever: “darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.” In such obscurity, the prophet Isaiah announced the coming of “the light given by God to Jerusalem and destined to shine on the path of all the peoples.” The Pope said this attractive vision invites hope, and reminds us that God’s light overcomes all shadow of darkness.

Star On The Horizon

Turning to Matthew’s telling of the Magi adoring Jesus (Mt 2:1-12), Pope Francis pointed out that the light foreseen by Isaiah was the Babe of Bethlehem, even if not everyone accepted His kingship.

“He is the star who appeared on the horizon, the awaited Messiah, the One through whom God would inaugurate His kingdom of love, of justice and of peace,” said the Pope. “He was born not only for some, but for all men and women, for all peoples.”

Shining Through Us

But how, asked Pope Francis, does Christ’s light come to shine everywhere and on everyone? “Through the proclamation of the Gospel,” he said. God, he added, used this same “method” to come to us. In the Incarnation, God draws near to the other and assumes “the reality of the other.” “The star is Christ,” he said, “but we too can and must also be the star for our brothers and sisters, as witnesses of the treasures of goodness and infinite mercy that the Redeemer offers freely to everyone.”

Guided by Christ

Pope Francis then urged everyone to welcome the light of Christ on this Epiphany, and allow ourselves to be guided—like the Magi—and converted by Christ. “This is the journey of faith, through prayer and the contemplation of God’s works, which continually fill us with every new joy and wonder.”

The Word of God Sunday

Sunday, January 24th

The Holy Father Francis has declared the 24th of January 2021 the “Word of God” Sunday. The Scripture is the word of God which enlightens our path. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that in the Sacred Scripture, “the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength”. (CCC104) It is the case also for the domestic church, the family.

Enthroning The Bible



On the 24th of January, we shall have a short rite of the enthronement of the Word of God during the Mass. I enjoin all our dear families of Saint Dunstan to do same in your homes: have a special place like a table or bookstand prepared. Place an open bible on the prepared surface. You may also add other sacramentals such as a candle, crucifix, icon, rosary, flowers or plants in the vicinity.

This enthronement of the word of God is meant to inspire us to study it throughout the year and to make it a focal point of our family life. Thus, though the enthronement is a one-time event, the treasuring of the word of God should be continuous and permanent in our lives.

Before next Sunday, we shall make available on our website a

text that we shall use together to do the enthronement of the word of God on the 24th of January. This text will also contain extra readings to help you deepen your reflections.

There are many excellent tools you can use to study the bible. They include:

- A free online resource published by the Saint Paul Centre
<https://stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/online-studies/>
- A fuller list of study aids as curated by Scott Hann, a foremost Catholic Scripture scholar, can be found on <http://www.scotthahn.com/tools-for-bible-study>.

May the word of God enlighten our path as we make it the centre of our lives.

Excerpt from **Enthroning the Bible in Your Home** by Stephen J. Binz

People sometimes feel reluctant to begin reading the Bible. It seems too big, too difficult, too controversial, too ancient. The following points about the Bible may help overcome some of these obstacles:

- *First*, the Bible is not just one large book; it is a library of 73 small books. We will feel less intimidated by choosing just one book at a time for reading.
- *Second*, the Bible was never meant to be difficult. It was written by simple people, who spoke in the ordinary language of their time. It expresses the faith of imperfect people like ourselves—people who believe that God cares about them and acts in their lives.
- *Third*, the Bible was never intended to cause conflict between people or to be used as a weapon. Using the Bible to prove points and show that others are wrong is a serious abuse of the Bible. Approach these books with humility and wonder—they are the sacred literature of God's people.
- *Fourth*, the Bible is an ancient book, but it is also a contemporary book. Peoples' basic needs, questions and struggles are the same in every age and every culture. The Holy Spirit who inspired the biblical authors so long ago also guides our lives today. As you begin a regular practice of Bible reading, dedicate a specific place and commit yourself to a quiet time. Symbols such as a candle or crucifix may help you stay focused. Always begin with prayer, asking God to open your mind and heart for a genuine encounter with the word.

Reflections from Our Parishioners



A Requiem for 2020

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL SCHAUB

The dreary, dark, December days drew on,
and wove a shroud of shadows for a year
that lay in still and moribund repose,
not knowing that its final breath was near.

A deathwatch had been set with due respect,
but not beyond what protocol required.
Interment plans were quietly discussed.
No funeral rites were planned, and none desired.

Its resting place would be an unmarked grave,
the better to ensure forgetfulness.
What claim could it present to merit more
against the charge it merited much less?

It left a tragic legacy of pain,
of pestilence that stalked and choked each breath,
and chained the world in prison cells of fear,
and reaped a harvest overripe with death;

of heinous crimes against the poor and weak;
of hateful words in home and school and street,
of treason in the sacred halls of trust,
and government by lies and high deceit.

And so the watchers hoped that, while it slept
as one deserving final hours of peace,
what soon would bring it quick deliverance
would bring them, too, a merciful release.

But when not seven days of life remained,
there came upon its face a coral glow,
the tracing of a smile, as if there were,
a hidden truth it just had come to know.

It stayed but for a day, and then was gone.
The face resumed its former rigid mien,
The vigilants had only memory
to prove the truth of what their eyes had seen.

They questioned one another why this swift
yet transient transformation had appeared,
though there seemed little doubt but that the
cause was worthier to be embraced than feared.

The plans were changed. Before the
burial a service would be held, and mercy sought,
and recognition given, not to worth,
but to a final change so strangely wrought.

No pardon had been asked; none would be given
to one who carved a path so steep and rough.
It offered no support for leniency, save
only hope, but that would be enough.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Feast January 13th



*The Baptism of Christ by
Andrea del Verrocchio & Leonardo Da Vinci*

Who would not want a doctor who, before he cuts, lifts his shirt a little, shows his own scar, and says to the patient, “I had the same. It’s going to be alright”? What soldier would not be just a little braver, stand a little taller, seeing medals for valor on his commander’s uniform? We want our heroes, our leaders, and our guides to lead through personal example. To have been there. To have done that. And we want our Savior to do the same. To empathize. To participate. To identify. To accompany. Actions resonate more than words.

Our sinless God “became” sin, in the words of St. Paul. Jesus identifies with sin but never sinned. Jesus carries sin but is not a sinner. Why? Because to become sin is to become man. In order for God to enter into human reality, He had to identify with all that sin entails. God wanted to stand with us shoulder to shoulder. He did not fake becoming man. He really became man. And if God came to forgive sins and sinners, and to shed His blood for them on the cross, He had to bear the burden they bore yet retain His perfection.

This is why our sinless God was baptised on today’s feast. God lays to the side His perfection and dignity and bows His head in the dirty waters of a river. He lined up with sinners to receive in humility what He did not need. To attend a school whose subjects He had mastered. Our God knew the value of empathy. He knew the power of example. And He knew that His ministry to mankind had to start not on a golden throne but in the mud with other men just trying to start again and again and again.

The fullness of the Holy Trinity, first revealed more subtly at the Annunciation, is present and spoken for at the Lord’s baptism. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, hovers. The voice of God the Father intones favor toward His Son. And the Son enters into the essential Christian pact with man—I will become like you so that you can become like me. Sins will be taken away through water and blood. I will suffer for your benefit. This is the promise. And the Church’s priests will carry on the baptising and forgiving and consecrating until the sun sets for the last time. God comes to us in many ways, but most intensely through the Sacraments. Jesus’ actions prove this.

Source: <https://mycatholic.life>

KEEPING YOU POSTED

by Jay Franco

In 1998-99, a special stamp was issued at Christmas time in Brasil to honor the 2000 year anniversary of Jesus' birth. It featured Jesus being baptised by St. John the Baptist.





Catechism Classes

The information for catechism classes for our **First Holy Communion and Confirmation** candidates will be released soon.

Please be on the lookout for the information which will be posted on our website by next Sunday, January 17, 2021.

CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

3150 Danforth Avenue
Scarborough MIL 1B6

Office: 416-694-2811
Email: stdunstan@rogers.com

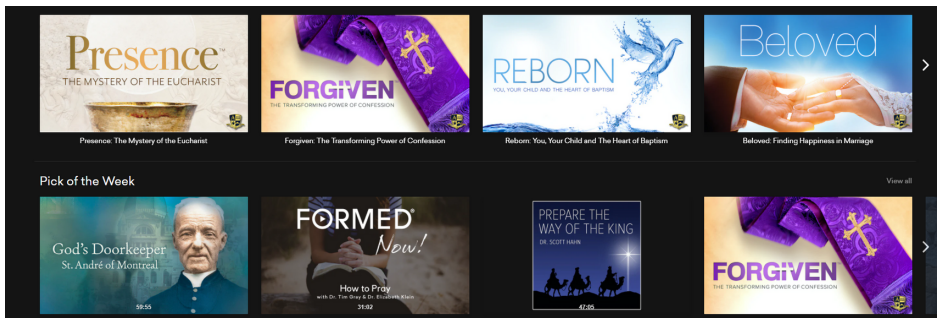


Smile of the Week

Around the campfire, a rabbi, a Catholic priest and Baptist preacher each claim to be the best at winning converts to their respective faiths. To settle the friendly dispute they decide to seek out a bear and try to convert it. The next day they fan out in different directions into the woods, planning to meet back at the campsite in twelve hours.

That night, they gather around the fire again. "Well," said the Baptist, "how did you do?" "After a few hours I came upon a bear foraging for berries," the priest said. "I read to him from our Catechism and we talked about theology, and I'm happy to report I signed him up to start our catechism class and join the faith." "Good," the Baptist said. "I found a black bear in a creek. I laid out God's plan for salvation for him. He prayed the sinner's prayer and I baptized him right there in that creek!"

Then, they both turned to the rabbi, who they now noticed had scratches on his face, torn clothes and blood across his belly. He took a long, deep breath and said: "If I could do it over again, I would not start with circumcision."



Our parish has now subscribed to **Formed.org**.

Many thanks to the generous parishioner who graciously helped us to achieve this. This is an excellent platform of Catholic resources for learning and formation.

Avail of this opportunity by clicking on <https://formed.org/> to subscribe. Search for Saint Dunstan, Danforth Ave., and sign-up! It's free. You will get to enjoy many formation programmes, write-ups, countless hours of good movies, great cartoons for the children, etc.

Please make good use of it. In the near future, we will have an interactive session on how to best use Formed. It contains a wealth of information and resources for everyone!

WATCH

LEARN

SHARE



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.