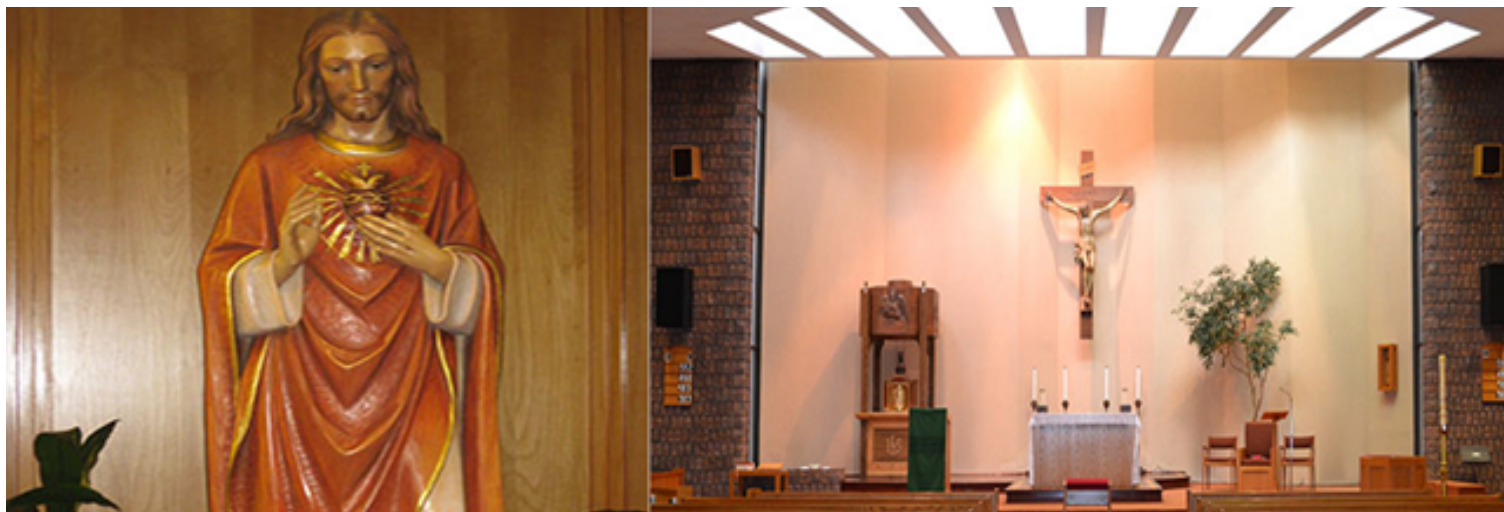


WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear friends in Christ,

Peace and love from your parish community! I hope you are all staying safe and healthy and, of course, following our programs and updates on the parish website: <https://stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/>

The newest initiative is the presence of a children's corner! In the next few weeks, our hope is to populate this section with some simple, educational animations and comics that will put a smile on the faces of our children and the young at heart. *How exciting!*

Many thanks to a couple of our friends for helping us with this endeavor. However, we need all the help we can get in this area and several other areas. If you've had experience using animation software or perhaps you have been gifted with the art of children's storytelling, please reach out to me.

Collaboration in other key areas is also welcome, so please feel free to email me or to contact me by telephone. God bless and keep you.

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 18th	9:00AM
January 20th	7:00PM
January 22nd	9:00AM
January 24th	10:00AM



GOSPEL INSPIRATION

"Here I am Lord, I come to do your will."

The Christian's life is essentially a vocation, a constant call from God who is the source of life itself, to the human person initiated through baptism to be a son in the Son, a follower of Christ.

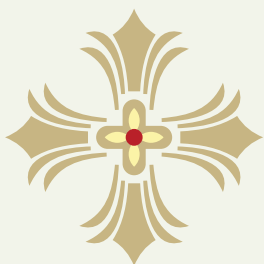
This vocation takes neither holidays nor pauses. It is a lifelong project. And we are called in different ways and manners, but always to the service of the same Lord.

"There are a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of services to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them." (1 Cor. 12: 4-6).

You see, my dear parishioners, we have all been called in one way or another, and we are unique in that specific vocation to which we have been called. We are a part of the Kingdom of God, and we are active instruments in promoting that kingdom.

How wonderful the feeling that God has a space for my contribution to his kingdom; that He desires to have me collaborate with Him in building up His kingdom, that I am not just some nominal number in the congregation. I am called and chosen in my particular vocation and life-situation.

May the Lord open our hearts and insight to hearken to his call and be open to His prompting.



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

Catechism Programme

As indicated last week, we are working on beginning our Catechism programmes again for this year. In spite of the restrictions, we shall do everything we can to help the children take part in these programs so that when the church opens once again (hopefully, in the near future), the sacraments can be duly celebrated.

Parishioners with children in grade 2 who wish for their children to receive **First Holy Communion** and parishioners with children in grade 7 who wish for their children to receive **Confirmation** should visit the parish website and click on "**Sacramental Forms**". To register for catechism, fill out the **Google Forms** which are now available on the website.

Registration will be open for two (2) weeks only: from **Saturday, January 17, 2021 to Monday, February 1, 2021**. Please note that registration will close after this two-week period. When we receive the registration, we will get in touch with you on, or before, Thursday, February 4, 2021.



Parents of confirmation candidates who started the programme last year but could not finish it, are also asked to complete the online form. This way, the children can finish the course and get ready to receive the sacrament when it is safe to do so. The initial meeting date and time with parents shall be communicated personally in the near future.

Catechism classes will start on the second week of February, *Deo Volente*.

Please refer to the schedule below for important dates to put in your calendars or on your refrigerator doors!

School Mass Online

Our school Mass for Saint Dunstan Catholic School shall be next **Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 1:00pm**. Join us to worship as the students ask the Lord for His blessings at this opening school Mass.

Communion Services

To book a time slot for communion services, please call the office and speak to Jean. The time for Communion Services has been reduced due to low numbers. It will be offered on Saturdays from 4pm to 5pm and on Sundays from 11am to 12noon.



Saint Dunstan Catechism Programme

Activities	First Holy Communion	Confirmation
Online Registration	January 17, 2021 to February 1, 2021	January 17, 2021 to February 1, 2021
Feedback from St. Dunstan's	On, or before, February 4, 2021	On, or before, February 4, 2021
Zoom Meeting with Parents	February 8, 2021	February 9, 2021

Around the Archdiocese & Beyond

Annual Celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

All are welcome to the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service for the Greater Toronto Area. This annual event will be held online on **Sunday, January 24, 2021** from 4p.m. to 5p.m., and can be accessed on Facebook: facebook.com/agincourtcommunitychurch.

The theme for this year is: *“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”* (cf. John 15:5-9). Please join His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, the Sisters of Life and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Lord Jesus Christ for the Church. The homilist is David Wells (General Superintendent of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada). Our host this year is the Salvation Army.



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.

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Weekly Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis



by Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

In his main talk, the pope focused on the importance of praising God in times of darkness and difficulty.

It may seem illogical, but Christians are called to give God praise — not complaints — in times of darkness and difficulty, Pope Francis said. Jesus and the saints "show us that we can always give praise, in good times and bad, because God is the faithful friend — this is the foundation of praise, he is the faithful friend and his love never fails. He is always by our side; he always waits for us," the pope said January 13 during his weekly general audience.

This is why, he said, "praising God is like breathing in pure oxygen. It purifies the soul, it helps you look at the horizon" and not see oneself as imprisoned or trapped in the current moment. Livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace, the pope continued his series of talks on prayer, reflecting on the prayer of praise. He reflected on the time in Jesus' early ministry when his great works and miracles were still met with unbelief: St. John the Baptist, who had been imprisoned, was unsure whether Jesus was truly the Messiah; some towns remained unrepentant; and the wise and learned had rejected his preaching. According to St. Matthew, "Jesus does not lift up a lament to the Father, but rather a hymn of jubilation" and praise during this time of crisis and disappointment, he said. "Why?" the pope asked.

God is Praised for Who He Is

"First and foremost, he praises him for who He is: 'Father, Lord of heaven and earth.' Jesus rejoices in his spirit because he knows and he feels that his father is the God of the universe" and he is "my father," he said. "Praise springs from this experience of feeling" that he is the son of God and is loved. Jesus' prayer and praise should also teach everyone who reads the Gospel "to judge our personal defeats in a different way, the situations in which we do not see clearly the presence and action of God, when it seems that evil prevails and there is no way to stop it," the pope said.

God Favours The Little Ones



For some reason, God willed that it would be "the little ones," the pure of heart who would be most receptive to him, while the "learned" and the "wise" remained suspicious, closed and calculating, he said.

Jesus rejoices in this fact, and "we too must rejoice and praise God because humble and simple people welcome the Gospel." "In the future of the world and in the hopes of the church," the pope said, "there are the 'little ones' — those who do not consider themselves better than others, who are aware of their own limitations and their sins, who do not want to lord it over others — who, in God the father, recognize that we are all brothers and sisters."

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.

The text that we shall use for the enthronement of the Bible next Sunday is now available on

our website. This text also contains extra readings to help you deepen your reflections.

There are many other 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



It's Not A Competition

WRITTEN BY THERESA KELLEN

For many years, I struggled with the weight of my name. It is a beautiful name; it means one who reaps. Reaping is harvesting. But I thought I was in competition with two Doctors of the Church and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. Talk about a high bar to reach!

St. Teresa of Avila was a great person of prayer. She would spend many hours meditating and contemplating God. Most days, I struggled to find the time to say a rosary. St. Therese of Lisieux, after whom I am named, inspired millions with her little way, a way of childlike love and complete trust in God. I sometimes think that I know a better way than God (how's that for arrogance). St. Teresa of Calcutta left her home and went to serve the poorest of the poor. She heeded Jesus' cry of "I thirst" with her whole life. At times, I walk around and ignore those sitting on the street asking for coins. I am not worthy to have such a great name.

But one day while reading the prophet Isaiah "The Lord called me before I was born, while in my mother's womb, he named me" and "I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands" ...

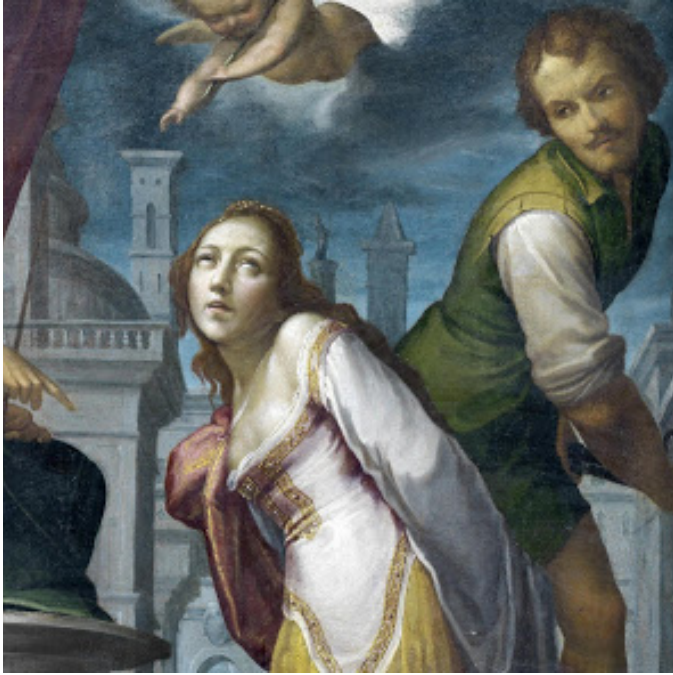
(49:1, 16), the Holy Spirit opened my eyes. I recognized that God had a special plan for me. This plan would require the prayers and help of the three great Theresas. He gave me these models to lead me closer to Him so that I may try to be a model of His love to the world.

Since that day, I have been working hard, not in competition, but to join them leading and harvesting people for God. I am humble enough to know that I am nowhere close to them. But God doesn't need another one of them; He needs me.

Each morning, I pray that God will help me be whom He needs me to be and to help me be His Light to the world. God calls each of us by our names, a name He chose for us. "I have called you by name, you are mine." (Is 43:1). He gives us a mission that only we can fulfill on this earth if we work with Him. Search your heart, pray for the Holy Spirit's inspiration, and listen for His voice calling your name.

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

Featured Saint - St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr



The Martyrdom of Saint Agnes by Paolo Guidotti

Saint Agnes has always been looked upon in the Church as a special patroness of bodily purity. She is one of the most popular of Christian saints, and her name is commemorated every day in the canon of the Mass.

From the writings of St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, we learn that St. Agnes was only 13 at the time of her death. She was very beautiful and this beauty excited the young noblemen of Rome who rivaled for her hand in marriage. Agnes told all of the suitors that she had consecrated her virginity to a heavenly husband and that she would have no other spouse but Jesus Christ. Her decision was final.

Finding her resolution unshakable, her suitors accused her of being a "Christian" and took her to the Governor. He subjected her to threats and physical torture in an effort to make her change her mind. She was unwavering in her faithfulness to Christ, so the Governor sent her to a brothel where Agnes would be exposed to the insults of the licentious youth of Rome.

Despite the fact that many young men at the brothel attempted to profane her body, once they saw the saint they were in such awe that

they couldn't approach her. The one man who did try to gratify his lust was struck blind by a bolt of lightning and fell trembling to the ground. It has been said that the man's companions took him to St. Agnes who, though the power of prayer, restored his sight and his health.

The suitor's passionate fondness for Agnes soon turned into a spirit of vindictiveness when he realized that she would never yield. He approached the Roman Governor who, already incensed and exasperated by her defiance, ordered her to be decapitated. St. Ambrose writes that Agnes, filled with joy on hearing her sentence, "went to the place of execution more cheerfully than others go to their wedding".

It is unknown exactly how St. Agnes died. It seems that, in the end, she may have been stabbed in the throat or breast. There is no doubt, however, that she was martyred, and that she was buried beside the Via Nomentana in the cemetery which was named after her.

A basilica was also built in her honour before 354 by Constantina, daughter of Constantine and wife of Gallus.

Source: **Butler's Lives of the Saints**, Volume 1, pp.133-137

KEEPING YOU POSTED

by Jay Franco

January 20th is the Feast of St. Sebastian.

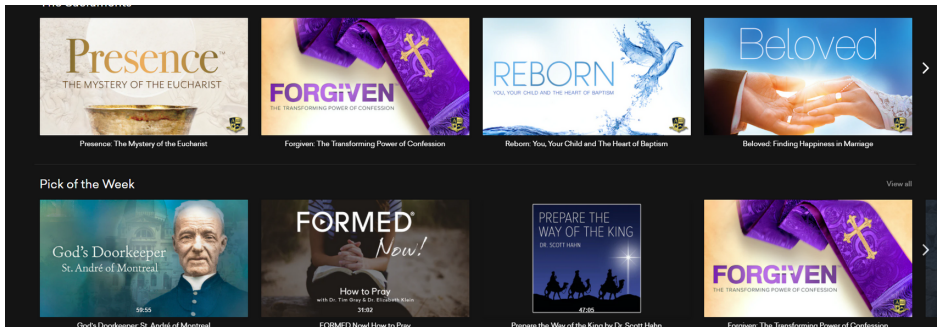
In 2010, 50,000 postage stamps with the image of St. Sebastian flanked by smaller images of Christ the Redeemer by his side were printed in Peru.





We shall be having the devotion to our Lady of Perpetual Help at our 7:00pm Wednesday Mass - weekly.

The text shall be available on the screen so we can pray together. God bless you as we come together to ask for her intercession.



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!

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CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

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Scarborough MIL 1B6

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Email: stdunstan@rogers.com

Smile of the Week

One day, Francis of Assisi invited one of the young friars to join him on a trip into town to preach. The young friar was so honored at receiving such an invitation from St. Francis that he quickly accepted. They paused beneath a tree and Francis stooped to return a young bird to its nest. They went on and stopped in a field crowded with reapers and Francis bent his back to help load the hay onto a cart. From there they went to the town square where Francis lifted a bucket of water from the well for an old woman and carried it home for her. All day long he and St. Francis walked through the streets and byways, alleys and, suburbs, and they rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people. Each time they stopped, the young friar was sure that St. Francis would stop and preach. But no words of great truth or wise discourse issued from the saint's mouth. Finally, they went into the Church, but Francis only knelt silently to pray. At the end of the day, the two-headed back home. Not once had St. Francis addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the Gospel. The young monk was greatly disappointed, and he said to St. Francis, "I thought we were going into town to preach?" St. Francis responded, "My son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking and in everything we did. We were seen by many and our behavior was closely watched. It's of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk! Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words only if necessary."

Credit: Fr. Anthony 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 depth 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.