

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Saint Dunstan's Parish, Scarborough



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Peace of the Lord be with you! I hope you are all keeping fine and safe and following our programmes on the website, <https://stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org/>. You are constantly in my prayers.

This Sunday we are celebrating the Word of God Sunday with the whole Church, and we will enthrone the bible as a sign of the esteemed position of the Word of God in our lives. Also, a reminder to advise all parents that they are now able to register their children for First Communion and Confirmation catechism classes via the parish website. Parents of prospective candidates should take note that **online registration closes on Feb. 1, 2021.**

We are still calling for more hands to help us with our new section of the virtual ministry - The Children's Corner. If you are gifted in the area of animation or storytelling please feel free to contact me. Collaboration in other areas is also welcome, so please don't be shy. 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
- Reflections from Our Parishioners
- Feature: Conversion of St. Paul



MASS SCHEDULE

January 25th	9:00AM
January 27th	7:00PM
January 29th	9:00AM
January 31th	10:00AM



GOSPEL INSPIRATION

Today, as we near the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Church also celebrates the Sunday of God's Word. How fitting, then, that the readings today look at two proclaimers of God's word: Jonah and Jesus. Both proclaimed God's word, and both witnessed the power of that word to unite the people who heard it.

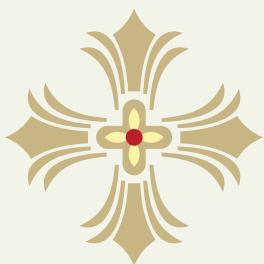
Although Jesus and Jonah were similar, their differences are even more significant. Unlike Jonah, Jesus was no reluctant prophet. On the contrary, he moved with determination from village to village in his desire to preach God's word (Mark 1:38-39). Also unlike Jonah, Jesus didn't preach only repentance. He also announced that God's time of redemption had finally come. In Jesus, we see the Word of God himself breaking into history and gathering all God's children into one. As Jesus would later say, "Something greater than Jonah (is) here." (Matthew 12:41)

How amazing it must have been to see and hear Jesus, the Word of God, walking this earth! But our celebration of God's word today reminds us that we have that same powerful Word available to us every time we read the Scriptures or hear them proclaimed at Mass.

So, just as God's word touched the hearts of people in Galilee, it can move us to repentance and faith. Just as Jesus' words moved Simon and Andrew to leave their nets and follow him, they can move us to reorder our priorities and follow Jesus more closely. And just as Jesus' words called both Jews and Gentiles into one Church, God's word can bring us to unity with our brothers and sister in Christ.

As Pope Francis said when instituting Word of God Sunday, "The Word of God unites believers and makes them one people".

(Source: Word Among Us)



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!

SCAM Alert!

If you get an email requesting you to contribute to St. Dunstan's Parish in the form of gift cards - please delete it immediately. We would never send this type of email to you. Kindly report all phishing scams and suspicious email by calling the parish office and speaking with Jean or Fr.Victor. Thank you.

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
Catechism starts via Zoom	February 13, 2021 11:00AM	February 12, 2021 5:00PM

Auditions for St. Michael's Choir School



St. Michael's Choir School is now scheduling auditions for boys interested in enrolling for September 2021. St. Michael's Choir School offers instruction in Grades 3 through 12.

Potential St. Michael's Choir School students will be asked to demonstrate excellence in both singing and academics.

This special school combines the best aspects of public and private education while maintaining comparatively affordable fees (and offering student aid) – all in an environment that reinforces Catholic values. To schedule an audition, please contact admissions@smcs.on.ca or call 647-613-6367

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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All are welcome to the annual Week of Prayer fo



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Weekly Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In this catechesis, we will reflect on the prayer for Christian unity. In fact, the week of the 18th to the 25th of January is dedicated specifically to this—to ask God for the gift of unity to overcome the scandal of division between believers in Jesus. After the Last Supper, He prayed for His own, “**that they may all be one**” (Jn 17:21). This was His prayer before the Passion, we could call it His spiritual testament. Let us note, however, that the Lord did not command that His disciples be united. No, He prayed. He prayed to the Father for us, so that we might be one. This means that we are not able to achieve unity with our own strength. Above all, unity is a gift, it is a grace to be requested through prayer.

“Each one of us needs it. In fact, we know that we are not capable of preserving unity even within ourselves. Even the apostle Paul felt a painful conflict within himself: wanting the good but inclined toward evil (see Rm7:19). He had thus grasped the root of so many divisions that surround us—between people, in families, in society, between nations and even between believers—and inside us.

The Second Vatican Council stated, “the imbalances under which the world labors are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man. For in man himself many elements wrestle with one another. [...] Hence he suffers from internal divisions, and from these flow so many and such great discords in society” (Gaudium et spes, 10). Therefore, the solution to these divisions is not to oppose someone, because discord generates more discord. The true remedy begins by asking God for peace, reconciliation, unity.

“And this is valid, first of all, for Christians. Unity can be achieved only as a fruit of prayer. Diplomatic efforts and academic dialogue are not enough. These things are done, but they are not enough. Jesus knew this and opened the way for us by praying. Our prayer for unity is thus a humble but trusting participation in the Lord’s prayer, who promised that any prayer said in His name would be heard by the Father (see Jn15:7). At this point, we can ask ourselves: “**Do I pray for unity?**” It is Jesus’s will but, if we inspect the intentions for which we pray, we would probably realize that we have prayed little, perhaps never, for Christian unity. And yet, the world’s faith depends on it; in fact, the Lord asked that we be one “so that the world might believe” (Jn 17:21). The world will not believe because we will have convinced it with good arguments, but if we will have borne witness to that love that unites us and draws us near, yes: it will believe.



Pope’s Thoughts in Tweets:
#Pope Francis expresses support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which comes into force on Friday (Jan, 22, 2021).

Why Did I Do That?

St. Paul poses an eternal question that all humans ask: “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do” (Rom 7:19). Or, in other words, “Why’d I do THAT? I KNOW better! We all know what we

need to do to live healthy, spiritual lives. Each day, we need to eat a healthy, balanced diet, exercise 30 minutes, sleep 7-8 hours, and, as Christians, spend time with God in prayer. Four simple, easy-to-understand steps to a healthy, happy life. Seemingly easy; however, oftentimes impossible to do in real life. Chocolate tastes better than lettuce or kale. Scrolling the internet is easier than going for a walk or a run.

When I decided to lead a healthier life, I printed off St. Paul’s words and taped them to my desk at work. Every day, I saw his question in front of me. I wanted to do better so I started to walk around downtown. If I was tempted to sit instead of taking my lunchtime walk, I turned those words around to say, “*Do what you*

WRITTEN BY THERESA KELLEN

want to do.” So, I would spend the time walking chatting with God. I would lay out my joys, worries, and challenges and seek His guidance. However my day was going, His calm would fill my heart. My favourite place to walk was along the Lakeshore. The immensity of Lake Ontario; some days smooth, some days rough, was the goodness of creation. It always made me think of the vastness of God’s love - the love that is always there to help.

Back to St. Paul's question: what do you want to do and what evil do you not want to do? I want to draw closer to God and the evil I try to avoid are decisions and choices that take me away from Him. Each day, this question is posed again and we must live our lives according to the answer. Daily, I pray that I choose God and His way.

KEEPING YOU POSTED

by Jay Franco

On October 25, 1974, 15 million multi-coloured, commemorative stamps were issued in Italy to celebrate Saint Thomas Aquinas. One stamp cost 50 *lira*.



Featured Saint: Conversion of Saint Paul - January 25th



The Conversion of Saint Paul by Caravaggio

St. Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. He first appears in the Acts of the Apostles under the name of Saul. Saul was raised in the Jewish faith as a Pharisee trained in the strict observance of God's Law. He believed the Law should be obeyed by himself and all Jews. Saul was upset by the early Christian Church, believing that the early Christians had broken away from their Jewish traditions. He actively persecuted the Church in Jerusalem. As the first Christian martyr Stephen was being stoned to death, Saul watched the cloaks of the persecutors (Acts 7:58).

Paul then traveled to Damascus to further persecute early Christians. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with the Risen Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19, Galatians 1: 13–14). Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" Jesus responded, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9: 4 – 5). Jesus then sent Saul into Damascus to wait for further instructions. Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience. When a Christian named Ananias came and baptized Saul, his sight returned.

As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. He was now convinced that fellowship with the risen Jesus Christ, not the observance of the Law, was all that was needed to receive God's promise of salvation. (Galatians 1:11–12; 3:1–5)

Saul, whose name now became Paul, went to Jerusalem to consult with Peter (Galatians 1: 18). After his first missionary journeys, Paul was called by Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. He spent the rest of his life journeying on his missions, establishing local churches, and writing to them when he heard of their accomplishments and failures. Paul's letters are the earliest records of the life and history of the early Church. As inspired by the Holy Spirit Paul's letters are part of the Canon of the New Testament. As a record of the happenings in the early Church they are an invaluable record of the expansion of Christianity. All together, there are 13 epistles that bear Paul's name as the author. However, scholars do not believe that he wrote them all. Paul was the author of first and second Thesalonians, Galatians, Philippians, first and second Corinthians, Romans, and Philemon.

Source: Loyola Press

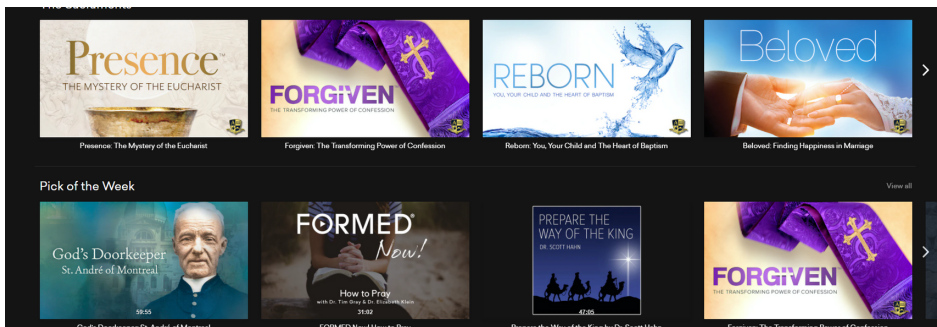
Saint's Quote of the Week:

*"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour."
- St. Paul (Rom 12:9)*



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.

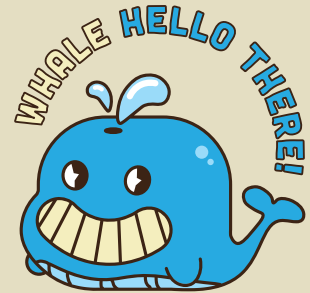
Avail of this opportunity by clicking on <https://formed.org/> to subscribe. Search for Saint Dunstan, Danforth Ave., and sign-up! It's free. You will get to enjoy many formation programmes, write-ups, countless hours of good movies, great cartoons for the children, etc.

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!

CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

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Joke of the Week

Jonah and the whale: There was this Christian lady that had to do a lot of traveling for her business, so she did a lot of flying. But flying made her nervous so she always took her Bible along with her to read, and it helped relax her. One time she was sitting next to a man. When he saw her pull out her Bible he gave a little chuckle and went back to what he was doing. After a while, he turned to her and asked, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there do you?" The lady replied "Of course I do! It is the Bible." He said, "Well what about that guy that was swallowed by that whale?" She replied "Oh, Jonah. Yes, I believe that; it is in the Bible. The Bible says Jonah was swallowed by a whale, and I believe it. And if it had said that Jonah had swallowed the whale, I would believe that too!" He asked, "Well, how do you suppose he survived all that time inside the whale?"

The lady said, "Well I don't really know. I guess when I get to Heaven I will ask him." "What if he isn't in Heaven?" the man asked sarcastically. "Then you'll probably be the one to ask him," she replied.

Credit: Fr. Anthony Kadavil

WATCH

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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.