

# 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.

As we celebrate the last Sunday in January 2021, and indeed the last day of January this year, I pray the Lord to bless you, your family and friends and heal our world. There are a number of initiatives lined up for the next few weeks: our catechism begins soon (**registration closes tomorrow Feb. 1st**), world day of the sick celebration on the occasion of Our Lady of Lourdes, Marriage Sunday blessing, and the Blessing of Throats. So, please take some time to read the newsletter or our bulletin.

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 do not hesitate to contact me. Collaboration in other areas is also welcome, so please let us know. Wishing you a great week. 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 About Courage
- Feature: Saint Agatha



## MASS SCHEDULE

February 1st	9:00AM
February 3rd	7:00PM
February 5th	9:00AM
February 7th	10:00AM



## GOSPEL INSPIRATION

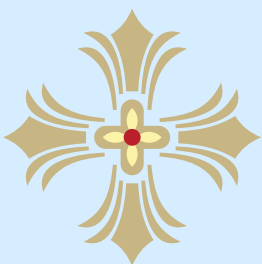
What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? (Mark 1:24)

Talk about bursting onto the scene! Of course, the demon possessing this man couldn't tolerate being around Jesus. But wouldn't it have been wiser to slink away rather than draw attention to himself?

It happened a lot, in fact. Jesus would show up somewhere or reveal his glory in some way, and His presence would prompt resistance and sometimes even violent outbursts. This wasn't true just of demons. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus' announcement of the good news enraged enough people that they tried to push him off a cliff (Luke 4:24-30). Then, after only a few weeks of preaching and performing miracles, Jesus upset some Pharisees enough that they began plotting his murder (Mark 3:6). Not even his closest disciples were immune. Jesus' revelation of God's plan to save us through his cross upset Peter enough that he rebuked Jesus.

In one way or another, we have all reacted strongly against Jesus and his message of salvation. We all have pockets of darkness still lingering in our hearts. Maybe you refused to forgive someone. Maybe you knowingly chose sin in a tempting situation. Or maybe you denigrated a fellow believer who thinks differently than you do. Still, Jesus continues to love you and to offer the grace you need to change.

What was true in that synagogue in Capernaum is still true today: the darkness of sin can never overpower the light of Christ. Don't be surprised if you experience some form of opposition to Jesus in your heart today, maybe in prayer or as you are trying to focus, or as an opportunity to serve your family arises. Instead, take comfort from it. Trust that the light of Christ will not only expose your darkness; it can expel it as well. (Source: *Word Among Us*)



### Universal Intention of Pope Francis for February 2021:

*We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.*

# Parish News

## Blessing of Throats February 3, 2021

Wednesday, February 3rd is the memorial of the martyr-bishop Saint Blaise who is invoked against diseases of the throat. Fr. Victor will give a special Blessing of Throats during our Live-streamed Virtual Mass on Wednesday, evening at 7:00 p.m. The celebration of blessings holds a privileged place among all the sacramentals introduced by the Church for the pastoral benefit of the People of God. Blessings of the sick originate in the practice of Christ Himself and His apostles. The annual Blessing of Throats indicates the continual struggle against illness which marks life in this world. Saint Blaise was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. It has been said that he saved a boy from choking.



## Marriage Sunday - Feb.14

Marriage Sunday highlights the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage and complements World Marriage Sunday celebrations that take place across North America. Please join us at 10:00am on Sunday February 14 at our Livestreamed Virtual Mass as Fr. Victor will offer a blessing for all couples on this special occasion.

## Communion Services

*To book a time slot for communion services, please call the office and speak to Jean. It will be offered on Saturdays from 4pm to 5pm and on Sundays from 11am to 12noon.*

## World Day of the Sick

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11th, is also observed as the World Day of the Sick. Our parish will celebrate this occasion on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 during our Live-streamed Virtual Mass at 7:00 p.m. This Mass will include special prayers and blessing for the sick. Accordingly, parishioners who are sick, with disability or in advanced age are invited to receive this blessing of God's mercy and consolation.

**February 1, 2021** is the last day to register your child(ren) for Catechism Classes to obtain First Holy Communion or Confirmation. For important dates and times, please refer to the chart below.

# Saint Dunstan Catechism Programme

Activities	First Holy Communion	Confirmation
Online Registration	January 17, 2021 to <b>February 1, 2021</b>	January 17, 2021 to <b>February 1, 2021</b>
Feedback from St. Dunstan's	On, or before, <b>February 4, 2021</b>	On, or before, <b>February 4, 2021</b>
Zoom Meeting with Parents	<b>February 8, 2021</b>	<b>February 9, 2021</b>
Catechism starts via Zoom	<b>February 13, 2021</b> <b>11:00AM</b>	<b>February 12, 2021</b> <b>5:00PM</b>

# Parish News

## Ash Wednesday February 17

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 is Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent and the first day of the journey towards the cross. It is marked by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Ashes will be distributed to parishioners this year in small groups of 8. The procedure will be similar to that of Holy Communion Services. More information will be available in next week's newsletter.



## Please Be Careful

Please be aware that some individuals who send scam E-mails are at it again.

Please do not reply to any solicitation for money or any other thing whatsoever. In this days where the whole world is going virtual, this trend is bound to increase. So do not respond to solicitations.

It is important for all parishioners to know that we would never send such an email from Saint Dunstan's Church. If you receive any suspicious e-mail please call the parish office and speak with Jean or myself to make us aware. Do not reply to the email. Thank you.

## Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Please note that we have started a devotion to our Lady of Perpetual Help. It occurs weekly at our livestreamed mass at 7pm every Wednesday. The prayers shall be available on the screen so we can lift our voices to our dear Mother for Her guidance and support. God bless you as you come to participate.



# 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 & Beyond

### Virtual Bereavement Support Group



During this time of pandemic and grief, we are pleased to be sponsoring Bereavement Support Group virtual sessions on Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. **“Grieving with Great HOPE”** is a Catholic faith-based program that consists of a five-week grief support workshop using an on-demand video format that is available on Formed.

It offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

These sessions will be facilitated by Sr. Gabriel Mary Riddle, CPS, pastoral assistant at St. Peter's Parish in Toronto, and assisted by seminarians from from St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto.

There is no cost to attend, but online registration is required. If you have bereaved parishioners who could benefit from this program, please encourage them to register by Tuesday, February 23, 2021 on this website: <http://bit.ly/BS-RegisterMar2021>. For more information, simply download the poster by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/GrievingwithGreatHope>.

The registration confirmation email will include details on how to join the online sessions. For your consideration, please find a sample letter to the bereaved parishioner here: <http://bit.ly/SampleLetterBP>. Feel free to adapt the letter according to your parish needs.

If you have any questions, please contact **Sally Amaral** at 416-934-3400 ext. 518 or email [samaral@archtoronto.org](mailto:samaral@archtoronto.org).

### A Virtual Fair For Real Vocations - February 2nd

The virtual vocations fair will be a day of reflection, testimony, virtual visits and pilgrimage for anyone who is discerning their life mission. Mass and Holy Hour will be celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins.

This virtual event, hosted by Newman Centre Catholic Mission and Office of Vocations, will take place on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

#### REGISTER:

<http://bit.ly/VocationsFair>

#### CONTACT:

[lenita.lopes@newmantoronto.com](mailto:lenita.lopes@newmantoronto.com)

#### WEBSITE:

[www.newmantoronto.com](http://www.newmantoronto.com)

### Live Your Best Life In Love (March 5-7)

In these stressful times, give your marriage a boost! Restore your loving communication with your spouse and rekindle the romance. The Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience is a skill-building enrichment program where husbands and wives learn how to be the best couple they can be - together. No group discussion. Based on Catholic values but open to couples of all faiths. Rediscover the love in your relationship!

CONTACT: Gerard & Marge

PHONE: 905-792-1925

EMAIL:

[gerard.marge@rogers.com](mailto:gerard.marge@rogers.com)

WEBSITE: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)

POSTER:

<http://bit.ly/WWMEposter>

### Friars' Student Writing Contest - 2021



Rev. Dr. Luis Melo, Director

It is time once again for the Friars' Student Writing Award. Students aged 14-18 are invited to write a five-hundred-word essay for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated from January 18 to 25, 2021. This year's essay theme is, **“Abide in**

**my love and you shall bear much fruit”** (cf. John 15:5-9).

Please click here for the poster which contains the contest details: <https://bit.ly/FriarsWritingContest>

## Weekly Wednesday Audience with Pope Francis



*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

Today I would like to focus on the prayer we can do beginning with a Bible passage. The words of the Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart. The Word of God goes to the heart. The Catechism affirms that: “prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture” – the Bible should not be read like a novel, it must be accompanied by prayer – “so that a dialogue takes place between God and man” (no. 2653). This is where prayer leads you, because it is a dialogue with God. That Bible verse was written for me too, centuries and centuries ago, to bring me a word of God.



**Pope's Thoughts in Tweets:** Let us not ignore God's word! It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best. In reading it, we again hear his voice, see his face and receive his Spirit.  
#SundayOfTheWord


It was written for every one of us. This experience happens to all believers: a passage from the Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly speaks to me one day, and enlightens a situation that I am living. But it is necessary that I, that day, be present for that appointment with that Word. That I may be there, listening to the Word. Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives. We do not know whether today he will find dry ground, brambles, or good soil that will make that seed grow (cf. Mk 4:3-9). That they become for us the living Word of God depends on us, on our prayer, on the open heart with which we approach the Scriptures. God passes, continually, and through the Scripture. And here I return to what I said last week, to what Saint Augustine said: “I am afraid of God when he passes”. Why is he afraid? That he will not listen to him. That I will not realize that he is the Lord.

“Through prayer a new incarnation of the Word takes place. And we are the “tabernacles” where the words of God want to be welcomed and preserved, so that they may visit the world. This is why we must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore in that same Spirit they must be welcomed and understood, so that the encounter can occur.

It irritates me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots. “Oh, yes... Oh, the Lord says... He wants this...”. But did you encounter the Lord, with that verse? It is not a question only of memory: it is a question of the memory of the heart, that which opens you to the encounter with the Lord. And that word, that verse, leads you to the encounter with the Lord.

# The Life of Saint Dunstan

**S**aint Dunstan was one cool dude! I realize that this is quite an unconventional way to start a reflection, and I'm sure it will raise many an eyebrow, but those were the first words that came to mind as soon as I finished reading the life of this extraordinary English bishop.

What surprised me about St. Dunstan was that he was so resourceful with his God-given talents. In *Butler's Lives of the Saints (Vol.II)* it says that after receiving holy orders, St. Dunstan built *himself* a small hut adjoining the old church and lived there, alone - dividing his time between "prayer, study and manual labour which took the form of *making bells and sacred vessels for the church and copying or illuminating books.*" As if being a builder, a metal-worker, an artist and a scribe didn't keep him busy enough, he also found time to play the harp and compose many chants, including "Kyrie Rex Splendens" which is especially famous. Click on the button to listen to  the chant.

WRITTEN BY ELAINE SAMBUGARO



His awesome ability to work day and night, however, is only part of the narrative. The *really* inspiring part of the story is that, as Bishop of Canterbury, St. Dunstan never shied away from seemingly impossible tasks. He worked together with other bishops and dignitaries not only to restore most of the great monasteries in England (which had been destroyed during the Danish incursions), but also to reform the clergy, "*many of whom were leading worldly or scandalous lives at the time, openly disregarding the canonical law binding them to celibacy.*" St. Dunstan even subjected King Edgar himself to a lengthy and humiliating penance for abducting a young novice from a monastery and violating the sanctity of her religious vocation. He dedicated more than sixteen years of his life to gentle, but decisive, discipline and reform.

*The readings about St. Dunstan's earthly mission made me realize that as followers of Christ, we also have been given authority to challenge evil in the world and to lead others to the Lord. I pray that St. Dunstan strengthens all of us to do God's will with kindness and humility.*

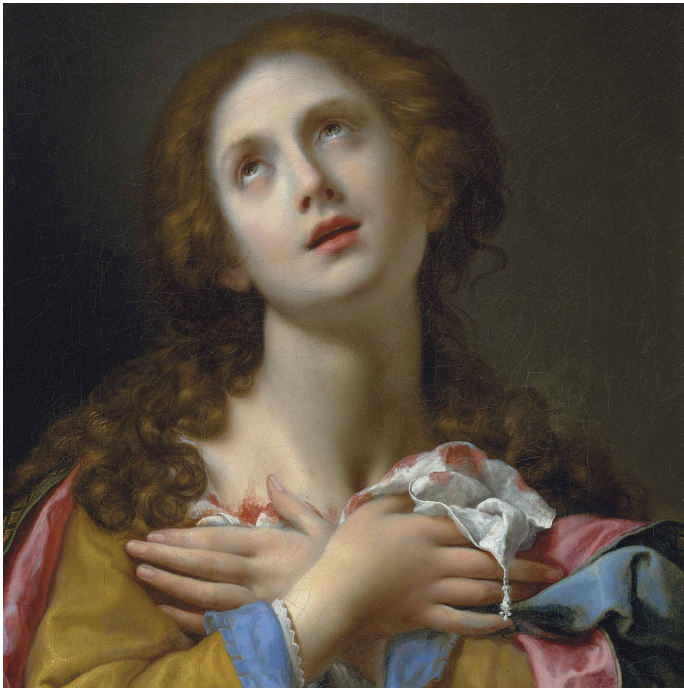
## KEEPING YOU POSTED

by Jay Franco

On February 21, 1958, the state of Vatican City issued a stamp in honour of the 100 year anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Lourdes, France. The stamp was worth 5 lira.



## Featured: St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr - February 5th



*Saint Agatha by Carlo Dolci (Florence)*

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and illustrious family. From her earliest years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. Agatha chose to remain celibate and give herself wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her.

Quintianus, the prefect of Catania, was one of the men who desired Agatha. Because he was of high diplomatic ranking, he thought he could force her into marriage. His persistent proposals were refused, so Quintianus, knowing that she was a Christian had Agatha arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge.

Seeing herself in the hands of persecutors, she prayed: "*Jesus Christ, Lord of all, thou seest my heart, thou knowest my desires. Do thou alone possess all that I am. I am thy sheep: make me worthy to overcome the Devil.*" Her words did not deter Quintianus who handed her over to Aphrodisia, a woman who owned a brothel.

Despite many assaults on her purity in the brothel and many attempts to get Agatha to change her mind, she stood firm. Agatha's unwavering love for Jesus and the courageous profession of her faith offended Quintianus who finally ordered that she be stretched on a rack, whipped, and burned.

Agatha's ability to endure the physical torture with cheerfulness sent Quintianus into an even greater rage. He ordered that her breasts be crushed, then cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. It is said that while in prison, Agatha had a vision of St. Peter who filled her dungeon with a heavenly light and who consoled her and healed her wounds. Undaunted by Agatha's miraculous recovery, and only four days after the initial torture she endured, Quintianus ordered that she be stripped naked and rolled over live coals mixed with broken ceramic pieces. She died shortly thereafter, having asked Jesus to receive her soul. She died in 251.

Two sixth-century churches in Rome have been dedicated in St. Agatha's honour, and she is named in the canon of the Mass. She is also the patron saint of breast cancer patients, rape victims and nurses.

Source: *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

### Saint's Quote of the Week:

Saint Agatha: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all things! You see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am – you alone. I am your sheep. Make me worthy to overcome the devil."



## YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

### Special Prayer to Saint Joseph

*To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.*

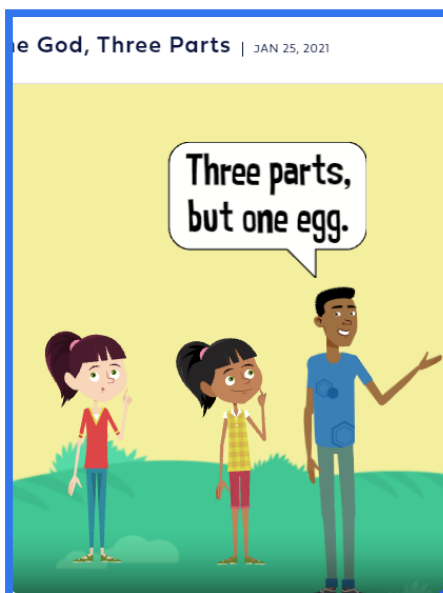
*O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen*

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!

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## CHILDREN'S Corner

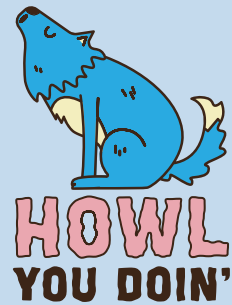
Father Victor is working very hard to get the Children's Corner up and running for the Lenten Season. In the near future, comics and animations will be uploaded onto the website for children to enjoy. If you click on the image (left), you'll see a small sample of what the team has been working on.

## CONTACT SAINT DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

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Email: [stdunstan@rogers.com](mailto:stdunstan@rogers.com)



## Joke of the Week

A dirty, drunken wino who was passing a Catholic Church one day, noticed a sign on the door that said: "Confessions Being Heard." Since he had not been to confession for a long time, he staggered into the church, knelt down in the confessional, and began to confess his sins.

Unfortunately, his breath was so foul that the priest who was hearing confessions couldn't stand it and decided to cut things short. "Look," he said to the wino. "Have you murdered anybody lately?" "Nope," the wino replied. "O.K. then," the priest told him. "I am going to say the prayer of absolution." Slightly puzzled, the wino staggered out of the confessional and as he was walking down the steps of the church steps, saw a fellow wino who was going into the Church. "You going to confession?" The first wino asked. "Yep," said the second wino. "Don't waste your time," the first wino said. "He ain't hearing nothing today except murder cases."

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.