

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

- March 15, 2009 **St. Vincent de Paul** bundle truck will be at our Church the weekend of March 15. Needed are clothing and shoes in good condition. Thank you for your generosity.
- March 20-21, 2009 **24 Hour Youth Group Famine** The Youth Group's annual 24 hour family will be held from 6:30 Friday March 20 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday March 21 in the Church Hall. All youths in Grades 8 and up are invited to participate (community service hours will be available to those in high school. Pledges raised will be donated to Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children. Please note that all youth under 18 will require parental permission. For registration/parental permission forms please call (416) 495-1067.
- March 20, 2009 **Parish Movie Night** All parishioners are invited to a parish movie night on Friday evening March 20 following the Stations of the Cross. Come and see the movie "Bella", winner of the People's Choice Award at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival.
- March 20, 2009 **Taize Prayers** with Brother Emile from France will be at Holy Rosary Church at 8:00 p.m. For more information contact Lindsay (416)923-8471.
- March 20-21, 2009 **Overnight Retreat at Scarboro Missions** on March 20 – 21 for men and women interested in finding out about the lay missionary program and for young men who may be interested in a vocation as a missionary priest. Contact (416)261-7135. Or lmo@scarboromissions.ca

April 18, 2009

Lift Jesus Higher Rally will be at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This is an annual day retreat sponsored by Catholic Renewal Ministries including many interesting speakers (Ralph Martin, Sr. Anne Shields, Peter Herbeck), time for confessions, Divine Mercy prayer and song. Mass will be at 4:30 with Archbishop Collins. For more information contact (416)497-0641 or dennisandcamille@sympatico.ca

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for Catholics 14-59 years old, according to the law of the Church. Others who are younger or older, or anyone who may be ill, may fast voluntarily, offering their sufferings for the good of the church.

Stations of the Cross during Lent are on Friday evenings following the 7:30 p.m. mass.

Our Parish Prayer Group meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. in the Church hall. They will pray for your intentions if you could write out your requests for particular intentions and place them in the box located near the statue of our patron, St. Thomas the Apostle.

Let us pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth workers into your vineyard. If God may be calling you to discern a vocation, contact Fr. Liborio Amaral, Vocations Director – vocations@vocations.ca or (416)968-0997 or check out www.vocationstoronto.ca.

Is GOD calling you? Are you seeking a deepening of your faith and prayer life? Come and See! The Discalced Carmelite Secular Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be receiving new aspirants into the order in February/March. This is a community of lay persons who are committed to the vocation of prayer and contemplation as expressed through the Teresian Carmelite life in their daily commitment to follow Christ. Secular Carmelites live out their Teresian vocation under the protection of Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Carmel. Community meetings are held once a month on Saturday mornings at St. Aidan's Parish. For more information contact President, Gladys McMullin (416)491-9354 or Formation Director, Anne Angus (416)499-5235.

Lecto Divina with Archbishop Collins at St. Michael's Cathedral reflecting on passages from St. Paul's writing during this year of St. Paul.

Provide a meal is a monthly opportunity for the people of St. Thomas the Apostle to bring a frozen shepherd's pie which will be picked up by the Good Shepherd Centre and provide a meal there for those in need. The empty containers are available for pick-up the first weekend every month and the donated pies are collected in our freezer the second weekend every month. Thanks to the many parishioners who have been participating for years to help meet the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged who live in the city. For more information contact Rosemarie Ling (416)495-1067.

Catholic School Rosary Program invites volunteers who love our Blessed Mother Mary and are willing to go into our parish schools to pray the Rosary. Training will be provided. For more information contact Josie Nasir (905)477-8349 or Cecile Baguio (416)293-3275.

Rosary Makers Guild invites people who would like to learn how to make rosaries which are sent to overseas missions. Meetings are Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 in the small hall. For more information call (416)495-1067.

Host Program – through Catholic Community Services of York Region is looking for volunteers to be a friend for a new immigrant for only two hours a week. Contact (905)770-7040 ext. 240.
Website: www.ccsyr.org

Volunteers needed to help Seniors in York Region through CHATS. Community Home Assistance to Seniors. Services such as transportation, telephone assistance, meals on wheels are provided. Call Christine McGregor at 905-713-3373 ext. 6051 if you can help.

New Beginnings is a support program for separated, divorced or widowed persons. Call 416-222-1101 ext. 107/258 for more information.

Catholic Family Services of York Region is looking for volunteers to help new immigrants for only two hours a week. This is their HOST program. This is an opportunity to meet people from different cultures and to offer friendship. For more information call (905)770-7040 ext. 226.

Courage is a spiritual support group, with the approval of the Archdiocese, providing fellowship to men and women who wish to live chaste lives in keeping with the Roman Catholic Church's teachings on same-sex attraction. For more information www.CourageRC.net or email couragetoronto@yahoo.ca.

Parishioners may donate shares to the Parish, ShareLife, Shepherds' Trust or St. Augustine's Seminary. In the recent Federal Budget the capital gains tax that would be payable on the sale of any publicly listed shares will be eliminated if these shares are donated to a registered charity. Call the parish office or the Office of Stewardship and Development (416)934-3400 ext. 561 for more information.

Who May Receive Holy Communion in the Catholic Church? Only those who are Roman Catholic and in the state of God's grace. Catholics who are not in the state of God's grace should receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion. Catholics who are married are obliged to have their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church – if they are not married in the church, they may not receive Holy Communion. Anyone who is divorced and remarried outside the church may not receive Holy Communion. Those who are separated or divorced are able to receive Holy Communion if they are in the state of God's grace.

Spiritual Communion may be made throughout the day or in times when we are unable to receive Holy Communion. The following prayer is one example:

I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your Most Holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervour of the saints.