

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2016

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kathleen Angus, Christopher Chiu, Angeline Nazareth, Bob Hustins, Cleo Savoie, Elizabeth Wong, Anne Sequeira, Philip Selvanayagam, Vincent Marshall, Johanna Kambeitz, Sheila Steaman, Edward Hamel, Raquel Pinto, Joseph Yu, Anne Canagasuriam, Hua Ling Liu, Harry Ramadhin, Johnny Luu, Sean Shanahan, Eric Maddan, Stephanie Graham, and Anthony Hsueh

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Michelle Cheng, Greg Racelis and for those who have no one to pray for them.

PRAYER VIGILS FOR OUR ORDINANDI – On Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. Deacon Thomas Kluger and Deacon Julien Malenfant will be ordained to the Priesthood. Prayer Vigils will be held at St. Michael's Cathedral from 6:00 p.m. until midnight and at St. Patrick's Parish in Markham.

AMORIS LAETITIA – The Joy of Love, Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family is available from the website of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

SYMBOLON IN OUR PARISH – Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained is an exciting 20 part series that is presented in our parish every Tuesday from 8:00-9:00 p.m. and will continue until May. Symbolon open up the "big picture" of the Catholic faith in a way that helps us know it, live it and articulate it to others.

This week's session will present: April 26, 2016

A Love That Lasts: Discovering Authentic Love For more information please call Philomena Bong (647)460-7932, or visit www.symboloncatholic.org

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The new commandment of love is required of every one who follows the risen Lord. How do you fulfill the commandment? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca**

ALTAR SERVERS – Boys as young as grade 4 who would like to become Altar Servers should contact Fr. Andrews to begin preparation. This involves a serious commitment and support from parents.

WALK-IN COUNSELLING at Catholic Family Services York Region (21 Dunlop St., Richmond Hill) on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00-9:00 (www.ccsyr.org)

PROVIDE A MEAL is a monthly opportunity for the people of our parish to bring a frozen shepherd's pie which will be picked up by the Good Shepherd Centre and provide a meal 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 many parishioners who have been participating for years to help meet the needs of the homeless. For more information contact: Philomena Bong (647)460-7932

OUR PARISH PRAYER GROUP 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.

ALL PARISHIONERS SHOULD BE REGISTERED and are asked to support the parish and the needs of the Church by using Sunday Offertory Envelopes and making up for any absence during vacation. New parishioners are asked to register in the parish office.

A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY began on December 8 and will continue until the end of the Liturgical Year. Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy in a Bull of Indiction which may be read at <http://www.im.va/>

JUBILEE OF MERCY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO – Following the opening of the Holy Doors of papal basilicas in Rome, the doors of mercy in churches throughout the world will also welcome pilgrims. Designated churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be St. Paul's Basilica, St. Patrick's (Toronto), Merciful Redeemer (Mississauga), St. Anthony (Bramalea), St. Patrick's (Brampton), St. Theresa's Shrine (Scarborough), and Martyrs' Shrine (Midland). To obtain a plenary indulgence pilgrims should receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist and recite the Creed and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (one Our Father and one Hail Mary).

The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

1. Feeding the hungry.
2. Giving drink to the thirsty.
3. Sheltering the homeless
4. Clothing the naked.
5. Visiting the sick.
6. Visiting the imprisoned.
7. Burying the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

1. Admonishing the sinner.
2. Instructing the ignorant.
3. Counseling the doubtful.
4. Comforting the sorrowful.
5. Bearing wrongs patiently.
6. Forgiving all injuries.
7. Praying for the living and the dead.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE'S PASTORAL WORKS will be the weekend of May 1.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK is May 1-6 celebrating Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools, making a distinctive contribution by integrating our faith into all aspects of school life and nurturing the gifts and talents of every student for more than 160 years. School masses will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier (Monday, May 1 at 9:00), in the church for Mother Teresa (Wednesday, May 4 at 9:30) and at St. Benedict (Thursday, May 5 at 9:30). Families of students always welcome.

OUR 2016 PARISH SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN GOAL this year has been set as \$106,000.00 So far we have collected: \$51,531.58 (includes money sent directly to ShareLife) The Archdiocese of Toronto is hoping to raise \$13.2 million to support the good work of the 42 Catholic agencies that help the whole community throughout the year. ShareLife gives us an opportunity to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Two more ShareLife parish collection dates are April 17 (next week) and May 29. There are two more envelopes in your box of Sunday Offertory Envelopes and additional envelopes at the entrance of the church. Donations may also be made on-line. Together we are making a difference. Together we can work wonders.

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Working wonders for our new arrivals in Canada....

“As an Iraqi Christian, the Office for Refugees (ORAT) has provided me with the opportunity to meet other people who have experienced the same thing that I have. We are able to help support each other in this new journey to Canada and without ORAT, I do not know where I would be today. It is possible I would still be in Jordan, afraid for my life, unable to practice my religion, and under threat of deportation. The work that ORAT did truly gave me hope and a chance at life free from persecution and fear. ORAT has also invited me to volunteer with them, and I am even able to sponsor a new person or family to come to Canada with their help.” - Sara, a Christian refugee from Iraq. Since 2009, ShareLife-supported ORAT has sponsored over 2,500 families to be resettled in the GTA. **Next ShareLife Sunday is May 29, 2016 Please give generously. Together we can work wonders!**

14th DAY OF REFLECTION for Catholic parents of lesbian daughters and gay sons Saturday, June 4 from 9:00-5:00 at Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, 2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering. \$40 registration includes lunch. Contact John Montague (416)523-6449

CANADIAN HEARTS AND HANDS is looking for volunteers from our parish to assist at the following projects on Sundays in the GTA: St. Vincent's Kitchen in Oshawa, Happy Hour at Tendercare Living Centre in Scarborough, Good Shepherd Centre and Good Neighbours Club in downtown Toronto. Thanks to Les Rodrigues and the many volunteers who have been working with people on these projects. For more information check www.canadianheartsandhands.ca or contact Les Rodrigues l_s_r_3@hotmail.com