

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION Today is the Sunday of Sundays, the Solemnity of Solemnities. Today is the day Christ broke through the chains of sin and death and triumphantly rose from the dead, winning for us our salvation. As Christians, we are an Easter people and we are called to live in the joy and peace of the Risen Christ. Let us take a moment to reflect on how Easter can profoundly impact our daily lives. By human standards, the crucifixion was an utter humiliating defeat. It was the end of the story for the person of Jesus and His followers. Jesus would just be remembered as the influential and charismatic preacher that went too far by claiming to be God. All hope was seemingly lost. Yet, this is the paradox of the cross. The cross, the weapon of torture and death, becomes the very means of life and salvation. It was the necessary step in order for the resurrection. There simply is no Easter Sunday without a Good Friday. This is the beautiful truth of our faith. The famous Portuguese proverb says that “God writes straight with crooked lines.” When all seems lost and broken, God can use these situations to bring about great blessings. As stewards, let us not be discouraged when we face crosses and trials in life or our ministry. If God was able to bring about the resurrection out of the crucifixion, just imagine the great deeds He will bring through our crosses. So let us rejoice on this Easter Sunday and thank God for the gift of His resurrection.

The beautiful truth of our faith is that God was able to bring about the greatest good of the resurrection through the seemingly utter defeat of the crucifixion. The famous Portuguese proverb says that “God writes straight with crooked lines.” As stewards, let us not be discouraged when we face crosses and trials but instead trust that God will transform these difficulties into many little Easter mornings.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



**Thank you for being
a beacon of hope**

On Easter Sunday, we thank you for being a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters in need by supporting ShareLife. In their darkest hours, you are right beside them. As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord this Easter Sunday, let us open our hearts to all.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/

VOCATION REFLECTION The Lord is risen, it is true! Through our baptism He calls us to proclaim new life to the world. Pray for those who herald the Good News as priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters. If God is calling you contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca

Join Us for an Information Meeting on an Exciting Pilgrimage to France and Rome

We invite you to an informational meeting about an extraordinary pilgrimage to France and Rome. This special gathering will take place on **Thursday, May 1st, at 10:00 AM** in the parish hall.

During the meeting, we will share details about this deeply meaningful journey, answer questions you may have, and provide all the information you need to take part in this exciting spiritual adventure.

A pilgrimage is a journey of the heart and soul, offering a unique opportunity to draw closer to God, deepen your faith, and find spiritual renewal. This pilgrimage is of immense significance as we celebrate the **100th anniversary of St. Thérèse of Lisieux's canonization**, an occasion that reminds us of her enduring legacy of love, humility, and devotion.

We will also embrace the blessings of the **Jubilee Year in Rome**, a time of grace, reflection, and spiritual enrichment. Imagine walking in the footsteps of saints, standing in places of profound historical and spiritual importance, and experiencing the beauty of our Catholic heritage firsthand.

We are confident that this journey will be a time of **great spiritual value and joy**. We encourage you to attend the meeting and extend this invitation to your friends and family who might also be interested in joining us on this sacred adventure.

We hope to see you at the meeting on May 1st. Together, let's embark on a pilgrimage that will fill our hearts with faith and memories to cherish forever.

Divine Mercy Sunday: A Day of Great Grace and Forgiveness

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated annually on the Sunday after Easter, falls on April 27th this year. This special day holds immense significance for Catholics, as Jesus himself promised a great outpouring of graces upon those who take part in its observances.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, souls who approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and then receive Holy Communion will receive complete forgiveness. This encompasses not only the remission of their sins but also the remission of the temporal punishment because of those sins. This complete forgiveness is a profound gift of God's mercy.

Besides this extraordinary promise of forgiveness, the faithful can also gain a Plenary Indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday. A Plenary Indulgence is a remission of all temporal punishment because of sin, under specific conditions. These conditions typically include Confession, Communion, prayer for the Pope's intentions, and detachment from all sin. (Please consult your confessor or the parish priest for complete details regarding obtaining the Plenary Indulgence).

This is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual renewal and a chance to experience the depths of God's merciful love. We urge you to take advantage of this unique promise and share this important information with your family and friends. Invite them to join you in prayer and reflection, and encourage those who have distanced themselves from their faith to return to the loving embrace of God's mercy.

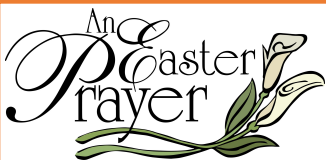
****Our Parish Celebration:****

Our parish will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on ****April 27th at 3:00 p.m.**** with a special Holy Hour and the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available starting at ****2:30 p.m.****, providing ample time for preparation before the Holy Hour. We encourage everyone to participate in this important and grace-filled event.



"Yes, Christ is truly risen, and we are witnesses of this. We proclaim this witness to the world, so that the joy which is ours will reach countless other hearts, kindling in them the light of the hope which does not disappoint."

- St. Pope John Paul II



Heavenly Father, God of glory and boundless love, we gather as a family in gratitude and joy to celebrate the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. On this holy day, we remember His victory over sin and death, which brings us hope and eternal life.

Bless this food before us, the hands that prepared it, and the hearts that share it. May this meal nourish our bodies as Your Word nourishes our souls. Let this table be a place of love, unity, and thanksgiving, where we reflect on the blessings You have given upon us.

Let this feast remind us of the heavenly banquet awaiting us in Your eternal kingdom. Help us carry the joy of Christ's resurrection into our daily lives, sharing His light and love with all we meet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.