

Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

— Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock,
A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

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Raising from Death to Life

On today's Gospel, we encounter the great mystery of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This apparent death of Lazarus was not in vain for Jesus says it occurred so



“that the Son of God may be glorified through it”. After raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus instructs the crowd to *“unbind him, and let him go”.*

This “unbinding” signifies that Jesus doesn't just raise him from the dead but also sets him free. So too, through God's great gift of forgiveness, He raises us from the death of sin and leads us to interior freedom. This Lent, let us seek God's forgiveness by availing ourselves to the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. The Catechism says that *“the sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true “spiritual resurrection,” restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God”* (CCC 1468).

Moreover, after Lazarus was freed, it says that many people believed in Jesus. Likewise, after we receive God's forgiveness and live in freedom and friendship with God, we should be true stewards of God's gifts and evangelize those around us. Through the grace of the sacrament, we will have the necessary strength to offer our time and talents to our parish community. So this Lent, let us not remain in the death of sin but turn to Jesus and receive the life and freedom of forgiveness.

Summary

Just as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He raises us from the death of sin and leads us to interior freedom through His forgiveness. This Lent, let us seek God's forgiveness by availing ourselves to the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. Through the grace of the Sacrament, we will have the necessary strength and grace to offer our time and talents to our parish community.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Every Friday throughout Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross after 12:05 pm and 6:30 pm Masses. **Join us!**

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 23rd

9:45 am [School Mass]

12:05 pm † Patricia McCormick
requested by Fatima Cabral

Tuesday, March 24th

12:05 pm † Pedro Sevilla on his 3rd yr. death anniversary
requested by the Sevilla family

Wednesday, March 25th

12:05 pm In thanksgiving & birthday intentions of Glenn Caasi
requested by Michael Caasi & family

Thursday, March 26th

12:05 pm In thanksgiving & in honour of St. Philomena
requested by the Ferreira family

Friday, March 27th

12:05 pm In thanksgiving & in honour of St. Raphael
requested by the Ferreira family

6:30 pm † Mary Barret
requested by the Leithwood family

Saturday, March 28th

9:00 am † Frances Shober
requested by Lucienne Nelson

5:00 pm † Irwin D'Silva in remembrance of his 100th birthday
requested by the Pereira family

Sunday, March 29th

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

11:00 am † Cecilio de Castro S.
requested by Letty Denovan

DAY OF CONFESSION FOR LENT

Our parish Day of Confessions will be held on **Tuesday, March 24th** at the following times:



- ◆ 11:00 – 11:50 am
- ◆ 12:30 – 1:30 pm
- ◆ 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- ◆ 8:00 – 9:00 pm

“God's will is to save us, and nothing pleases him more than our coming back to him with true repentance.”
~ St. Maximus the Confessor, abbot (580-662 A.D.)

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Feast day: Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized.

The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love.



Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).*

Mary has an important role to play in God’s plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him

in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God’s decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God’s instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God’s grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God’s grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

LENTEN REFLECTION

Theme:

*From the Passover Table
to the Table of Sacrifice’*

Leader: Fr. Michael Corpus

Saturday, March 28th at 1 pm

Description:

From a midnight escape in Egypt to the Upper room with Jesus follow the story of the Passover table across the Bible. Discover what was really happening at the Last Supper and why the Mass today is the continuation of the greatest rescue story ever told.

AGENDA

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1:00 pm | Gathering & Meal with grace before meals |
| 1:45 pm | Begin Talk with group & discussion |
| 2:40 pm | Break |
| 3:00 pm | Talk with group & discussion |
| 3:50 pm | Break |
| 4:05 pm | Wrap up and Q & A |
| 4:30 | Confessions |
| 5:00 pm | Mass |

Note:

- ◆ If you plan to attend this event, sign up is mandatory.
- ◆ Sign-up sheets are available at the entrance and exit of the Church.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 2025 Year in Review

On 2025, through the generosity of our parish community and the support of other charitable partners, the Society received \$24,406 in donations.

These gifts enabled us to respond to our Neighbors in Need with compassion and practical assistance, with \$20,031 distributed in food gift cards and other essential support.

Throughout the year, our Vincentians made 232 visits to individuals and families in our community. In these encounters, we sought not only to provide material help, but also to share Christ’s love through listening, encouragement, and personal care.

We are sincerely grateful to all who support this ministry through their prayers, time, and financial offerings. Your generosity makes this work of charity possible.

May God bless you abundantly for your kindness, and may He continue to guide and strengthen our mission to serve Christ by serving those most in need.



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