4th Sunday of Lent



Today's Gospel is beautifully illustrated in Franco Zeffirelli's classic film *Jesus of Nazareth*. The actor who plays the blind man is very convincing. No Hollywood-perfect teeth, unkempt, rather scruffy and not on the guest list to any dinner parties of the rich. His encounter with Jesus is life changing. By contrast, the Pharisees present themselves as hostile and in darkness. Jesus reacts strongly to their ignorance of the truth. One striking aspect of the encounter is the blind man's lack of fear in answering the Pharisee's questions.

The blind man saw Jesus and accepted him as the messiah, the Light of the world, giving us all an example of receiving God with joy and enthusiasm.

We can imagine ourselves in the person of the blind man. Placing ourselves in the Gospel, we can recognize our own resistance to the truth at times as well as our profession of faith when our hearts are drawn to conversion. The deeper our relationship grows with Jesus, the more we can let go of those things in us that block the light.

When Jesus opens our eyes, we see him in all things, in our neighbor, in ourselves and in the landscape of our path home. And in the Eucharist, we see the blind man among the communion of saints, the Mystical Body of Christ.

Denis Grady, OFS; Calgary, AB

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13 **Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. **Second Reading:** Ephesians 5.8-14

Gospel: John 9.1-41

Second Collections

- ...for Building and Renovation Fund will be collected at a later date
- ...for ShareLife will be collected once regular Mass is reinstated

FR. PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We are experiencing one of the biggest crises in the world caused by the outbreak of COVID-19. Fear of infection has reached our community as well, and we ask all to maintain proper personal hygiene and reasonable caution.

In view of the declared state of emergency in the province of Ontario, Cardinal Thomas Collins has canceled all public Masses during the week and on Sunday. The faithful received dispensation, which means that they do not sin by not attending Mass at the present time.

To read Cardinal Collins' complete message please visit www.archtoronto.org

Our church is open for private prayer:

- daily from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- on Sunday from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Mass is broadcast on our parish website:

- on weekdays at 8 a.m.
- on Sundays at 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m.

Cancellations

The following have been cancelled:

Stations of the Cross Lenten Lamentations Lenten Retreats First Communion classes All parish group meetings

Lenten Retreat Online

Fr. Andrzej Juchniewicz OMI, a Missionary from Belarus, will preach the Lenten Retreat on Sunday, March 29th at 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m. and from Monday, March 30th to Wednesday, April 1st at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. All homilies will be in Polish and can be viewed on our parish TV through our website at www.kolbe.ca

In light of the pandemic, please check our parish website and Facebook for the latest information concerning our parish.

If you are an elderly person and can't or shouldn't leave the house, call the parish office and our parish youth will do your grocery shopping for you.



MyParish App — our parish now has a mobile application. Install myParish App on your phone, select St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Mississauga, and stay up to date on all current events taking place at our parish. Important! In your phone settings remember to *Allow Notifications* in order to receive most up-to-date information, e.g. when public Mass will be celebrated again.

An Extreme Way of the Cross

An Extreme Way of the Cross will take place on **Friday, March 27**th. It will leave St. Casimir's Church in Toronto after the 7 p.m. Mass and finish at St. Eugene de Mazenod Church in Brampton. The entire route – known as St. Joseph's – is almost 40 km and is walked in silence, individually or in very small groups. This is a wonderful opportunity for prayer and reflection, especially during Lent. For more details and to register, please visit www.edk.org.pl

Book of Sobriety

Let us embrace Lenten sobriety with more courage. A Book of Sobriety is placed beside the Altar of Relics. Individuals and families are encouraged to sign their names as a pledge to take up abstinence during Lent.

Plenary Indulgence during Lent

During Lent, plenary indulgence under regular conditions may be obtained by participating in the Stations of the Cross or Lenten Lamentations, as well as by praying "It is I, o good and most sweet Jesus" on each Friday of Lent.



Spiritual Adoption of the Conceived Child will take place at a later date.

What is Spiritual Adoption? It is a prayer for a conceived child whose life is threatened with abortion. It lasts nine months and involves praying one decade of the Holy Rosary and a short prayer for the child and the child's parents. Please join us and help save many lives from abortion. Application forms are at the back of the church. More info: (905) 897-0550 (Krystyna) or kolbe.prolife@gmail.com

40 DAYS FOR LIFE Kolbe Pro-Life Group invites all parishioners to join 40 Days for Life — a global prayer campaign to defend the lives of unborn children. This campaign takes the form of silent prayer in the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration and runs throughout Lent. All that is needed is an hour of your time.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Bp. John Boissonneau has postponed the sacrament of confirmation at our parish. We will announce the new date as soon as it is available.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please note that there is no confession during Sunday Mass. It is each Catholic's duty to attend Mass from the very beginning until the final blessing. Leaving the church before the blessing or being notoriously late is a venial sin. Doing anything but participating in Mass is not allowed; this includes reading the bulletin.

We ask the faithful to leave the confessional door open after their confession.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Please join us in praying for

Brooke Sayewich, daughter of Nancy and Paul & Jakub Binkiewicz, son of Teresa and Miroslaw

Annabel Maria Coelho, daughter of Eva Maria and Denzil Joseph & Marek Dorna, son of Lidia and Roman

> Magdalena Maria Pierog, daughter of Anna and Stanislaw & Hicham Roumieh, son of Nzha and Elias

who are preparing for Holy Matrimony.

SL ShareLife

How can you "Live the Gospel" when life is so busy?

Many people help those in need by volunteering at a local organization. But if your schedule doesn't allow for it, you can still make a huge impact in your community by supporting ShareLife-funded agencies. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Over the next week, please reflect on your ability to "Live the Gospel" by making a sacrificial gift to our parish ShareLife campaign.

Please support ShareLife

Parishioners are asked not to use offertory envelopes from previous years.



Upcoming Events

Shefan Kanl Wyson L

Servant of God, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, will be beatified on **June** 7th, **2020** at Plac Pilsudski in Warsaw, Poland. Those who live outside of Poland and would like to receive entry cards for the beatification ceremony should contact the parish office no later than March 24th.

New Pilgrimage Dates

The pilgrimage to **Holy Land** is postponed until September (exact date TBD).

The pilgrimage to **Japan** will now take place from September 30th to October 8th.

The pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** will take place from September 27th to October 7th.

Władysław Reymont Foundation

Scholarship applications from the Władysław Reymont Foundation are available at: reymontfoundation.com
Application deadline is June 1st, 2020.

Text Scam Targeting Parishioners

Please be aware of scammers who send text messages to parishioners, pretend to be their parish pastor, and ask them to purchase iTunes gift cards to help sick parishioners in the hospital. Similar email scams have taken place in the past. The scams appear to target parishioners who have phone numbers listed on the front of the bulletin or on the parish website. Please note that we never send such requests by phone, email, or text message. If you are a target, we recommend that you contact the police and make them aware of the situation.

Flag Raising Ceremony

The annual flag raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall to celebrate Pope John Paul II Day has been cancelled.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, March 23rd

- 8⁰⁰ ♀ Anna Ozga daughters with families ♀ Jadwiga, Jerzy, and Cezary Wierzbicki and all deceased from the Swierzbinski family – sister with family
- For God's blessing and grace for Nicolas on his 10th birthday – parents and grandparents

TUESDAY, March 24th

- ♣ Anna & Kazimierz, Irena & Kazimierz, Halina & Jozef

WEDNESDAY, March 25th

- 8⁰⁰ ♣ Jan & Helena Tomaszewski daughter with family
- [†] Genowefa Szczerba (7th anniv.) −
 granddaughter
- ♣ Piotr Szczerba family

THURSDAY, March 26th

- 8⁰⁰ ♣ Agnieszka Rumianowski nephew Edward with family
- For responsible motherhood and fruitful spiritual adoption of conceived life – Kolbe Pro-Life
- ₱ Wladyslaw Armatys wife and daughters with families

FRIDAY, March 27th

- 8⁰⁰ ♣ Genowefa & Tadeusz Gabiga son
- → Maria, Marian Krak, Krystyna
 Grabowska, Laura Krajewski –
 granddaughter Agnieszka with family
- ♣ Lidia Labenda
- For God's blessing for Weronika on her 14th birthday and blessing for Marcin and Daniel – parents

SATURDAY, March 28th

- Special intention for God's blessing for Fr. Marcin Serwin OMI on his birthday

 All deceased from the Slowik family –
- Henryka with family ♣ Maria Barszcz (2nd anniv.) – son with
- † Jerzy Fiwek (1st anniv.) − daughter

SUNDAY, March 29th

- 800 For God's blessing and Mother Mary's protection for Pawel and his family, and for Piotr – parents
- 900 Gustaw Zelek wife
- 10⁰⁰ ♣ Jozef Mendela wife and daughter with family
- 100 O For God's blessing and protection for Jessica on her 25th birthday – mother The Barbara & Ryszard Banasik and Leokadia & Marian Piatek