

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### PASTOR'S CORNER



**I want to share with you some excerpts from a very thought-provoking reflection I recently came across in the *First Things* magazine:**

Our generation seems to have concluded that nothing gets in the way of life more than children. Why? Because kids are expensive. They are messy and exhausting. They take your time and can break your heart. They probably will never love you as much as you love them. Let's not be romantic about it: Children are a burden. But they are also one of the greatest earthly blessings. I do not urge Christian couples to have as many children as possible. But I do urge them to have more children. How many more I cannot say. Many couples must weigh risks pertaining to age, illness, miscarriage, or difficult pregnancies. But "more than two kids," and "more kids than you think you can handle," might be a good place to start. In other words, the difference between three kids and two kids—provided the culture of faith is thick enough in the home and in the church to keep those kids among the faithful—could be the difference between a Canada in which religion is declining and a Canada in which it is on the rise. This is why women in particular need to realize that motherhood is not a lesser calling, or an interruption in the real business of life. This is something sacred, because it is a God-given gift to participate in the act of creation.

Unfortunately, contemporary Canadian life does not make raising lots of children easy. I am reminded of the line from the comedian Jim -Gaffigan (a Catholic and father of five): "Big families are like waterbed stores. They used to be everywhere; now they're just weird." Parking lots and parking garages are not made for fifteen-passenger vans. My family almost never eats out (for which many restaurant-goers are thankful). Flying all of us anywhere, without a lot of planning and saving, is crazy expensive and just plain crazy. Though the vast majority of people have been extremely supportive of our big family, occasionally we get a vibe from strangers that communicates: "Are you foolish or just -ignorant?"

With fewer children, parents become more child-centric. And as parents become more child-centric, they do not see how they could possibly have more than one or two children. Even good parents—perhaps especially good parents—are susceptible to the -assumptions of kindergarchy, where children rule the roost and moms and dads are expected to be all things to their children. How can parents have more than a couple kids if each child needs from the parent a constant companion, a camp director, a gourmet chef, a vacation planner, a coach, and an omnipresent safety net? To say nothing of the gargantuan car seats that must be installed and uninstalled, the slew of forms that must be filled out at every stage of life, and the cost of raising a child in an age when young people are expected to consume much and contribute little. It takes a stubborn otherworldliness for parents to dare to give their children more by giving them less.

If your parents were divorced, or you grew up with two mommies, or you are currently sleeping with your girlfriend, or you are not particularly enamored of the thought of monogamy and raising children, the Christian faith—which has always been a scandal to sinners—carries an additional offense, which previous generations did not have to overcome. People do not like to be told they are wrong, or that those whom they love have done wrong. But Christianity cannot help sending that message. No doubt, secularization has undermined family formation. Just as surely, though, the collapse of the married, intact, childrearing family has made the Christian faith harder to swallow. But let remember that the God who has put eternity into our hearts (-Ecl. 3:11) also means to put children into the womb (Mal. 2:15). When we grasp one, we will grasp the other.

**Next week I will share with you some rules for your children to become good people and succeed in life.**

***Fr. Slawek***

# JANUARY 29, 2023



## Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

*Turning concern into action*

“The reward for Christian charity is the joy that one feels after having performed a good deed.” - Don Bosco

In all the ordinary and the extraordinary things that we do to bring comfort, the hope and joy to the less fortunate in our community, we give witness and thanks to God’s love and compassion.

Thank you for your contributions to the Poor Box after Mass.

### ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH

**Pre-Authorized Giving Plan**—Pre-Authorized Giving is a very simple procedure. When you participate in Pre-Authorized Giving, your offering will be withdrawn from your account on or about the 20th of the month. This amount will then be deposited to the Parish’s account.

This amount will be receipted at the end of the year for tax purposes.

Application forms are on the table at the back of the church.

### ATTENTION: All Candidates and Parents Important Dates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion:

**Sunday, February 5** at 11:00 a.m. Mass will be the Rite of Enrolment for Confirmation candidates

**Sunday, February 12** at 11:00 a.m. - **Confirmation candidates MUST attend the Mass** and classes will follow after the mass.

**Sunday February 19** at 9:00 a.m. - Children's Liturgy and communion classes will follow after the Mass.

**YOUR HEALTH :** As cold and flu season approaches, to ensure the health of the entire community, parishioners are encouraged to stay home from Mass and parish functions if they are experiencing symptoms of the flu virus, colds, etc. Respect and concern for the common good takes precedence. Thank you for your cooperation!

## MASS INTENTIONS



### Tuesday, January 31

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

### Wednesday, February 1

9 a.m. Intentions of Thanksgiving req. by A. Diapera

### Thursday, February 2

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Mariyam Poovelil req. by the Sebastian family.

### Friday, February 3

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Colin Vaz req. by the D’Costa family.

### Saturday, February 4

4:30p.m. Intentions of Thanksgiving for the Rana family req. by the Rana family.

### Sunday, February 5

9 a.m. Intentions of Earl Lawrence req. by Angela Lawrence.

11 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH OFFERING/ JANUARY

#### JANUARY 1, 2023

Initial Envelope Offering	\$ 1,075.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,615.00
Regular Envelope Offering	\$ 3,325.00

#### JANUARY 8, 2023

Regular Envelope Offering	\$ 3,347.00
Building Fund Offering	\$ 1,320.00

#### JANUARY 15, 2022

Regular Envelope Offering	\$ 3,345.00
Building Fund Offering	\$ 359.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 150.00

#### JANUARY 22, 2022

Regular Envelope Offering	\$2,795.00
---------------------------	------------

*Thank you for you continued generosity*

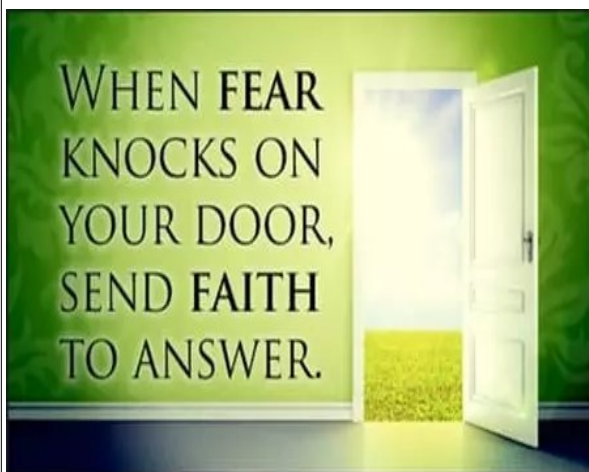
### RAFFLE WINNERS

**1st Prize—Ticket # 00599524**

**2nd Prize—Ticket #00599624**

Winners please contact the parish office to arrange a time to pick up the prize.

The winning ticket has to be handed into the parish office when picking up the prize.



## 2022 Tax Receipt

Attention all Parishioners 2022 Tax receipts will be mailed out at the end of February.