

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Someone wrote this very deep, personal Lenten reflection...

Is it possible to be conscientious without being scrupulous? Is it possible to *be aware* at every moment of God's sovereign will without continually and anxiously looking over one's shoulder? *Awareness* has become a new watchword in the health movement. Yoga strives for awareness of the body. Meditation searches for awareness of the mind. Psychology awakens awareness of one's feelings and attitudes. And, of course, in the realm of our spirituality, the Sacrament of Penance accentuates awareness of guilt, forgiveness and reconciliation. So perhaps it is true that those who are awake live in a state of constant amazement.

But what is the point of all this if I might never again feel that initial rush of ecstasy when I felt overwhelmed with God's grace? I wait for those moments when the darkness becomes a light, and absence becomes presence. I want to drink from the more predictable streams of grace: the sacraments, prayer, and pious conversation. But I am tempted to overdo my penances with bodily mortification: fasting, sleeplessness, isolation from others, mad interpretations of religious phenomena and so forth.

The Church tells me in Lent: Change. I am told that change begins when I realize *the problem is me*. So long as I suppose it's someone else; or suppose that "I am what I am and I cannot change," nothing will change; and the descent into hell will only continue. Neither abundant blessings nor ominous threats nor punishing catastrophes can make me change my attitude, practice, or habits. Nor will a half-hearted, go-along-to-get-along, compromise suffice. Nor will a temporary adjustment with an expectation of reverting as soon as Lent is over, satisfy a jealous God. So perhaps I need to follow the Crucified Lord into obscurity where only the Eternal and Ageless God might find them, but as Richard Rohr reminds us in his book on male spirituality: "*This is often a long journey from wild man to wise man, because spirituality is the ability to live with ambiguity.*" So this is my Lenten sacrifice: Be without doing, trust without proving and receive without deserving, because indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from Him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must render an account (Heb. 4:12-13).

Fr. Slawek

MARCH 10, 2024



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul *Turning concern into action*

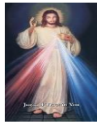
All of our members would like to thank all our parishioners for their generous support throughout the year. Without your donations we could not serve our community as we do. For your information, here are some statistics for 2023:

We made 105 visits to 77 homes. In total we served 206 adults and 82 children. The total value of the food vouchers we gave out was \$9,735.00. We also provided 6 families with furniture assistance (beds, tables and chairs).

For our Christmas Program we assisted 54 families consisting of 104 adults and 56 children. The value of Food Gift Cards was \$ 8,020.00.

As you can see, there is a great need for our services. We assist a variety of people in our community. They include families who struggle to make ends meet, single mothers, people with disabilities, seniors and newcomers to Canada. The cost of living keeps going up and we see more people in our community reaching out for help. And with your help and donations we can always be there.

Your kindness and generosity are making a difference! THANK YOU!



The Divine Mercy Novena

(Good Friday March 29 – Saturday April 6, 2024)

Day 1 - Good Friday	After the 3:00 p.m Service
Day 2 – Holy Saturday	After the 7:30 p.m Mass
Day 3 – Easter Sunday	After 9:00 a.m & 11:00 a.m Masses
Day 4 – Monday	10:30 a.m (In Church basement)
Day 5 – Tuesday	After the 9:00 a.m Mass
Day 6 - Wednesday	After the 9:00 am Mass
Day 7 – Thursday	After the 9:00 a.m Mass
Day 8 - Friday	After the 9:00 a.m Mass
Day 9: Saturday	After the 4:30 p.m Mass

**Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, 2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering
Phone: 905-839-2864**

“To be like Mary – Immersed in God’s Divine Life”

March 15 @ 6:30 pm – March 17 @ 1:00 pm

\$250.00 Suggested Offering

MEN IGNATIAN – “To live as a Christian in the world, while at the same time living with God’s vision for oneself and his Creation.” In our retreat, we will try and listen to God speaking to us through passages from Scriptures, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the lives of the saints. Facilitated by Fr. John Sullivan, SJ

Register: <http://manresa-canada.ca> **Contact:** registration@manresa.ca

2023 Tax Receipt Mailed

Attention all Parishioners: Due to the change in operating systems from the Archdiocese of Toronto, Tax receipts for 2023 have changed a little. If you had a change of address or change in household members, please note that you may receive more than one tax receipt this year. You are able to use multiple receipts for your taxes, the two or more receipts represent your total donations to the Parish. We have tried very hard to ensure that all receipts have been grouped together correctly.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in the matter



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 12

9 a.m. Intentions of Austin Popescu.

Wednesday, March 13

9 a.m. Intentions of Thanksgiving.

Thursday, March 14

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Violet Leung req. by Margaret Leung.

Friday, March 15

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Janina Ludwik.

Saturday, March 16

4:30 p.m. Repose of the soul of Noel Valerio req. by Maria Valerio.

Sunday, March 17

9 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Repose of the soul of Kevin Takaki req. by Violet Pung.

COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL



The Social will resume
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
After the 9 a.m. Mass
in the Parish Basement

All parishioners welcome

10 Ways To Love

1. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)
2. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
3. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
4. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
5. Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)