

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



An interrupted life in a short monologue with God...

Dear God, I often ask myself, “How do you have a relationship with someone you cannot see?” This incisive question bothers me, and perhaps this is why one thing is becoming increasingly clear to me: You cannot help me. I must help you to help me. That is all we can manage together and that is all that really matters right now. Sometimes You cannot do much about my circumstances. I try to understand this fact of life, but I do not hold You responsible. You gave me heart, mind and soul to do what needs to be done. So I just must defend Your sacred dwelling place in my heart to the last because I do not want to be like those who are nothing more than a shelter for a thousand fears and bitter feelings. I know we are all sinners who fall short of Your glory. It can be so difficult to be holy and Christ-like at times, for this often means reaching deeper into the source of my energy when it seems like it is too hard to go that extra mile while life keeps making demands, but I do want to try with all my heart, mind and soul.

The other day I learned that the first step of St. Ignatius’ Spiritual Exercises is to be aware of myself: strengths, weaknesses, goodness, sinfulness, virtues, and vices. I cannot be a better Christian if I am unwilling to reflect on my areas to improve with the help of Your grace. Now I am beginning to feel a little more peaceful thanks to this conversation with You, and I give You permission, O Lord, to interrupt my life once again tomorrow, so that I may be saved from the parasite of self-satisfaction by staying close to all you love and value in my life while keeping in mind St. Teresa of Avila’s famous quote: *“Christ has no body now on earth, but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which he is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands by which he is to bless us now.”* Embracing this truth, I can begin to live without illusion or pretension, but dear God, have pity upon me when I forget that life is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be lived, because too many things in life make up in excitement what they lack in meaning. Ouch...did I hear your whisper in my heart, **“Stop Being Your Own Worst Enemy”?**



Fr. Slawek

MARCH 17, 2024



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Turning concern into action



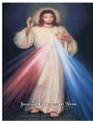
Thank you for your contributions to the Poor Box after Mass.

YOUR HEALTH

Are experiencing symptoms of the flu virus, colds, etc.?

If you have any symptoms of a cold or flu, to ensure the health of the entire community, parishioners are encouraged to stay home from Mass and parish functions. Please be aware that there might be parishioners with weak or weekend immune systems in attendance at Mass. Respect and concern for the common good takes precedence.

Thank you for your cooperation! To minimize risks please use the hand sanitizers that are located at each entrance!



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 Renewal Centre
2325 Liverpool Rd. Pickering, Ont.
Phone: 905-839-2864

March 28 @ 6:30 pm - March 31 @ 9:30 am

“Pausing with Jesus Before the Resurrection.”
MEN & WOMEN EASTER TRIDUUM - These days of retreat provide silence and solitude for entering more deeply into the mystery of Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection. Facilitated by Fr. Henk van Meijel, SJ and our Retreat Team.

\$360.00 Suggested Offering

April 12 @ 6:30 pm - April 14 @ 1:00 pm

IS FAILURE AN OPTION?
MEN & WOMEN IGNATIAN – “Failure is not an option!” was the supposed mantra of the engineers who built the Apollo Moon rockets. But in fact, science progresses precisely by failing. What insights to ourselves and our faith can we derive from how science learns from its mistakes? Facilitated by Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ

\$275.00 Suggested Offering



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 19

9 a.m. Intentions of Teresa Matus req. by Joriza Porcal.

Wednesday, March 20

9 a.m. Intentions to St. Joseph req. by R. Tubongbanua.

Thursday, March 21

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

Friday, March 22

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Paul Anderson.

Saturday, March 23

4:30 p.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

Sunday, March 24

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Sebastiangpillai & Santhipillai req. by Anton Santhiappillai .
11 a.m. Repose of the soul of Sivestro DeLaurentis req. by the DeLaurentis family.

COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL



The Social will resume
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
After the 9 a.m. Mass
in the Parish Basement

All parishioners welcome

God, thank you for the closed doors.
Thank you for not allowing me to settle for second best. God, every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, you were re-directing me to something better. God, I pray you will give me peace when frustration creeps in. I pray you will give me strength to press on when I’m told, “no”. God, I thank you for teaching me that “no” is just a step to a bigger and better, “YES.” Amen.