

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



### **Here is a completely different approach to a traditional view of prayer...**

How do I ask something of, request, and insinuate that I want a favor from a non-personal cosmic entity operating on a scale grander than the number of stars visible to the naked eye? Sometimes our prayer life seems to be only about asking, especially when our focus is on what I want instead of on what I need. Is prayer just another transaction, albeit a spiritual one? What if prayer is not a transaction, a quid pro quo? What if prayer is not a "you say a name, hope God is listening, is in a good mood, and you're in the spiritual black, so something positive might go your way" kind of operation? What if prayer is a spiritual discipline, a holy habit, and a sacred conversation between persons on the faith journey? Now that might be a new way to pray.

Moreover, what if, instead of waiting on answers from God, we became the answers to our own prayers? What if, in a spirit of vulnerability, we gathered to share our deepest concerns and our greatest joys with each other? What if we became comfortable with sitting in silence with one another? What if, in humility, we could express our fears and hear other members of the body of Christ? Would this not be a new way to pray? What if we read the words of those who walked the journey before us: poets and mystics, the psalmist, and wisdom teachers? In listening to each other, are we not creating sacred personhood for those who dare to come to a holy place to know that their prayers are heard with a vital, emphatic, and loud "AMEN!"? And the way we answer these questions makes all the difference.

But where are the answers to these compelling queries? Perhaps in this example: Some liken prayer to entering the cave of a tiger—the experience is uncontrollable. Risk is involved and yet, too, a certain level of trust. Prayer that leads to real participation in the mystery of Christ, or we might say, prayer that allows the mystery of Christ to change our lives, is a high-risk enterprise—an uncontrollable experience. So we need to trust God sufficiently in order to enter into the "cave" of the heart, the place where our own Incarnation takes place to pray according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. And this process is always both pervasive and faith-motivated. What a challenge to pray in this way in order to become an echo of God's whisper in our hearts.



*Fr. Slawek*

# MARCH 3, 2024

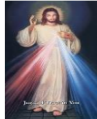


**The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**  
*Turning concern into action*

When we pray the “Our Father”, we ask God to give us “our daily” bread. Most of us are fortunate to receive sufficient food, but some do not. It is a struggle, especially for our neighbour-in-need.

Please remember the POOR BOX on your way out of the Church.

**Thank you for your contributions to the Poor Box.**



## 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

**Monday, January 29, 2024: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.**

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

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

March 8 @ 6:30 pm – March 10 @ 1:00 pm

\$250.00 Suggested Offering

**WOMEN 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

### “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](mailto:registration@manresa.ca)



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Tuesday, March 5—LENTEN MISSION—7 p.m.

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

### Wednesday, March 6—LENTEN MISSION—7p.m.

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of David Emer.

### Thursday, March 7

9 a.m. Private Intentions

### Friday, March 8

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Rowel Gracia req. by Ely Gracia.

### Saturday, March 9

4:30 p.m. Repose of the soul of Helen Ellul req. by the Ellul & Kinest families.

### Sunday, March 10

9 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Private Intentions.

## COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL



The Social will resume  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**  
After the 9 a.m. Mass  
in the Parish Basement

**All parishioners welcome**

## 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.