

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### PASTOR'S CORNER

As the new school year has begun, I want to remind you that our faith journey is a lifelong one, learning and growing in awareness and relationship with God. This is why I am sharing with you a very interesting reflection entitled, "Forming Warriors and Adventurers in Christ's Army." I hope this musing will help you realize how crucial your role as parents and grandparents is in making sure that your children and grandchildren will remain in the Church in the years to come:

I am not sure whether you are aware of these grim statistics: Less than a quarter of Catholics attend Mass each Sunday. Half of those do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. For the remaining three-quarters, who do not go to church, their understanding of the faith is shaped mostly by childish caricatures and distortions from mass media and pop culture. Taking these facts alone, the odds that your children and grandchildren remain practicing Catholics are not good, to put it mildly. Kids, as we know, are disproportionately influenced by what their peers do and do *not* do. Couple this reality with the fact that nearly all their activities, from their hours on screens to classroom instruction, sports, and other activities occur with no reference to God. It is not hard to wonder why kids do not think religion is "cool", because none of their friends or the people they see in the media seem to even think about it. So how can parents keep their kids Catholic in this hostile environment? After God's grace, the answer, typically, is to lead by example, to show your children how to be faithful by living out your own faith. This answer is true, but up to a point. We cannot give what we do not have. Kids have a special knack for smelling out authenticity. If we do not believe what we preach, or, worse, if we undermine what we preach by contrary actions, our children will see firsthand that we are like the Pharisees who "bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger" (Matt 21:4).

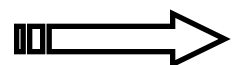
But having said that, I want to stress that being an example in living the faith is not enough, because your children are bombarded with individualistic, licentious, and anti-religious messaging constantly, far more than you realize. If anyone thinks that an example of praying earnestly at Mass and following the commandments alone will be enough to counteract the world's seductive powers that flow to your children every waking minute via smartphones, he will be the only one surprised when his children stop going to church. Fathers, in particular, tend to prefer setting a silent example and passing the duty of explanation to mothers, priests, or teachers. This move might have worked sixty years ago in Catholic neighborhoods, but no longer. Given the tremendous influence that fathers have on children's religious practice, dads have to take the initiative as children's first and most intense religion teacher. So, in addition to your example of sincere Christian living, you must teach your children – and teach repeatedly – two kinds of lessons.

First, since the best defense is a good offense, we must constantly point out the falsity of secular dogmas and explain why they are wrong. And it is never too early to start: a five-year-old can learn that babies should not be harmed in mothers' wombs; that boys are boys and girls are girls (period); that marriage is between a man and a woman, and that all other arrangements are wrong. It is not hard to show how the Church's deeper vision is more attractive, and there is no shortage of resources available to help us if you are not sure where to start. All it takes is a little time to look for them. If teaching these topics sounds daunting, consider that many teenagers drift from the faith because they learn through the media and in school that abortion is a woman's right, or that gender is a choice, for instance. As they buy into these lies, they will come to see the Church as not only wrong, but as an enemy for opposing a person's desires. So the choice is yours: you can teach your children and grandchildren the correct view, or let the world teach them its own philosophy while slowly leading them astray. And many of them often say, "Who cares?" and simply live out whatever days they have without an eternal destiny in mind. So it goes without saying that those compromises between the world's ways and God's ways will always lead to disaster.

The second kind of lesson concerns the faith itself. You have to teach them what you believe, why you believe it, and how faith's promises exceed those of secular pseudo-dogmas in truth and grandeur. Here, too, there are various resources to help teach your children as they grow from toddlerhood to adulthood. And these lessons have to be repeated constantly for them to sink in: think not seven times, but seventy times seven times (Matt 18:21).

Both kinds of lessons, of course, have a goal that is not simply academic: they help our children form a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship is the essence of faith, the reason for our existence, and our reward in Heaven. This relationship transforms our lives to see ourselves, in the words of Gerald Russello, as "warriors and adventurers" in Christ's army. And it is this relationship that will hopefully keep your children and grandchildren practicing Catholics for the years to come. And I would just add this: If you attempt to feed others, you must first feed yourself. But ...

*Fr. Slawek*



# SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS SESSIONS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

Parents and/or Guardians, if you have a young person who will be in grades 2 thru 7 who have not made their sacraments for the school year 2022-2023, and they wish the reception of either First Holy Communion, Confirmation or both, please be advised that a letter will be given out in our parish schools in September. Also, much of our notices/communications about Sacramental prep is posted in the parish bulletins so please be vigilant and pick up weekly bulletins. Peace of Christ!

### ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES

We are in need of 5 Altar servers for each weekend Mass.

If you are in grade 3 and up and are interested in serving our community please consider joining the Altar servers.

Volunteer forms are available for pick up on the table at the back of the Church and can also be picked up from the parish office during office hours.

### DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS?

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO ADVERTISE?

### CONSIDER ADVERTISING ON THE BACK OF THE PARISH BULLETIN.

### IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

416-293-7974



### ARE YOU MOVING? OR HAVE YOU ALREADY MOVED?

Please contact the parish office so your records can be updated. Thank you.



### The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Holy Spirit Conference

*Turning concern into action*

Lord, help me to make time today to serve You in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance.

With a generous heart and spirit, let us share what we have with our neighbour -in-need. Your generous contributions to the POOR BOX will help us left up the lowly and feed the hungry.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Tuesday, September 13

9 a.m. Intentions of Stella Rose Ng.

### Wednesday, September 14

9 a.m. Intentions of Carlito Porcal req. by Joriza Porcal.

### Thursday, September 15

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

### Friday, September 16

9 a.m. (+)Charles Cerar req. by Francis Cerar.

### Saturday, September 17

4:30 p.m. (+) Samuel Johns req. by the Johns family.

### Sunday, September 18

9 a.m. (+)Jin Lian Zhang req. by the Zhang family.

11 a.m. Private Intentions.

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH OFFERING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

#### AUGUST 7, 2022

Regular Envelope Offering \$ 5,812.00

#### AUGUST 14, 2019

Regular Envelope Offering \$ 3,104.00  
Building Fund Offering \$ 1450.00

#### AUGUST 21, 2022

Regular Envelope Offering \$ 5705.00  
Catholic Mission Collection \$ 845.00

#### AUGUST 28, 2022

Regular Envelope Offering \$ 2,870.00

#### SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

Regular Envelope Offering \$ 3,117.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

## 2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Attention parishioners who are returning to Mass. If you have not pick up your offertory envelopes box.

Please pick your box from the parish office during office hours.

