

St. Theresa's Parish

Shrine of the Little Flower

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Pastor: Rev. Fr. Bienvenido P. Ebcas

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Peter Lovrick

Secretary: Maria Cielá Sarmiento



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, May 17 (Private Mass)

Barbara Smith (*Mary Anne Hoyle*)

Tuesday, May 18 (Livestreamed)

7:00 pm Birthday and Thanksgiving of Benjamin &

Daisy Mendoza (*Janette Rosales*)

Thanksgiving of the Cilo Family

✠ Antonio Suarez Austria (*Evelyn Reyes*)

Wednesday, May 19 (Livestreamed)

8:00 am For the People

Thursday, May 20 (Private Mass)

For the People

Friday, May 21 (Livestreamed)

7:00 pm Thanksgiving of Yvonne & Sebastian Dsouza's

45th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, May 22 ((Private Mass)

For the People

Sunday, May 23 (Livestreamed)

Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am Birthday Blessings for Shane Thomas

(*Ahilia Thomas & family*)

✠ Francisco Gonzales (*Madeliene Franco*)

**PUBLIC MASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.
MASS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE.**

Click the link below for Daily Readings.

[Living with Christ](#)

Confessions

By Appointment Only

Baptisms

Every Fourth Sunday of the month

Preparation Class – By appointment only

Weddings

Couples planning to be married should contact
the priest one year in advance.

A marriage preparation course is mandatory.

Parish Schools

St. Theresa's Shrine School – (416) 393-5248

St. John Henry Newman Catholic School (416) 393-5519

TCDSB – (416) 222-8282 ext. 5314

Archdiocese of Toronto

(416) 934-0606 • www.archtoronto.org

Parish Outreach

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

(416) 261-7498 ext. 4



Let Us Pray for Our Sick

Shirley Baker, Daphne King, Jacob Rumball,
Sophy McDonald, Bobby Melchers, Gail MacEachern,
Jolanta Mirkowski-Paszal, Rene Romero, Jane Frias
Eigo, Delio Pellicione, Pat Savella, Elizabeth
Callaghan, James Halder, Phyllis Randolph, Karen
Pinder, Caroline Maiden, Karlos Ebcas, Danny Gomes

For the Dead

Jeffery and Nelson Dollete, Carmen Prezioso,
John King, Juanito Villalon-Bonifacio,
Emerson Villarante, Mary Bensics,
Maria Das Dores Ferreira De Faria e Silva
Jean Maiden, Stephen Callaghan, Arvin Bravo

ASCENSION OF THE LORD MAY 16, 2021

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47:2-3,6-7,8-9

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23 or *Ephesians 4:1-13* (shorter form:
Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13)

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

Gospel Reading

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus is taken to heaven, and the disciples go forth to preach as Jesus commanded.

Family Connection

It can be very important whom we sit next to. Any family that has tried to sit down to a family dinner or packed the car for a trip has heard children argue at least once about who should sit where. To sit next to someone, especially if that person is important, is to have a place of honor. Jesus has this place of honor seated at God's right hand, but there's more to this metaphor than where Jesus sits in relation to God. To be in the place of honor is also to be in a place of power. Knowing people in powerful places can be helpful. Our children remind us of this each time we are called upon to referee a conflict. Jesus, honored at God's right hand, is a powerful ally for us.

As you gather as a family, recall a time when there was a discussion, or perhaps even an argument, about where people were going to sit. Talk about why it might be important to a person to sit in a particular place. Observe that in today's Gospel we will learn about Jesus' place in heaven. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 16:15-20. Talk about what we might learn about the relationship between God and Jesus from today's Gospel and what we learn about Jesus' relationship to us. Observe that one of the things we learn is that Jesus continues to help us from this place of honor in heaven. Pray together the Apostles' Creed.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>

The Good News: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Ascension of the Lord

In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see [Hebrews 4:14-15](#)).

Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" ([Acts 1:5](#)). Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" (see, for example, [Hebrews 10:32](#)) because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

Taken from Breaking the Bread, Sunday Bible Reflections – St. Paul Center (stpaulcenter.com)

LIVESTREAM MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	10 am Holy Mass
Tuesday	Mass at 7 pm followed by Novena to St Therese
Wednesday	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 8 am followed by Holy Mass
Friday	Novena to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 6:45 pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7pm

The Province of Ontario extended the stay-at-home order until at least June 2, 2021. Current restrictions for places of worship (limit of 10 people inside the church at any time) remain in place.

Click <https://bit.ly/STP-Livestream> to join the Mass via online.

Our parish continue to offer Communion Services for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. Registration is through **EventBrite** or by calling the parish office. Click [here](#) to register.

SCHEDULE OF COMMUNION SERVICE

Sat., 5:00 PM
Sun, 11:30 AM & 12:30 PM

The Archdiocese of Toronto strongly encourages those who are at an increased risk of COVID-19 to stay at home. Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, continues his dispensation of the faithful's Sunday obligation at this time.

Please check the website regularly. Mass and Communion Service schedule may change.

Get involved!

Have you thought about serving your parish as an usher, a cleaner, a lector, a catechist, or a member of another ministry? St. Theresa's has volunteer roles that make our parish life truly vibrant.

Visit our "[Parish Life](#)" and "[Get Involved](#)" sections in our parish website to see the opportunities available in our parish. Contact the [parish office](#) if you'd like to get started in one of our opportunities soon.



One of the key messages Jesus left us is to "love one another as I have loved you." Our generosity toward ShareLife agencies is one of the ways we can help transform the lives of the marginalized in our society.

Thank you very much for supporting our parish's ShareLife campaign. Thus far we have raised \$10,276 toward our goal of \$36,400.00.

Thank you to those who have contributed to our annual appeal. If you have not yet done so, you are invited to reflect on your ability to help those in need, and make a sacrificial gift to help those who turn to our agencies for help.

Monthly Pre-Authorized Giving is a convenient way to spread your ShareLife contribution throughout the year. You can learn more about PAG at sharelife.org.

However you give, whatever you give, please give generously to ShareLife.

Thank you to the Sponsors of this week's livestreaming of Mass

Dollete Family
Jolanta and Zibby Paszel



Thank You for Your Offering

Offertory: \$ 3855.00

St. Theresa's Parish is always grateful and appreciates your generosity and continuing support.



Update from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

There were 40 calls to the St. Theresa's Shrine, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline during the month of April. Your donations enabled us to mail out \$1760 in food assistance to those in need and allowed us to order a box spring for one person in need and a bed for someone without a bed. (total cost including delivery - \$312)

In April, donations totaled \$1470. Thank you for your generous support. Together, 'we can make a difference'.

Archdiocese of Toronto Celebrated the Ordination of Two Priests

On Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 10 a.m., His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto ordained Fr. Arthur Lee and Fr. Andrew Taylor, with the Sacrament of Holy Orders as priests to the Archdiocese of Toronto. This wonderful event took place at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica.

Fr. Arthur Lee was born in Quebec, moved to Oakville where he grew up. He attended Queen's University to study Mathematics and Engineering. Upon returning home from university, he became more involved in his church, St. Andrew Kim Parish, through the Choice Weekend, choir, Legion of Mary and bible study groups. He was asked by the associate priest if he ever thought about becoming a priest? Arthur entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2014.

Fr. Andrew Taylor, the fourth of eight children, was born in Barrie and grew up in Aurora in a home where the importance of faith, prayer and the sacraments were strongly emphasized. He attended Brebeuf College School. While in grade 10, Andrew encountered Christ through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist and began to hear a call to the priesthood. He began his formation at Serra House in 2011 and then joined St. Augustine's Seminary in 2015.

As a community of faith, let us continue to offer our prayers for Fr. Arthur and Fr. Andrew for their ministry. Let us also continue to pray for all those who are currently in formation to the priesthood at [St. Augustine's Seminary](#) and at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

100th Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League (CWL)

The Catholic Women's League of the Archdiocese of Toronto is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, May 15th. The first Convention was held in 1921.

Due to the pandemic, their Convention will be held virtually on May 15th. A live-streamed Mass will take place on that day at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to join virtually – the Mass can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/CWL100th>

Let us offer a special prayer to mark this historic occasion. More than 100 parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto have local CWL chapters in their community.

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF: India's COVID-19 Outbreak

India is reeling from a devastating COVID-19 outbreak. In recent days, the country has been reporting more than 400,000 of new cases and 4,000 deaths every 24 hours. International observers expect that the actual numbers are significantly higher. The medical system, funeral services and other social supports are unable to meet the country's needs at this time.

In response to numerous inquiries from parishioners and clergy, we are providing information for those who may wish to contribute to relief efforts to assist the people of India.

The Archdiocese of Toronto will send donations through Development and Peace to Caritas Internationalis, an international confederation of Catholic humanitarian organizations that is already in India helping those who are suffering during this COVID-19 outbreak.

Since the pandemic began, India's Catholic Church, acting principally through Caritas India, has been supporting some of the most disadvantaged groups, such as those with inadequate housing, migrant labourers, persons with special needs and widows. Relief services and materials provided by the Church, or with its support, include:

- Food at kitchens and distribution centres in slums, at migration transit points, etc.
- Masks, sanitizers and hygiene kits to vulnerable communities
- Psychosocial support and hotline services to traumatized and grieving people
- Public education campaigns on infection prevention and vaccination
- Supporting the public healthcare system, including donating expertise, facilities and equipment from Church-run clinics and hospitals

To learn more about Caritas' work in India, please watch this video: <http://bit.ly/CaritasIndiaRelief>

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- ✓ Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org
- ✓ By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- ✓ Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St Theresa Church – India's COVID-19 Outbreak – Disaster Relief

Please continue to pray for the people of India and all those who are suffering from COVID-19 worldwide. Thank you for your continued assistance.

The Month of May is Dedicated to Mother Mary

We continue to pay tribute to our Blessed Mother Mary with flowers. The congregation is welcome to bring flowers for the month of May.

For more information about the offering of flowers and the Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help, please call the parish office.

POPE FRANCIS: 'THE TIMES WE LIVE IN ARE TIMES OF MARY'



Reflecting on the womanhood of Mary, the pope said that “as the mother makes the Church a family, so the woman makes us a people.”

On October 24, 2020, during the event marking the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Pontifical Theological Faculty “Marianum” in Rome, Pope Francis said that the times we live in are the “times of Mary.”

Speaking to an estimated 200 students and professors from the theological faculty in the Paul VI Audience Hall, the Pope said that we are living in the time of the Second Vatican Council. “No other Council in history has given Mariology as much space as that dedicated to it by Chapter VIII of ‘Lumen gentium,’ which concludes and in a certain sense summarizes the entire Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,” he [said](#). “This tells us that the times we live in are times of Mary. But we need to rediscover Our Lady from the perspective of the Council,” he urged. “Just as the Council brought to light the beauty of the Church by returning to the sources and removing the dust that had settled on it over the centuries, so Mary’s wonders can be rediscovered best by going to the heart of her mystery.”

In his address, the Pope highlighted the importance of Mariology, the theological study of Mary. “We could ask ourselves: does Mariology serve the Church and the world today? Obviously, the answer is yes. To go to Mary’s school is to go to the school of faith and life. She, teaches because disciple teaches well the basics of human and Christian life,” he said.

The Marianum was founded in 1950 under the direction of Pope Pius XII and entrusted to the Servite Order. The institution publishes “Marianum,” a prestigious journal of Marian theology.

In his address, the Pope focused on Mary’s role as a mother and a woman. He said that the Church also possessed these two characteristics. “Our Lady rendered God our brother, and as a mother she can render the Church and the world more fraternal,” he said. “The Church needs to rediscover her maternal heart, which beats for unity; but our Earth also needs to rediscover it, to return to being the home of all her children.” He said a world without mothers, which focused on profits alone, would have no future.

“The Marianum is then called to be a fraternal institution, not only through the beautiful family atmosphere that distinguishes you, but also by opening new possibilities for collaboration with other institutions, which will help to broaden horizons and keep up with the times,” he said.

Reflecting on the womanhood of Mary, the Pope said that “as the mother makes the Church a family, so the woman makes us a people.” He said it was no coincidence that popular piety was centered on Mary. “It is important that Mariology follows it with care, promotes it, sometimes purifies it, always paying attention to the ‘signs of the Marian times’ that run through our age,” he commented. The pope observed that women played an essential role in salvation history and that therefore they were essential for both the Church and the world. “But how many women do not receive the dignity due to them,” he lamented. “Woman, who brought God into the world, must be able to bring her gifts in history. Her ingenuity and style are needed. Theology needs it, so that it is not abstract and conceptual, but sensitive, narrative, alive.”

“Mariology can help bring to culture, also through art and poetry, the beauty that humanizes and instills hope. And it is called to seek more worthy spaces for women in the Church, starting from the common baptismal dignity. Because the Church, as I said, is woman. Like Mary, [the Church] is a mother”.

(Source: [Pope Francis: ‘The Times We Live in Are Times of Mary’ | National Catholic Register](https://www.ncregister.com) ([ncregister.com](https://www.ncregister.com)))

Kids Connect with Mother Mary

Every Saturday in May – 7 p.m.



A VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COUNCIL

Calling all parents and children: please join our Kids Connect special program that honours Jesus' mother by connecting her with kids throughout the month of May. Featuring: fun learning, praying, music, games and more!

Live event via the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council of the Archdiocese of Toronto's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

EMAIL: childrenministryccrc@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: <http://bit.ly/CCRCTorontoFacebook>

YOUTUBE: <http://bit.ly/CCRCTorontoYouTube>

Theology of the Body for Everyone with Jason Evert

Thursday, May 20, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

A VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY THE OFFICE OF FORMATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND OFFICE OF CATHOLIC YOUTH

The realities of masculinity, femininity, and gender, and the relation of these to our identity, are being questioned like never before. Jason Evert is an internationally known Catholic speaker and author, who will lead the discussion beyond feelings to help us embrace an integrated understanding of the truth of our identity. Speaking the truth in love, he shows how the recognition of what our biology reveals helps us to understand who God created us to be and to accompany others on their life's journey.

For more information, please contact Annalisa Parente at: 416-934-3400 ext. 569 or aparente@archtoronto.org
Leading us in praise and worship is Chico Nuguid, Worship Leader in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Reclaiming Love 2021 – Giveaways!

In addition to the highly anticipated presentation led by Jason Evert, ALL attendees will be entered into a draw for a CHANCE TO WIN an iPhone and/or other prizes! We extend a big heartfelt thank you to a generous donor who made this possible.

To register for free, visit our website: www.archtoronto.org/reclaiminglove.



VIRTUAL EVENTS HOSTED BY ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

Sacred Heart Novena Retreat Thursday, June 3 to Friday, June 11

The online retreat is made up of a series of 30-minute video presentations. Each video is a short retreat conference and will feature a priest from the seminary community. To conclude the retreat, you are invited to join a livestream Mass from St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica presided by Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto.

YOUTUBE LINK:

<http://bit.ly/StAugustineSeminaryYouTube>

St. Augustine's Seminary Lay Formation Program: Where Holiness is Found: Ordinary People Called to Extraordinary Lives Saturday, June 5 – 9:30 am to 12 pm

It's been a stressful year for all of us – a year of unknowns and constant changes. Take a few moments to breathe, reflect and pray. This retreat, designed especially for women, looks at the everyday moments of our lives and asks: How can I live a life of extraordinary calling? Where is holiness found?

Please consider how each of us, as ordinary women, are called to live extraordinary lives. You are invited to register today and forward this invitation to your friends and family.

Presenter: Dr. Anne Jamieson.

COST: \$25 REGISTER:

<http://bit.ly/DayOfReflectionForWomen>

CONTACT: St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto

PHONE: 416-261-7207

EMAIL: lay.formation@staugustines.on.ca

WEBSITE: www.staugustines.on.ca

POSTER: <http://bit.ly/DayOfReflectionForWomenPoster>