



Marriage Sunday

To Married Couples throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto,

As we celebrate Marriage Sunday in the Archdiocese of Toronto, I wish to extend my prayers and best wishes to all married couples. This is a wonderful occasion to honour your commitment, fidelity and public witness to the sacrament of holy matrimony. Each day that you say "yes", you affirm the vows made on your wedding day to support one another through the joys and struggles of life's journey.

It is not an easy path and a good marriage requires patience, trust, forgiveness and mutual support. I encourage you to also ensure that prayer remains central to your relationship, ever mindful of God's role in the sacramental bond that accompanies your life-long commitment.

May we find inspiration in the life and personal sacrifice of our loving Mother Mary and her spouse, Joseph, and also those married couples you encounter each day; parents, grandparents, relatives and friends who are faithful witnesses, celebrating their relationships and authentic love for one another.

May your love and shining example extend to your families and all those you meet, reminding us of the profound impact your deeply committed relationship can have on others each and every day. May God continue to bless you now and always.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus with Mary,

Most Rev. Francis Leo
Archbishop of Toronto

Are you civilly married or in a common-law relationship, possibly with previous marriages? If yes, contact the priest so that we can see how to help you seek an annulment and (or) Marriage in the Church. In this way, eventually, you will be able to receive the Sacraments with good conscience.



Ash Wednesday

February 14th, 2024

MASS TIMES:

8:30AM – Holy Cross Parish

7:00PM – St. Gregory the Great Parish

Reminder!!

Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fast & Abstinence.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Please join us for Stations of the Cross every Thursday here at Holy Cross at 5:00pm, and every Friday at St. Gregory's after the 7:00pm Mass. All are welcome!



What is FASTING?

The **limitation** of food and drink – typically to one main meal and two smaller meals, with no solid foods in between. But remember to drink enough fluids!

When do we fast?

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday*

*Paschal Fast: Good Friday and Holy Saturday are days of prayer and quiet reflection. We honour the suffering and death of Jesus and prepare to share in the joy of his resurrection at Easter.

What is ABSTINENCE?

Avoiding certain kinds of food or drink, typically meat or other desirable foods

When do we abstain?

Catholics are obliged to abstain from **meat every Friday** throughout the year (except solemn feast days)

TIP: Instead of abstaining, you may substitute special acts of charity or piety on Fridays

Fasting & Abstinence

Why fast?

It helps us to **pray better**: an empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer

Who has to fast?

Catholics aged 18 to 59
Those with impaired health should not fast in any way.

Why abstain on Fridays?

It's the **day of Christ's saving death** on the cross; we abstain to share in His work of saving the world

Who has to abstain?

Catholics aged 14 and older

During Lent, the money we save on food while fasting and abstaining should be given to others in alms

SOURCE: "Keeping Friday" and "Living Lent" from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops www.cccb.ca

MASS Intentions

Saturday February 10 (St. Scholastica)
4:30pm †Mary Plavetich

Sunday February 11 (Marriage Sunday)
12noon For Our Parish Family

Tuesday February 13
St. Gregory the Great at 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday February 14 (Ash Wednesday)
8:30am Ash Wednesday
St. Gregory the Great at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday February 15
8:30am †Ramos Family
5:00pm ****Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross**

Friday February 16
Confessions at St. Gregory's – 6 p.m.-6:45 p.m.
St. Gregory the Great at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday February 17
Confessions here 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
4:30pm For the Parish Family

Sunday February 18
St. Gregory the Great at 8:00 a.m.
St. Gregory the Great at 9:30 a.m.
12noon †For Jesus

Please remember Holy Cross Parish in your Will.

All About Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting is the limitation of food and drink, typically to one main meal and two smaller meals, with no solid foods in between. (But remember to drink enough fluids!). We fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We fast because it helps us to pray better. An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fast. Those with impaired health should not fast in any way.

Abstinence is avoiding certain kinds of food or drink, typically meat or other desirable foods. Catholics are obliged to abstain from meat every Friday throughout the year (except solemn feast days). Instead of abstaining, you may substitute special acts of charity or piety on Fridays. We abstain on Fridays because it's the day of Christ's saving death on the Cross; we abstain to share in His work of saving the world. Catholics aged 14 and older are obliged to abstain. <https://bit.ly/3OnYuqv>

Sacramental Prep

First Reconciliation for First Communion

Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 10:30am at St. Gregory the Great Parish

First Communion Prep Class #5 at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday February 25, 2024 at St. Gregory the Great Parish Hall (190 Simcoe St. N.)

Confirmation Prep Class #4 at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Feb. 11, 2024 in Holy Cross Parish Hall.

Come & See – Discernment Weekend Retreat
March 15–17, 2024 at St. Augustine's Seminary
Friday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. until
Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m.

To register www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee. For more information, vocations@archtoronto.org



Announcing the 2024 ShareLife Campaign

As we approach our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 17, it is essential that we come together in compassion to meet our Parish Campaign goal of \$14 million, addressing the growing needs in our communities.

Your support of ShareLife makes these programs possible, among many others. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, or at www.sharelife.org/donate.

Job Opportunity in Youth Ministry



St. Gregory the Great and Holy Cross Parishes in Oshawa are looking to hire a full-time youth minister. The deadline for application is February 16, 2024. More information at: (<https://bit.ly/workasYMathHCSTG>) OR, (<https://bit.ly/3vg6lQ4>)



Join Us at Faith Formation Study: Theology of the Body - Part 2 - Redemption of the Body

You are invited to join us for a Faith Formation Study: Theology of the Body of St. John Paul II, presented by Paul Coates, (M.Div.). In Part II we will reflect on the mystery of Redemption of our bodies by our Lord Jesus Christ. Join us at St. Gregory's Parish Hall (190 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa), for eight Thursdays, until March 21, 2024, except March 14, from 7 pm to 9 pm. The cost is \$40 per person, students may make a donation, and everyone is welcome!

REGISTER AT: <https://bit.ly/TOBSTGTWO>

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

All Income Tax Receipts have been sent to processing. You should receive your receipts in the mail on or before February 16th, 2024. If after the 16th, you have not received yours. Please contact the parish office.

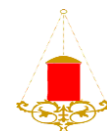
Join our new Sunday noon choir!

Due to interest and enthusiasm among some of our Parishioners regarding singing at Mass, we are looking for volunteer singers to sing in our mixed choir (adults, youth, and children). Our Sunday noon musicians Karen and Allan will have a tryout for potential choir members immediately after the Sunday Masses. The rehearsals for the choir singers will be one hour before Sunday noon Mass. The singers will be expected to come to church by 10:50 am on Sundays. Even if you are not sure how, come and (learn to) sing.



St. Jude's Knights of Columbus General Meeting:

THURSDAY February 15th at 7:30pm



*The Sanctuary Lamp
burns this week for:
Ermelinda Pinto*

Please remember Holy Cross Parish in your Will.