

St. Joseph's Parish
& St. Anthony's Mission Church
573 Simcoe Street, P.O. Box 179
Beaverton, ON. L0K 1A0
Tel: (705) 426-7424
Fax: (705) 426-7639
Email: st.joseph.church@rogers.com
Web Site: www.stjosephsbeaverton.ca

May 1, 2020

To my Dear Parishioners:

The news on the radio and on tv or in the newspapers are still stressing ~ stay at home, stay strong & save lives. Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer says, "we could see a second wave that is even bigger than the first". Hence, we have to cooperate with our authorities.

This Sunday is "Good Shepherd Sunday" and a Vocation Sunday. The First Friday of May has been designated by Cardinal Collins as our "Archdiocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. As such, we invite ALL parishes and individuals, throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto, to pray in a special way for all religious vocations; Priesthood, Religious and Consecrated Life".

The Gospel of St. John 10:1~10, states that the sheep know the voice of the Shepherd, so they follow him. We are also told that the sheep will not follow a stranger but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. The shepherd has to be with the flock entrusted to his care.

Pope Francis in his address to the priests of Rome on March 6, 2020 said, "Thus, in the image of the Good Shepherd, the priest is a man of mercy and compassion, close to his people and a servant to all. This is a pastoral criteria I would like to emphasize strongly: closeness. . . closeness & service . . . closeness & nearness!"

EVENTS FOR MAY

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK ~ May 3 ~ May 8, 2020

Catholic Education Week 2020 begins on Sunday, May 3, 2020. Publicly funded Catholic education has existed in Ontario since 1841 and its graduates have served Ontario and Canada very well. The current generation of students in our publicly funded Catholic schools will serve with the same spirit and generosity as their previous generations. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "*Igniting Hope.*" Due to Covid 19, all activities have been cancelled. Please continue to pray for all those in our Catholic school system.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE ~ VIRTUAL

Join the virtual National March for Life ~ May 10 ~ 14, 2020. In light of the health pandemic, we are pleased to present our first ever Virtual March for Life: a week-long, online programme building up to the day of the 23rd National March for Life, which marks the May 14, 1969 passing of the infamous omnibus bill that opened the floodgates to abortion on demand in our country. For more information please go to www.marchforlife.ca.

EMAIL SCAM

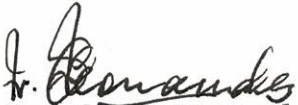
Please be advised that an email scam has been targeting parishioners of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The fraudster emails parishioners claiming to be their pastor and requests gift cards for a person who has fallen on hard times. Please spread the word about this scam and promptly respond to any messages from parishioners who have received this email.

Today, on May 1, is the Feast day of St. Joseph to Worker. Let us surrender ourselves into the protecting care of our patron saint and of our country. That during this time of Covid 19, all our dear people may be protected especially in the nursing homes and all our front line workers. Also, the month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary, let us take time to say the Rosary, making all the mysteries our own. In a letter for the month of May, the Pope notes that it is a tradition to pray the Rosary at home with the family during this month. This year, he continues, "the restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view". That is why he is proposing to everyone to "rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May", whether individually or as a family group.

As we live in these uncertain times the uncertainty can be a reminder of what gives us strength and courage to face each and every day and it helps us so that we can live among fear with peace in our hearts, that which comes from Jesus Christ. Our ability to trust him and to have faith in him is of the utmost importance. That leads me to profess my sincere gratitude to all the families who have continued to financially support our churches in paying our bills, which continue to come in.

Let us be inspired in the hope this week as we hear the Lords call in and through others and as we pray for one another, let us importantly stay safe and out of harm's way and draw close to one another as disciples of the Lord. I believe Lord, help my unbelief and may God bless you all.

Yours in the Risen Christ,


Rev. Oswin Fernandes
Pastor