ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3
Phone: 416-485-1792 Fax: 416-485-4920
Email: stanselmparish@bellnet.ca Website: stanselmsto.archtoronto.org

PARISH STAFF
Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor
Aloysius Chan, Organist

SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

INDONESIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (UKI)
Sunday Mass: 2:00 p.m.
(Second & Fourth Sundays of the Month)

WEEKDAY MASSES
Tuesday - Friday: 8:15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
By appointment – Course Required

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Arrangements 12 months in advance
Marriage Course is required

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MEDITATION GROUP
Meets in the Parish Hall Tuesday at 8:45 a.m.

PRAYER GROUP
Meets in the Griffin Room Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday: 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Friday: 9:00am – noon;
1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

St. Anselm's School
182 Bessborough Drive
Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5
416-393-5243

Dear Parishioners – we are here for you. Email is being monitored regularly at stanselmparish@bellnet.ca You may also leave us a voicemail message at 416-485-1792.

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 1:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3B-7, 12-13
May 31 2020
Psalm 104 John 20:19-23

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Researchers who have studied the language-learning abilities of infants suggest that babies may be born ready or "wired" to learn any language. We gradually un-learn our ability to hear languages foreign to our environment and retain only the ability to hear the language(s) of our family. It's fascinating to think that before this un-learning occurs, no language is really foreign to a newborn baby. Today we celebrate the newborn church. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that the gathering in Jerusalem included "devout Jews from every nation under heaven." They were celebrating Pentecost — the 50th day after Passover and a day on which tradition held that the law was given to Moses. It was like an ancient Jewish United Nations where, without benefit of interpreters or technology, they understood each other. No language was foreign in the infant church, but the church grew up and somehow we un-learned too much. Within our church, there is often discord. We label each other as "liberals" or "conservatives" and all dialogue stops. Some are suspicious of all authority. Others claim authority for what is only opinion. There is division among the Christian churches. We do not understand each other. We cannot worship together. On that first Pentecost, after the mighty wind and tongues of fire, Peter preached and all could understand him; about 3,000 professed their faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized. It is the Spirit's work to make community out of individuals — and not just individuals from the same family or the same neighborhood or even the same race, class or language. We're talking all people! The Holy Spirit creates community with those who may be unlike us. As Madeleine L'Engle writes in *The Irrational Season*, her beautiful book of meditations on the liturgical year: "How very odd it seems, dear Lord, / That when I go to seek your Word / In varied towns at home, abroad, / I'm in the company of the absurd." Our church community is not always what we want it to be. We may be too slow to respond to the signs of the times or too quick to change. Our leaders may be too conservative, too liberal, too worldly or too out-of-touch. Our gatherings may be too much about all that fellowship stuff or too cold and inhospitable. The preaching may be pedestrian, the music hard on the ear, the whole Sunday hour annoying or an utter bore. Here's the thing: Nowhere in the Gospels is there a suggestion that the Christian life is something we can do alone. Nowhere does it suggest that the church is a comfortable club of like-minded people. The church is messy and annoying and is absolutely necessary to the Christian life.

And yet today we find ourselves enduring the nightmare of COVID-19, a global pandemic which none of us has ever experienced in any of our lifetimes. The worldwide internet has never before had so much traffic with school lessons, meetings and work sessions all online. People everywhere continue to connect online with loved ones, business partners, or friends and acquaintances near and far. International leaders try to work together; worldwide corporations in the public sector answer the call for masks, ventilators and hospital beds. For once, the world's people have tried to unite in the common efforts of care and concern as death tolls rise amid frayed nerves and fears that have cut right into our cores, leaving us all to wonder what life is going to be like once COVID-19 ceases to dominate the face of the Earth. COVID-19 has created gaping holes in the fabric of human life regardless of race, creed, economic and ethnic background, orientation, gender or class. Now, a spirit of compassion, generosity, ingenuity, hospitality and creativity bonds the human species together, making us realize that despite our diversity and different social and geographical

locations, we are all one in this common global pandemic experience. This "oneness," however, experienced through this horrific pandemic is an invitation for the human community to reach deep within itself to discover what truly binds us one to another. Certainly, the bond is not COVID-19 but rather, the Spirit of the divine poured into all creation, all life, all people. This Sunday's readings shine a light on what truly joins us together as a gifted people. For Christians, Pentecost needs to be more than a liturgical feast; it is to be a way of life. Truly, all people are one in the One together and with the rest of creation, and that is the evangelizing word that Christians are called not only to proclaim but also to live out. Without this realization that we are all one, there can be no lasting peace, which is the gift the Christ offers and waits for it to come to fruition. Let us pray this day that we take our oneness into our new normal and remember the lessons we have learned at such great cost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confident in the promise of our risen Lord, let us pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
For a renewal of the Gifts of the Spirit in our lives, that we may recognize and put into practice all the gifts which we have been given so that the Body of Christ may be strong in serving the reign of God...We pray…

For all our beloved dead, especially those who have died as a result of Covid-19, that they may enjoy the refreshment, rest and peace of God's heavenly kingdom in the company of all the saints…We pray…

For the sick, especially for all those suffering from Covid-19, that God may surround them with his compassion and healing love…We pray…

For all who work to restore life and bring healing, especially for those serving Covid-19 patients, that God may guide them as they journey with those in pain and protect them from harm…We pray…

For government leaders, that God may give them insight and courage as they develop plans to preserve the health and safety of society and to reopen the economy…We pray…

GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE PROVIDE-A-MEAL PROGRAM

Thank you to all our faithful casserole chefs who have contacted us asking about casseroles for the Good Shepherd Refuge. At this time, we ask that you do not prepare casseroles for the program as they are not being collected from parishes.

Our building (office, church, basement) remains closed and we cannot collect or retrieve casseroles that are dropped off. Furthermore, the Good Shepherd Refuge has suspended serving the communal meals that come from these casseroles due to the current health situation. Instead, they have been serving "boxed lunch" type means with single serve foods such as granola bars. The Good Shepherd may still be accepting donations delivered directly to them – should you wish, please call them directly at **416-869-3619** to inquire about what they are able to accept, and which items are most needed.

We look forward to the day when we can resume this parish ministry safely. Until then, thank you for keeping your vital role in the provide-a-meal program in your mind and close to your heart.

Both Barrig and I were on webinars sponsored by the Archdiocese. Both sessions dealt with how we were going to re-open our churches and church offices when health officials say it is safe to do so. At this point in time, we do not have dates for either opening the church or office. It was impressed upon us that there must be a consistency of practice throughout the Archdiocese when that day comes. What we can say for sure is that we will be operating differently.

For those who are planning to celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist – at this time, nothing has been decided by the Archdiocese as to when or how these celebrations are to take place.

We will continue to update you as information is conveyed to us.

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