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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor Deacon Daniel McPhee Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor Aloysius Chan, Organist

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: Sunday:

5:00 p.m. 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 Please call for appointment.

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.

FALL OFFICE HOURS By appointment.

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



Tuesday, March 29th, 8:15 a.m. Anton Melchers Requested by the Family

Wednesday, March 30th, 8:15 a.m. John McLoone Requested by the Tangney Family

Thursday, March 31st, 8:15 a.m. Hu Gue Foy Requested by Michelle Chue and Family

Friday, April 1st, 8:15 a.m. Richard Carey Requested by M.G. McCollam

DAYS OF CONFESSION FOR LENT

The Archdiocese of Toronto has designated **March 27-April 2 and April 3 – April 9** as Days of Confession in parishes across the city. Each parish will offer opportunities to go to Confession during this time. You can find an updated schedule for neighbouring parishes at <u>Archdiocese of Toronto -Day of Confessions - Central Region (archtoronto.org) At St. Anselm, confessions will be heard on Tuesday, **March 29th from 9:00-10:00am and 5:00-6:00pm.**</u>

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,

for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, atrisk and in fear,

that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

We continue to collect contributions to assist with the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. You may donate through the parish with a cheque made payable to "St. Anselm – Ukraine Humanitarian Relief or securely online at any time by visiting <u>www.archtoronto.org</u> Thank you!

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE

The separation we have experienced over the last two years has taken a toll on us all. We were grateful to be able to offer our weekly Mass on YouTube, as it served as a much-needed connection between parish and parishioners during strained and isolating times.

With churches now fully open, we look forward to welcoming you back to Mass attendance in person, so that we may return to celebrating the sacraments in community together, as they are meant to be received.

Masks may be worn in the church. Continued hand hygiene is encouraged upon entry.

Our final YouTube Mass will be available on the weekend of April 3rd.

SAVE THE DATE! SPRING "BUNDLE UP" WEEKEND

Our spring dates for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's "Bundle Up" are **April 23/24**. The truck will be in the church parking lot on that weekend. Here are some accepted/not accepted items:

Accept

All Clothing (Any Condition) All Footwear (Any Condition) Bedding (Any Condition) Drapery/Towels Toys (New only) **Don't Accept** Baby items (Cribs, Car seats, strollers or any other baby furniture) Construction Material (Any Condition) Dishes (Any Kind) Furniture (Any Kind)

Books /Video/Audio Cassettes

Thank you for your consideration of those in need in our community.



This weekend is the first ShareLife Sunday

"Vulnerable members of our community are relying on you and me to ensure ongoing access to the care they so desperately need. This is why it's crucial we meet our parish campaign goal of \$13.8 million. Our goal can be met, but only if we each do our part." – Cardinal Thomas Collins

Our parish goal at St. Anselm's this year is \$110,000.

Please give generously on ShareLife Sunday or at sharelife.org.

Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2Cor 5:17-21 Psalm 34 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 "Taste and See that the Lord is good"



So frequently, our focus during this holy season of preparation for Easter gravitates toward the wrong that we have done. We review the laws of God and the church and we realize that there have been infractions both great and small. We evaluate our relationships with God and with

one another and admit that we have not been as faithful as we are called to be. We remember the goals we set for ourselves and are painfully aware that we have fallen short. We gauge the quality of our character, the depth of our spirituality and the fervour of our prayer and find that we are in great need of growth. While it may be tempting to engage in this practice of negative navel-gazing, the mercies of our God call us to a more positive attitude. Admitting guilt and accepting responsibility is a necessary first step, but to remain in the morass of hopelessness created by our own sinfulness is to waste an opportunity to draw ever more closely and fall ever more deeply in love with God.

Each of the sacred texts for this Sunday references this process of turning a negative into a positive by surrendering a sinful past *to* the past. Upon their arrival in the land of Canaan, the Israelites were instructed by God through Joshua to remember no more the time spent in captivity in Egypt. Instead of dredging up the memories of suffering and the failures of the desert days, they were to celebrate their Passover to freedom and renewed union with God. A new era was beginning for them, but the same Lord who had called them into being, called them forth from Egypt and guided them through the wilderness would never leave their side.

Paul evokes a similar outlook in today's second reading. Let go of the old ways of sin, urged Paul, and embrace new life in Christ. The great apostle was so convinced of the rebirth that comes with living in Christ that he called baptized believers "a new creation." Paul was also convinced that those who were reconciled to God had become part of an ongoing process — the experience of reconciliation would be extended to others through them. There is a sense of exhilaration that comes with being forgiven, and Paul was hopeful that this joy would be contagious.

Nowhere is this joy more poignantly expressed than in today's Gospel. The son and brother we have come to call the "prodigal" is never named. Perhaps his anonymity makes it easier for readers to see something of themselves in him. His life, by his own choice, had spiraled down until it seemed that he could fall no further. He could have remained there, at the lowest

point, wallowing in self-pity and self-loathing. He may have thought that he deserved his desperate situation, and no one would have disagreed with him. But there in that pigsty he decided to let go of his sinful past and try for a new beginning. At this turning point in the Lucan parable, the evangelist tells readers, "He came to his senses." Rather than dwelling on himself and the mess he had made of his life, the son began to think of the goodness and love of his father. This thought enabled him to let go of what he had become and entrust himself to his father's mercy. Here lies the lesson for Lenten believers. Essential to the process of reconciliation and forgiveness is a willingness to let go and leave the past behind. Without such baggage, the one who seeks forgiveness is able to welcome God's mercy with empty, open arms. To bring this very special moment of homecoming to life, the 17th-century Dutch artist Rembrandt painted a larger-than-life portrait that now hangs in The Hermitage museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. When he saw the painting on a trip to the former Soviet Union in 1986, Henri Nouwen shared his experience in The Return of the Prodigal Son (Doubleday, New York: 1992). "The more I gazed at the painting," wrote Nouwen, "it became, somehow, the heart of the story that God wants to tell me and the heart of the story that I want to tell God and God's people. All of the Gospel is there. All of my life is there. All of the lives of every beloved sinner are there. The painting has become a mysterious window through which I can step into the kingdom of God. It is like an open gate that allows me to enter into the presence of the God who loves me." This same God beckons to each of us today to let go of the past and, without looking back, to run into the loving and open arms of our Maker.

Group "B" Casseroles will be due April 16th which is Easter weekend. Please stay tuned for drop off information in future bulletins.

We are grateful for your ongoing support of your parish. **Our offertory and building funds are crucial to daily operations.** You can request a box of donation envelopes, enrol in our parish pre-authorized giving (PAG) program or make a secure one-time or recurring donation online by visiting <u>ADoT Parish - Toronto East</u> <u>Donation Form - Archdiocese of Toronto (archtoronto.org)</u> and choosing "St. Anselm" from the drop-down menu of parishes. Cheques may be mailed or dropped off in the parish office mailbox at any time. Thank you for your support!

