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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 Saturdays 4:00-4:30 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.

FALL OFFICE HOURS By appointment.

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



Tuesday, February 21st, 8:15 a.m.

Mary Kostovcik Requested by Mel Kostovcik

Wednesday, February 22nd, 8:15 a.m. Fred Kirvan Requested by the Family

Thursday, February 23rd, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the Aust Family

Friday, February 24th, 8:15 a.m. Peace and Care of Creation Requested by EcoAnselm

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be three opportunities to receive ashes on Wednesday, February 22nd:

Morning Mass: 8:15am Word Service (school): 9:30am Mass: 7:00pm

SAVE THE DATE! BUNDLE UP COMING SOON!

The St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Up weekend is coming up on <u>March 25-26</u>. The truck will be in the lot all weekend to accept your gently used clothing, textiles and footwear donations. Specific information on what can be accepted will follow. Please consider an early spring cleanout and save your donations for the truck that weekend. All items donated go to help those in immediate need.

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW BOOK CLUB FOR LENT AT ST. ANSELM'S

Join our pastor, Fr. Moore, Tuesday mornings from 10-11am in the church (February 28 – March 28) for discussions around **Brideshead Revisited**, a novel by Evelyn Waugh.

There are still a few spaces open so please contact the parish office by email or phone to register now! Once registration is confirmed, please acquire a copy of the book, either from the local library or a book retailer ahead of the first meeting.

TURKEY/SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

We continue to accept donations to aid the relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. Please call 416-934-3411 to donate by credit card or provide a cheque payable to "St. Anselm – Turkey/Syria Earthquake – Humanitarian Relief" in the collection basket at Mass or by mail to the parish office.

Announcing the 2023 ShareLife Campaign

As we approach our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 26, we ask you to reflect on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

The parable challenges us: if a brother or sister Reaches out for help, will we treat them like our neighbour or keep them at arm's length? Through your kind generosity to ShareLife, you reach out to others at the side of the road. Your act of love will make a tangible difference in the life of others. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

WANTED: Choir Members

The members of St. Anselm's Church choir would like to extend an invitation to the singers and instrumentalists in our congregation. We are actively seeking new members leading up to Easter.

We would also be happy to have you as permanent members if that is something you think you can embrace. We look forward to meeting new members. Please speak to our director, Goody Cabral after Mass this weekend or email goodycabral@gmail.com

INCLUDING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

If you have included your parish or favourite archdiocesan charity in your Will or estate plan, please let us know. Through the Legacy Society of the Archdiocese of Toronto, we would like to say a special thank you.

All Legacy Society members are invited to the Annual Legacy Society Lunch & Mass by the Archdiocese of Toronto. They also receive:

A hand-crafted cross blessed by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins.

A personal letter from Cardinal Collins and a certificate acknowledging your intention.

Invitations to Legacy Society functions and other special events.

Let your legacy be a testament of your faith! All Legacy Society members have the option of remaining anonymous.

If you have any questions, please contact the Development Office at development@archtoronto.org or 416-934-3400 ext. 519.

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Ps 51 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11 CALLED TO BE HOLY



St. Paul often reminds his readers that one of the main perks of being an imitator of the risen Jesus is the freedom it offers. Matthew certainly agrees. Nowhere are examples of this freedom more clearly outlined than in his Sermon

on the Mount. Practically the whole passage is based on *hesed, a* Hebrew word that describes a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate behaviour towards another person. It expresses an essential part of God's character and is used a great deal in the Old Testament.

In several of the examples of Christian behaviour highlighted in today's passage, someone has taken away a person's freedom. Yet, in each case, Matthew's Jesus expects us to go beyond the coercion and do something completely free, something the other person doesn't expect. "When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other as well. If anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them also the second mile." Presenting the other cheek, handing over your cloak, going the extra mile are all free actions, performed in the midst of a situation in which someone has taken away our freedom. The late Anthony de Mello tells the story of the Hindu holy man who one day was accosted by a robber who put a knife against his chest and demanded, "Give me all your valuables!" The holy man immediately handed over his pouch containing a few coins. The robber grabbed the pouch, pulled his knife back and started to run away. But the man yelled, "Wait! There's more. I have a ruby hidden in my sandal. Here it is. Take it too." The next day the man was again stopped by the same robber. "What do you want?" the holy man asked. "I gave you everything yesterday. I don't have anything else." "Yes you do," the robber said. "I want what you have that made you give me that ruby vesterday."

First-century Christians also had something many non-Christians envied. It was a generosity that kicked in when most people would have been selfish; a generosity that enabled them to still be free even while their freedom was being taken away. It was a personality trait that imitated Yahweh's *hesed* toward all of us.

Matthew's Jesus seems to have bought into the priestly author's Genesis 1 theology that all of us are created in God's image and likeness. "I say to you," he commands, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." God isn't forced to only punish the bad and reward the good. If God's actions aren't limited by people's behaviour, then why should ours be limited? There's not an awful lot about God that we can imitate; but we can at least imitate God's *hesed*. It's part of the freedom God has made available to all humans.

. The Gospel today poses the biggest challenge as Jesus commands us to embrace those who would do us harm: "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father." There are perhaps few among us who manage to love so widely and so generously as to love even our enemies, but Jesus' words stand as a constant challenge to continue to grow in our ability to love as God loves. This is the central commandment of Jesus, to love God and to love our neighbour. Furthermore, the teaching of Jesus makes it clear that our neighbour must include everyone, even those who hurt us and sin against us. In a few short days, we enter into the season of Lent. If Lent is supposed to draw us deeper into God's life, then it must draw us into deeper loving. When the first reading calls us to be holy as God is holy, it goes on to command love of neighbour. That's what holiness is all about!

We are grateful for your ongoing support of your parish. **Our offertory and building funds are crucial to daily operations.** You can enrol in our parish preauthorized giving (PAG) program or make a secure one-time or recurring donation online by visiting <u>ADoT</u> <u>Parish - Toronto East Donation Form - Archdiocese of</u> Toronto (archtoronto.org) Thank you for your support.

