

Living the Gospel



ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 25/26

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Website: stanselmsto.archtoronto.org

Mass Intentions for Week



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

Joseph Kostovcik
Requested by Mel Kostovcik

Wednesday, March 22nd, 8:15 a.m.

Ruth Murphy
Requested by Theresa Ryan

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

John Michael Brennan
Requested by Greg and Sabrina Paolini

Friday, March 24th, 8:15 a.m.

For Peace and Care of Creation
Requested by EcoAnselm

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE UP IS NEXT WEEKEND

The St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Up weekend is **NEXT WEEKEND, March 25-26**. 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 is posted on our bulletin boards in the church lobby. Textiles and gently used footwear are in especially high demand this year. All items donated go to help those in immediate need.

LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSIONS

The Archdiocese of Toronto has designated **March 19-April 1** as Lenten Days of Confessions across its parishes. At St. Anselm's, our Day of Confessions will be **Wednesday, March 22nd**:

- 9:00am-10:00am
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm

No appointments are required for these time slots.

VOCATIONS

"We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day." Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca

SHARELIFE

Show your love on the Feast of St. Joseph through ShareLife

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph and reflect on his holy life and the way he loved and cared for Jesus and Mary.

Next week is ShareLife Sunday. May we emulate St. Joseph's example and share our blessings with the least of our brothers and sisters.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESUMES MARCH 26th!

Children in the parish who are currently in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1 are invited to join our volunteers for Children's Liturgy of the Word at the beginning of the 11:00 Mass. They will be accompanied to the parish hall, complete a fun activity related to the weekend's Gospel message and return to join their family in the church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please note, this is not Sunday School or sacramental preparation and is not a drop-off. No registration is required.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP FRANCIS LEO

The installation of Bishop Francis (Frank) Leo as Archbishop of Toronto will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Given capacity restrictions at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, this will be an invitation-only event. The Mass of Installation will be livestreamed through www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live and broadcast on Salt & Light Catholic TV and through their website: www.slmedia.org.

Parishioners are invited to attend a regional Mass of Welcome taking place in the central region on **Tuesday, April 11th at BLESSED TRINITY CHURCH (3220 Bayview Ave.) at 7:00pm**. A reception will follow Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome. Please continue to keep Archbishop Leo in your prayers as he begins his ministry as our shepherd.

Good Shepherd casseroles for Group "B" will be collected on Saturday, April 15th.

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Ps 23
Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST



There is definitely a frightfulness associated with the dark, whether that darkness is physical or spiritual. However, as today's sacred texts will confirm, there is no darkness so deep or so powerful that

one cannot be liberated from it by God and by grace. In her autobiography, *The Story of My Life* (published as a series in the 1902 *Ladies' Home Journal*), Helen Keller described her own experience of liberation. A childhood illness left her deaf and blind at 19 months, and her next few years were filled with angry outbursts and frustrated fits of violence against those who were at a loss as to how they could best help her. Said Keller, "I got used to the silence and the darkness that surrounded me and forgot that it had ever been different until she came — my teacher — who was to set my spirit free. Thus, I came up out of Egypt and stood before Sinai and a power divine touched my spirit and gave it life. From that sacred moment, I heard a voice which said, 'Knowledge is love and light and vision!' " Although Keller never regained her sight or her hearing, she went on to experience the beauties and mysteries of life with such clarity that she was able to share what she called her "soul's sudden awakening" with others. In her blindness, she has helped many to see; in her deafness, she has enabled many to hear.

Like the man born blind featured in today's Gospel, Keller's life experience continues to witness to the One by whose words and works every darkness can be illuminated. The blind man, too, came out of "Egypt" or the exile to which his blindness had relegated him. At Jesus' word, he began to know a dignity and a freedom that had previously eluded him. He saw, he believed and he emerged from his physical blindness as well as his spiritual darkness. His experience, as well as that of Helen Keller, invites us to turn with renewed trust to the One whose coming, whose dying and whose rising can illuminate our darkensses. The narrative of the man to whom Jesus gave the gift of sight is the sixth of the seven signs in the Johannine

Gospel and is subtly connected to today's first reading through the sacred action of anointing. Unlike human beings, who sometimes see no further than one's outward appearance, God looks into the human heart. God saw in David the person through whom the Messiah would eventually come among us. For that reason, the Lord told Samuel to anoint David "and the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward."

In today's responsorial, the psalmist celebrates the fact that everyone who is willing to be led and shepherded by God is also anointed — that is, made holy and set apart to become an active participant in dispelling the darkness that continues to threaten humankind. When a sense of helplessness holds us back, we are to remember our baptismal anointing and know that we are not alone or unequipped. Jesus' anointing of the blind man in the Gospel brought light and renewed hope into the man's darkened life. Liberated from his blindness, the man began to see and to believe in Jesus. His seeing and his believing challenge us to leave behind our personal darkness and live in the light of Christ. Such a decision is not without risk. When the man was blind, he was pitied by many and ignored by others; in his "helplessness," he posed no threat. But the gift of sight and his willingness to use it made him both a target and a threat in the eyes of those who refused to see and believe in Jesus. The challenge for us today means looking inside once more to see if we are truly willing to follow Jesus into the light. Let us pray today for the courage to answer.

*Let us all join in prayer, that we may seek a change of heart, give ourselves to prayer, and persevere in our good works...**Lord, in your mercy...***

We are grateful for your ongoing support of your parish. You can enrol in our parish pre-authorized giving (PAG) program or make a secure one-time or recurring donation online by visiting [ADoT Parish - Toronto East Donation Form - Archdiocese of Toronto \(archtoronto.org\)](https://www.archtoronto.org). Thank you for your support.

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