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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 2:00 p.m.

# PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – noon; 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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



**Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** Winifred Pieri Requested by Vicki Garnett

Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:15 a.m. Isidore & Germaine Pelletier Requested by René Pelletier

**Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** Meghan Burke Requested by Sheila Flynn-McGrath

**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** Rosa Loconte Requested by the Family



The signup for EcoAnselm's half-day retreat, "HOPE AND RESILIENCE", will be in the front Millwood Lobby following all masses this weekend. The retreat is offered by EcoAnselm with the support of KATHY MURTHA, **Retreat Co-Ordinator and Facilitator** with the Mary Ward Centre. Retreat will take place in the Parish Hall on SATURDAY, MAY 04th (1:00 – 4:30). To help cover costs, a suggested offering of \$20.00, or any amount, is appreciated. ALL are welcome to share in this inspiriting retreat. "We call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, our discussions, and each of our endeavours that they may please You and serve You well. Amen" (excerpt from An EcoAnselm Prayer, 2018)

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**Chalice** is coming to St. Anselm Parish! At the May 11-12 Masses, Canada's largest Catholic Child Sponsorship organization will provide you the opportunity to begin a relationship with a child in the developing world through the benefits of Child Sponsorship. It is a powerful way to reveal God's love for those most in need. Please visit chalice.ca for more information about Chalice and its mission.

# **GROUP "A" CASSEROLES**

Group "A" casseroles for the Good Shepherd will be collected on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm in the church parking lot. That date falls on the long weekend. If you know you'll be away but would like to drop off your casserole early, please contact the parish office to make alternate arrangements.

Cottage season is upon us – please remember the less fortunate who still seek the assistance of the Good Shepherd Refuge even with the warmer temperatures. Meals are still in high demand and with those in every parish who find themselves out of town on summer weekends, casserole numbers tend to experience a downturn from May to August. We can accept your frozen casserole outside of the third weekend drop-off date – just let us know.

If you've been considering joining the casserole program, now would be a great time! We provide the pan, lid and simple recipe. You shop for the ingredients, assemble, cook and freeze the casserole and drop it off to us. Each one of these casseroles feeds TEN hungry individuals. Please contact the parish office for more information.

# Congratulations

...to the children in our parish who received their sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation over the last few weekends. Your parish community was thrilled to support you and witness these sacraments. A special thank you to Most Reverend Robert Kasun, CSB, for celebrating Mass last Saturday and confirming thirty-eight of our youth in the parish.

#### **SHARELIFE**

Share the love with our beloved seniors through ShareLife

Last year, ShareLife supporters like you offered quality care and companionship to over 2,300 vulnerable seniors.

"The largest thank you to all ShareLife donors for your continued generosity! With your support, our centre is able to provide assistance to seniors in need through our community programs." – Jaymie Daunt, LA Centre for Active Seniors

The third ShareLife Sunday of the year is June 2. We ask you to share your blessings through the parish or at sharelife.org/donate.

Thank you for living the Gospel!

Acts 9:26-31 1 John 3:18-24

Ps 22 John 15:1-8

#### THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES



The vine was an image with which Jesus' contemporaries would have been quite familiar. The twisted branches of a growing vine exhibit formidable strength. Each branch begins as a delicate, slender, palegreen tendril that reaches out to attach itself to a wall or trellis. Within just a short time,

that tendril can be pulled from its place of mooring only with difficulty; it has taken hold and, as it draws its life from the gnarled vine that has sent it forth, it begins to grow. With its growth comes a hardening into permanence so that the tendril begins to resemble the vine from which it came. As it grows, it fastens itself to other tendrils that have also grown into branches, and these form a living network of life and strength that will eventually bear much good fruit. With this rich image to inspire their efforts for the Gospel, the Johannine Jesus sent his disciples into the great vineyard of humankind. He reminded them that apart from him, the true vine, they would be able to do nothing. However, if they remained in him and allowed the word that he spoke to remain in them, their service would be authentic and their prayer meaningful.

Although Paul and Barnabas, referenced today in the reading from Acts, predated the final draft of the Johannine Gospel, their efforts on behalf of the Gospel were reflective of its sound theology. When Paul first arrived on the scene after his Damascus experience, however, the believers in Jerusalem did not recognize him as part of the true vine and one of their own. His reputation had preceded him, and, out of fear and suspicion, they held him at a distance. Only with the support of Barnabas, whom they trusted, did Paul gain a somewhat tenuous acceptance by the community. Even then, they disagreed among themselves, and Paul had to flee for his life. Nevertheless, despite its disagreements and struggles, the church, the one true vine, "was built up ... and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers."

This juxtaposition of problems with progress has always characterized the community of believers. As disparate, dissonant and distrusting of one another as we may be, we have a shared source of unity to cling to — the one true vine enlivened by the one Holy Spirit who continues to breathe purpose and relevance into its wizened, twisted branches. There will always be Pauls among us to challenge and irk and enlighten, just as there will be Barnabases to ease us though conflicts and mediate peace. We, for our part, are to respect all the other branches with whom we form the one vine that is Christ. Rather than wish that the divine vinegrower might prune away this one or that one who, in our estimation, is no more than a nuisance or dead weight, we might do well to heed the wise counsel of one of our ancestral branches on the vine of Christ. In today's second reading, the Johannine writer urges each of us to love, not in word or speech but in deed and truth. This is the fruit-bearing called for in the Gospel: that those who are grafted onto the one true vine and who are privileged to be inspired by God's living Word, might embody these gifts in all they say and do. Jesus' usage of the vine imagery is unique in that he himself claimed to be the true vine and the source of life for his disciples. Because of the more intimate relationship with God provided to humankind in Jesus, neither race nor nationality, not gender, social status or ancestral heritage would ever again factor into God's saving plan. Jesus' declaration affirmed the fact that union with him in loving and faithful discipleship, would constitute the true vine of which God is the vinegrower. As branches in the one true vine, Jesus' disciples are to "remain" or "abide" in him. In doing so, disciples experience both a privilege and a responsibility. Remaining in Jesus means sharing his very life and relationship with God, but this sharing charges the disciple to bear much fruit. Bearing fruit will require faithfulness to the words of Jesus and willingness to translate his message into ministry. But all of us are not grapes. Some of us are apples, oranges, bananas and even red-hot chili peppers. Therefore, the fruit that we bear and the ministries we exercise in accordance with Jesus' words will be varied. If we are humble enough, these services will also complement one another, allowing us to serve the needs of the entire vine, which includes all of humankind. The choice is, as always, completely our own, because the great respecter of our freedom forces nothing. Each day, every day, it is ours to decide whether we will remain one with Christ and bear much fruit or be fruitless branches that are then pruned away to become fuel for the fire.



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