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## St. Anselm's Parish

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### Mass for Intentions Week

**Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** Numy Diez Pena Requested by the Carter Family

Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m. Conor O'Doherty Requested by Dermot & Breda O'Carroll

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m. Mickey Byrne Requested by Denis & Carmel Madigan

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** Iona D'Silva Requested by Christopher, Aubrey & Melanie D'Silva



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S BUNDLE UP TRUCK WILL BE HERE NEXT WEEKEND (MAY 10 & 11) TO ACCEPT YOUR GENTLY USED CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILES!

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES (GROUP A) will be collected on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm in the church parking lot. This is the long weekend – should you wish to drop off your casserole on a date the week before, please call the parish office.



#### **BREATH OF LIFE**

May we allow the Breath of Life to be evident in our words and actions, in our homes, in our workplaces, in all our relationships, and in our world. Amen (Praying Our Journey, a resource for Prayer and Reflection, Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

The Holy Father's intentions for May: "Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized." <a href="https://ourladyofgracerosaries.ca/2025-monthly-prayer-intentions-of-pope-francis/">https://ourladyofgracerosaries.ca/2025-monthly-prayer-intentions-of-pope-francis/</a>



May - the month of Mary

Honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May began near the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. We acklowledge that she is the mother of Jesus, the mother of the Church and therefore our mother as well. Her particular vocation is to show Jesus to the world and invite us into deeper relationship with Him. She not only prays with us, but prays for us, so that we may know and do God's will.

The Rosary is an "old friend" that invites us to reflect on the mystery of Jesus, how He touched Mary's life and continues to be present to His Church. It is a simple and beautiful meditation. The Rosary can be quite calming in times of stress and anxiety, as it brings us into God's loving and healing presence.

This month when we pray the Rosary, let us remember to pray for peace, justice and the care of creation. Let us pray that we will join with God and build up the Kingdom.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the young people in our parish who will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation this weekend. May God bless and keep the newly confirmed!

### Life-Giving Wounds: A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorced or Separated Parents

The Life-Giving Wounds retreat invites participants to move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents' relationship to their deepest origin and identity as God's beloved, capable of great love. The next retreat will be from Friday, May 16 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, May 18 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Seminary (2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough). Must be 18 or older to attend. Cost: \$340 per person (\$200 for students), which includes meals, lodging and retreat material. Limited subsidies are available if cost is a concern. Please contact lgwtoronto@proton.me. Space is limited. To register, visit: <a href="https://bit.ly/LGW-TO-Retreat-Register2025">https://bit.ly/LGW-TO-Retreat-Register2025</a>

Catholic Education Week - "Pilgrims of Hope"

During Catholic Education Week (May 4 - 9, 2025), we give thanks for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education in our province. Catholic schools foster supportive communities where children experience the joy of God's love and understand the Christian mission in the world. As we celebrate this Year of Jubilee, as pilgrims of hope, let us journey with our parishes, educators and families to sow and nurture the seeds of faith with the next generation of Catholics, encouraging them to live lives of holiness and Christian witness as one body in Christ. To indicate your support of Catholic education and signup for email updates, visit: www.togetherinfaith.ca.

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41 Psalm 30 Rev 5:11-14 John 21:1-19



"ONCE UPON A TIME" Those words tell us there's a story coming - and unconsciously we're ready for one that communicates cultural values and we hope it will end in happily ever after. Today's Gospel opens with the words, "At that time," Perhaps a better translation would

be, "After these things." Do you get it? Just in case you aren't used to decoding John's hints, he's telling us that we have to look backward to understand the story he's about to tell. First, he wants us to remember the past two Sundays when Jesus broke into the disciples' hiding place and commissioned them to carry on his ministry of forgiveness. Eventually, we'll see that John really wants us to look to the call of the first disciples and, in light of that, to understand that the Gospel ends with *our* call to discipleship. St. Ignatius of Loyola would suggest that John is inviting us to contemplate this Gospel by stepping consciously into the roles of Jesus' disciples so that we too hear the invitation to "come and see."

Now let's pay attention to a few more words. "After these things, Jesus showed (revealed) himself again." John is preparing us to behold a revelation, and it's one that could not have taken place before this moment. This last story of the Gospel closes the narrative of the call of the first

disciples. This is written for us latter-day disciples who never knew Peter or the others and it invites us to share their experience and their faith. Back to the story. Peter, called to be a "fisher of followers" and recently commissioned to carry on Jesus' mission, announced that he was going to work and others joined with him. Although many commentaries suggest that he was returning to his former way of life, another line of interpretation suggests that, as he went to sea, Peter was symbolically beginning his mission in Galilee. Unfortunately, they labored in vain. We readers tend to think that John has clued us in to understand what the disciples were supposed to discover in this story. John introduced this as an incident in which Jesus revealed himself and let us in on the secret that Jesus was the stranger on the shore. When we hear that the stranger called out, literally asking if they had any food, we think we're in on all the secrets. But John is never that simple. One does not recognize Jesus just because someone points him out. When the disciples admit their failure at fishing, the stranger tells them to try once more and they bring in more than they can manage. With this, the beloved disciple recognizes the Lord - not from his voice, his words or appearance, but from the overwhelming abundance of fish. Those fish recall the baskets full of leftovers the disciples collected after thousands shared bread in that same area. Hearing, "It is the Lord," Peter replicates his dash to the empty tomb and jumps into the water. Jesus awaits him by a charcoal fire like the one near which Peter had recently denied knowing Jesus. Instead of giving us any dialogue, John simply describes the gathering around the fire, repeating key elements of the sharing with the multitude. Jesus, who asked for food but already knew what he was going to do, takes the bread and gives it to them along with the fish. John presents this as Jesus' last breaking of the bread with his disciples. He is showing us that the risen Christ reveals himself in the breaking of the bread and in abundance.

The last scene with Peter, the threefold call to love Christ by feeding his flock, proclaims the unbreakable connection between the breaking of the bread and the vocation to carry on the mission of forgiveness, which is the mission to love as Jesus loves. John's Gospel, "written so that we may believe," like a well that never runs dry, continually offers us new insights. Today, John's last story invites us to return to the beginning of the Gospel. Now, instead of being spectators from another era, we are urged to receive it as Christ's self-revelation to us, for our day. As we do so, we will be confronted with Jesus' question, "What do you seek?" His response, "Come and see," is the invitation to follow him anew, to be opened to life in abundance, and to do as he did, by feeding his sheep. In each step along the way, Christ is waiting to reveal himself again. Thus our "once upon a time," or "after these things," will become a "forever and ever." Amen.

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