

# ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

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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: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - Friday: 8:15 a.m.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

## SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Helping neighbours in need

## St. Anselm's School

182 Bessborough Drive  
Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5  
416-393-5243

## Mass for Intentions Week

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Linda Jean Langero  
Requested by the Family

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Carl Deleuze  
Requested by the Family

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Mary Kostovcik  
Requested by Mel Kostovcik

**Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

For Peace and Care of Creation  
Requested by EcoAnselm



### **PANCAKE SUPPER** **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Get Your Admission Tickets TODAY**

Tickets for our Pancake Supper will be available for purchase this weekend and next \$10 per person or \$25 for a family of three or more. Exact cash would be appreciated. If you're planning on attending on the 17<sup>th</sup>, ***please consider buying your tickets ahead of time to give the organizers an idea of numbers for planning purposes.***

#### **2025 TAX RECEIPTS HAVE BEEN MAILED**

All parishioners who donated through the collection basket or Parish PAG should have received their 2025 tax receipt in the mail. Please make sure to keep it in a safe place!

#### **LENTEN BOOK CLUB WITH FR. TOM**

All are welcome to join our next book club. Meeting dates are Tuesday mornings, ***February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>d</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11am.*** This time around, we will be discussing the novel "Wicked" by Gregory Maguire (not the same as the musical!)

***St. Vincent de Paul has received an urgent request for an infant car seat and newborn clothes for a baby due in March. Please call the parish office if you can help.***

## Mighty Big Thanks!

...to **Cobs Bread Leaside** (1539 Bayview Ave.) for their generous donation of baked treats for our gathering after the Anointing of the Sick Mass last Saturday! We are grateful!

We also offer our sincere thanks to the organizers and volunteers for preparing a lovely gathering.



**EcoAnselm**

#### **PRIMARILY A MATTER OF THE HEART**

At the Raising Hope for Climate Justice Conference, Pope Leo XIV called for an "ecological conversion" which he described as being "primarily a matter of the heart". Pope Leo called for a true conversion that moves past collecting data to ACTION.

He called for a "transformation of personal and communal lifestyles" and emphasized

"there is no room for indifference or resignation". Pope Leo XIV called upon each one of us to be "agents of change".

<https://www.ncronline.org/vatican/vatican-news/pope-leo-calls-true-ecological-conversion-words-action->

**"ALL CREATURES ARE LOVED BY GOD AND WORTHY OF LOVE AND RESPECT"** (Pope Leo XIV). Cardinal Michael Czerny S.J., concelebrating a mass for the Jubilee of Hope, added that the "Holy Father encourages us to discover God's presence in Creation.

Contemplating it, we are called to care for it, to be reconciled to it, to live in harmony with and to defend it with a prophetic spirit, to respect every human person, and to promote lasting and sustainable peace." [www.lasalle.org/en/pope-leo-xiv-all-creatures-are-loved-by-god-and-worthy-of-love-and-respect/](http://www.lasalle.org/en/pope-leo-xiv-all-creatures-are-loved-by-god-and-worthy-of-love-and-respect/)

***Sir 15:15-20***

***1 Cor 2:6-10***

***Ps 119***

***Matt 5:17-37***

#### **The Letter of the Law**



Matthew's Sermon on the Mount portrays Jesus as the new Moses giving the people God's commands. But Jesus takes the original Ten Commandments to a new depth. It is no longer enough to keep the letter of the Law; we must also keep the spirit. God sees not just our actions, but our hearts as well. Murder and adultery were forbidden, but now so are anger and

lust. It seems an impossible challenge. Who among us can claim to control every angry impulse or impure desire? This interior purity of heart is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul writes about how “the Spirit scrutinizes everything and reveals to us the mind of God.” Only the Spirit can guide human nature to such intimacy with God that moves us to choose what is good and right. The law is now written on our hearts, where desires and motives originate. We obey God’s will because it has become our own will. We obey not out of fear of punishment but to deepen our intimacy with God, the supreme Good. The joy of this is clear in Paul’s words: “Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor has it entered the human heart what God has prepared for those who love him. God has revealed this to us through the Spirit” (1 Cor 2:10). Still, we know from experience that the Spirit does not automatically remove all temptation or relieve us of the need for constant vigilance and discipline. What Paul is describing is the mature Christian whose baptismal character has developed in the ordinary way that human wisdom is acquired — through experience. It is said that wisdom is always late because it comes from making mistakes, even as compassion deepens only when we ourselves must seek forgiveness. This is why the basis for all virtue is not perfection but humility. Someone can avoid breaking the commandments but be rigid and proud. Justice is always tempered by mercy, and mercy is learned best when we need it from others.

Jesus fulfilled the law by taking it to a whole new level of discernment and practice. While the scribes and Pharisees knew and practiced the law scrupulously, they passed judgment on others and cut themselves off from compassion. Their supposed pursuit of holiness led them not to a loving, compassionate God but to themselves, locked in self-congratulatory isolation. How easy then for lust and anger, envy and greed to subvert their hidden selves, the fate of many a public representative of religion. The saying “The bigger they are, the harder they fall” aptly describes the self-righteous puritans and prudes whose hidden compulsions grow behind the façade of perfection. How many televangelists and politicians, charismatic leaders and gifted artists, convinced that they can do no wrong, have been brought down under the weight of their own self-importance? It is the occupational hazard of any figure who has power. Jesus offers a different kind of perfection, one marked by patience and humility and openness to others even when we are challenged or criticized. A true disciple is always a work in progress, a sinner in need of forgiveness, a seeker who does not have all the answers, only better questions. They live by mercy, moved to serve others in simple anonymous ways, not

driven by the high-octane ego that constantly needs to be recognized and revered by others.

The Sermon on the Mount was paradoxically not teaching from the top down but inspiration from the bottom up, breathed lovingly into ordinary people seeking ordinary, honest lives of goodness and kindness in their families and communities. Isn’t that us?

### **ASH WEDNESDAY February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 pm. Ashes are distributed during the celebration of Mass. This day is one of two days of fasting and abstinence from meat in Canada.** Canon Laws 1249-1253 state that **fasting** is required on your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until midnight of your 59<sup>th</sup> birthday and allows one full meal a day and two smaller meals. Eating between meals is not permitted but liquids such as milk and juices are allowed. **Abstinence** applies to all who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. It applies to all meat but does not include eggs or dairy products.

***Turn Away From Sin and Follow the Gospel...***

***Why we are marked with ashes...***

The call to continuing conversion reflected in our readings today is also the message of the ashes. We move through Lent from ashes to the baptismal font. We dirty our faces on Ash Wednesday and are cleansed in the waters of the font. More profoundly, we embrace the need to die to sin and selfishness at the beginning of Lent so that we can come to fuller life in the Risen One at Easter. When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth. We remember that we are mortal beings. We remember that we are baptized. We remember that we are people on a journey of conversion. We remember that we are members of the body of Christ (and that smudge on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too). Renewing our sense of who we really are before God is the core of the Lenten experience. It is so easy to forget, and fall into habits of sin, ways of thinking and living that are contrary to God’s will. From the very beginning of Lent, God’s word calls us to conversion. That, simply put, is the reason for Ash Wednesday!

***(Did You Know will return next week)***

### **GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES**

Group B casseroles will be collected NEXT **Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-5pm** in the church parking lot. Please call the parish office or email [Yvonne.gray@bell.net](mailto:Yvonne.gray@bell.net) if you would like information about the provide-a-meal program in our parish. Each casserole feeds TEN hungry individuals!

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