

## 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

TODAY'S READINGS ALL carry reference to the central theme of forgiveness and the importance of showing God's mercy to others in order to receive it ourselves.

In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the unforgiving servant to teach of the need to always forgive our neighbour. We hear today about a man who pleads for forgiveness but is unwavering in his refusal to grant the same. This ironic tale showing the hypocrisy of society aptly presents both the power and difficulty of forgiveness. As recited in the Lord's Prayer and detailed in the readings of today's Mass, we are challenged to demonstrate our desire for God's unconditional love and compassion through our practice of the Golden Rule each day.

We are reminded in today's Gospel how new life through forgiveness far outweighs the cost of any debt owed. Yet, just as the king's remission of the servant's debt mirrors God's invaluable and boundless grace, we, too, must never overlook our calling and responsibility to model the same to each of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For as we will one day be judged based on our life's body of work as testament of our faith, let us always seek to reflect Jesus' love by modelling His forgiving mercy in both words and deeds. *(Reflection of Matt Charbonneau of Living with Christ)*



### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, September 14, 2020

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of Susanna Lo

#### Tuesday, September 15, 2020

8:30 a.m. Birthday Wishes for Meryl

#### Wednesday, September 16, 2020 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Michael Chan

Birthday Wishes for Tyrone Tang

#### Thursday, September 17, 2020

8:30 a.m. + Joseph Yung Fu Yuan

#### Friday, September 18, 2020

8:30 a.m. + Maria Kee Sau Yuan

#### Saturday, September 19, 2020 Multi-intention

9:00 a.m. Msgr. Pat - Anniversary of Priesthood

+ Patrick Saldanha

4:30 p.m. + James Hutchinson

#### Sunday, September 20, 2020

8:00 a.m. For the Holy Father, Pope Francis

9:30 a.m. + Ann Spath

11:00 a.m. Msgr. Pat – Priestly Anniversary

Dear Parishioners:

I must admit, even though numbers are less, that it is good to be able to celebrate Mass, daily, and on Sundays, again in our church. I know that many churches, during this time of COVID-19 have been essentially watching Mass on the internet, not only from parishes that provide a link, but especially the daily Mass from the Cathedral-Basilica with Cardinal Collins. The Archbishop has seen this as his way of being out front and evangelizing the faithful people of our Archdiocese, and beyond.

It is clear that many people miss attending Mass in person at their parishes. For some, their age, and health, are a concern. For others, they are simply concerned about not knowing what to expect. This sense of anxiety is understandable. I try to be conscious, when celebrating Mass, to speak to those who are watching virtually. I cannot tell you how many emails and letters we get to say how much people appreciate being able to connect to their home parish, even though other options are available. While they can offer the Prayer for a Spiritual Communion at each Mass, they long for the day they can receive it for themselves. This "hunger" and desire for the Lord, in the sacraments, is something truly inspiring and causes us to reflect more deeply on the importance of our church, especially in times of great need.

As an example, a few weeks ago, I reached out to one of our oldest parishioners, aged 95, who, in the past, never missed Mass on a Sunday. He would take Wheel Trans, had a walker, and was always the first at the door when I opened for Mass. He has not been able to attend Mass since the initial closing of churches almost five months ago. In our phone conversation, I realized he needed the strength of the Eucharist and so I arranged, with social distancing guidelines, to bring him the Eucharist. I also brought my seminarian-intern with me.

I was surprised, when we arrived, to find him already sitting on his front porch, in a rocking chair, saying his rosary, his mask firmly in place. He looked at my seminarian, Fraser, and told him that he recognized him from our virtual Masses. He said, "You will be a good priest, and I promise to pray for you." Fraser was inspired by his words and his example of faith, marveling at how strong he was, even at 95 years old, and still intimately connected to the Lord. Following our visit, I could tell this would be a memory that would remain with the seminarian for a long time. The man's grateful words would also remain with him: "Thank you for bringing me Jesus."

I particularly pray for the day we can all return to the sacraments in great numbers. I pray for a vaccine (and I encourage you to do the same). In the meantime, let us not give up hope, but appreciate that God is still very much with us, in all that we do, and in the many ways, we see him in the church, and in one another, every day.

Yes, not even a pandemic can separate us from God. We just need to look closer at how He is present, in so many ways. For me, that man on the porch was a moment of God's grace.

In conclusion, I leave you with a scripture passage, taken from St. Paul to the Romans (8.35,37-39), which I trust may be of inspiration to you during this time of pandemic.

*"Brothers and sisters: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor Angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Msgr. Pat

### **Welcome to Seminarian Sean Jacob**

Hi! My name is Sean and I will be your new seminarian intern for the upcoming year! I was born in India, and moved to Kenya during my childhood before finally arriving in Canada when I was 10 years old. I attended UofT in Mississauga and finished with a BA before discerning the priestly vocation and entering St. Augustine's Seminary. Some of my hobbies include playing and watching sports, reading, cooking and calligraphy. I am excited to be a part of this parish for the upcoming year and I look forward to meeting everyone and journeying with you as I continue to discern my vocation. Please pray for me during this year and rest assured I will be praying for the parish throughout my time here. (Sean arrives September 15<sup>th</sup>.)

### **School Principals**

*Msgr. Pat invites your prayers for our two new school Principals: Laurienne Graham at St. Edward's School and Nanssi Chahine at St. Cyril's School. Joseph Bellissimo returns as Principal of St. Antoine-Daniel School and Mary Topping Keenan returns as Principal of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts. Please pray for the principals, teachers, students, parents and staff of each of our parish schools. May God bless them and keep them safe in these challenging times.*

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Youth Ministry is now being conducted virtually (on-line). For more information, contact Jessica Bews, our Youth Director, at one of the following links:

Instagram: @st.edsym

Email: stedwardyouthministry@gmail.com

### **ShareLife**

Due to parishes not being able to take up specific collections for ShareLife, parishioners have been kind in supporting ShareLife more directly, either by the use of Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), or by contributing through the special DONATE NOW link, on the parish website, which connects them to the Archdiocese. Many have also brought their individual envelopes to Sunday Mass, or mailed them to the parish office. To all who have donated to the Share Life campaign, we thank you for your generosity. To date, St. Edward's has raised \$75,156 towards the goal of \$123,000. The 2020 parish goal was set a year ago, and so we are fully aware much has changed and that these are indeed challenging times, and so SHARE LIFE is all the more grateful for the contributions that have been provided to date and those that will come in over the next weeks and months. Thank You!

### **ORDINATION OF BILL NALEPKA**

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, will ordain Bill Nalepka, and 6 other married men, to the Permanent Diaconate, on Saturday, October 3rd, at St. Michael's Cathedral-Basilica at 10:00 a.m. Bill, and his wife, Angie, and their daughter, Veronika, are well-known members of this parish, and so we are excited to celebrate this important and sacred moment in their lives and in the life of the Church. Due to COVID-19 concerns around social distancing, the Ordination will not be open to the public, but will be live-streamed through the website of St. Michael's Cathedral-Basilica at 10:00 a.m. Bill will also be present at all the weekend Masses, October 3rd and 4th. For those wishing to contribute cards or words of best wishes, special gift baskets will be available after all the Masses, or you can leave at the parish office. While Msgr. Pat wishes he could host a social, for the whole parish, this is not possible due to COVID-19 precautions. Yet, we more importantly pray for Bill Nalepka, and his family, as they prepare for his Ordination.

### **FIRST COMMUNION**

Close to 100 children will be making their First Communion in September and October at St. Edward's Parish at Masses which have been scheduled specifically for this purpose, so as not to overcrowd the regular mass schedule. Please pray for the children and their families who will celebrate on the following dates: Saturday, October 26th, Sunday, September 27th, Saturday, October 17th, and Sunday, October 18th.

### **CONFIRMATION**

We are still awaiting word about when we may proceed with the Sacrament of Confirmation, for students who have already been prepared. Once we hear from the Archdiocese, we will contact all students, and their parents, through the emails provided at the time of their registrations for the Sacraments.