

Why do we go to Confession? Or Why Should I Forgive?

The sacrament of confession, or reconciliation, originated in the early church's life when it became clear that those who had been baptized were not immune to serious sin. Lesser sins are considered to be forgiven through prayer, fasting and works of mercy.

Many early Christians lived through times of persecution. While many held fast to their faith under threat of torture and death, some denied it, a sin known as apostasy. When the persecution ended, many who had denied the faith wished to return to the Church. What? Accept them back? Re-baptize them? This happened in the time of Pope Calistus, for example.

For those who had committed apostasy or serious sins like murder and adultery, were not allowed to receive the Eucharist, but were expected to do a public confession to the bishop, along with fasting and prayer before being forgiven. However, a person could undergo this procedure only once.

Then there came along an Irish monastic practice: confession to a spiritual advisor who would assign an appropriate penance and recite a prayer of absolution.

The important thing to remember is that forgiveness is not an act of devotion but an act of conversion from the heart. It is good for us to forgive. When we forgive, we free ourselves of the burden of bitterness and we free the other person of the burden of guilt. But our forgiveness must come from the heart which means it must be true, sincere and warm.

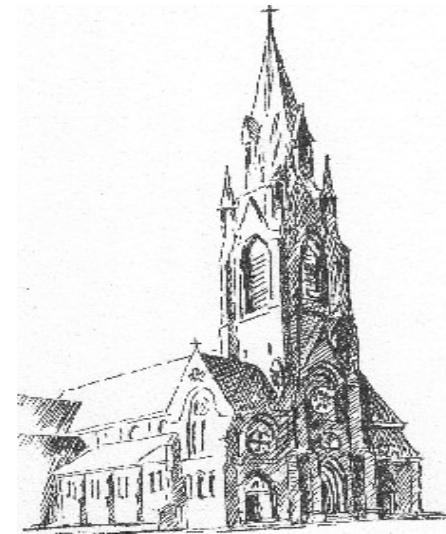
First Communion & Confirmation

All children receiving First Communion and all young adults receiving Confirmation must register with the parish. A baptism certificate must be presented. Please contact the parish office for more information.

All adults that did not receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation and wish to do so, please contact the parish office.

St. Mary's Church

Rev. Fernando Couto (Pastor)
Rev. João (John) Ferreira (Associate Pastor)



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OFFICE HOURS

Mon.– Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

Sunday Masses

8:30 am Portuguese
10:00 am Portuguese
11:30 am English
1:00 pm English

Weekday Masses

Monday—Friday 9:00 am Portuguese
6:00 pm English
Saturday 5:00 pm English
6:30 pm Portuguese

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

Legion of Mary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
First Friday of Every Month at 5:00 p.m.

English Choir

Portuguese Choir
Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

Santo Cristo
Joey Teves 647-887-2804

Santo Cristo Band (Hall) 416-703-2231
Marco Lima (President) 416-818-5462

Santo Cristo Association
Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

Espirito Santo
Afonso & Filomena Vieira 905-840-8571

Saint Vincent De Paul 416-247-8868

Volunteer Co-ordinator
Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

Baptism—Sundays
Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

Marriages
Please contact the priest 12 months in advance

Confessions
Every day before Mass, except on Sunday

Schools
St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205
Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



XXIV Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 11, 2022

The theme of all three readings is that of God's mercy towards sinners. In the First Reading we see that the people had abandoned God and fallen back into idolatry.

God's reaction seems to portray him as an angry, jealous God, who will resort to the most terrible punishments when his law is disobeyed. But that's not the message of the story.

The message is that God pardons the sin of his people in response to the prayer of Moses.

Psalm: I will get up and go to my Father.

The fact that Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them was a cause of scandal to the Pharisees. They, the 'separated ones', avoided all contact with sinners.

They assumed that god has no dealing with sinners either. But Jesus shows them a different kind of God.

By means of three parables he justifies his concern for sinners. All parables stress God's concern for the lost one, and his joy when a lost one is found.

Sing to the Mountains

**Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Let all the earth rejoice.**

I will give thanks to you, my Lord.
You have answered my plea.
You have saved my soul from death.
You are my strength and my song.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us be glad and rejoice.
He has turned all death to life.
Sing of the glory of God.

On Eagles' Wings

You would dwell in the shelter of the lord
who abides in his shadow for life
Say to the lord, "My refuge"
"My rock in whom I trust"

**And he will raise you up
on eagle's wings there you are
the breath of dawn
make you to shine like the sun
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under his wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

Be Not Afraid

You shall cross the barren desert,
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though
you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

**Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come follow me, and
I will give you rest.**

If you pass through raging waters in the sea,
you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.

Blest Are They

Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
they shall be consoled.

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the Kingdom of God!**

Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Mass Intentions For This Week

Saturday, September 10th

5:00 pm. Elias Brum—Intentions for Gleb Bazov & Ndeye-Astou Diara—Souls in purgatory—Angelo António Medeiros

6:30 pm. João Manuel Pereira de Estrela—Gualter de Sousa—Carlos Foppiano

Sunday, September 11th

8:30 am. Julie Lopes

10:00 am. Community—José Farias, parents, siblings & family members—José Carlos Silva—Intentions of John & Lilia Tavares—António Botelho—Susana Margarida Medeiros—António Augusto Rodrigues & parents

11:30 am Lenea Maria Rocha

1:00 pm Veneranda Damaso & deceased fam. members

Monday, September 12th

9:00 am. Maria Jose Ledo, parents & in-laws

6:00 pm. Danilo Lamila

Tuesday, September 13th

9:00 am. Manuel Calmeira

6:00 pm. Ildeberto Camara

Wednesday, September 14th

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Souls in purgatory

Thursday, September 15th

9:00 am. Parents & fam. members of Bernadete Pereira

6:00 pm. Manuel & Maria Couto & family members

Friday, September 16th

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado

6:00 pm. Maria Póvoa

Saturday, September 17th

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado & in-laws

6:30 pm. Fernando & Agrinoalda Camara—Maria da Aparecida & family—Serafim & Conceição Pereira—Intentions of Jordão & Conceição da Encarnação