

**POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR LESS JUDGEMENT
TOWARD DIVORCED CATHOLICS**

Pope Francis on his apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia”, Latin for “The Joy of Love”, has urged bishops and priests to take a lenient approach to divorced Catholics, single parents and unmarried straight couples who are living together.

“A pastor cannot feel that it is enough to simply apply moral laws to those living in irregular situations, as if they were stones to throw at people’s lives”. By saying that priests should be flexible when dealing with divorced Catholics living in “irregular” situations is certainly not pleasing to conservative Catholics, who had called for a clear reaffirmation of the traditional teaching. The document exposes stark regional differences within the Church. For instance, priests in Germany regularly give Communion to divorced Catholics, while in Poland, the practice is almost unheard of.

The pope speaks of “closed hearts that frequently hide even behind the church’s teachings, in order to sit in the chair of Moses and judge, sometimes with superiority and superficiality difficult cases and wounded families” and reaffirms that “every person, regardless of sexual orientation ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration”.

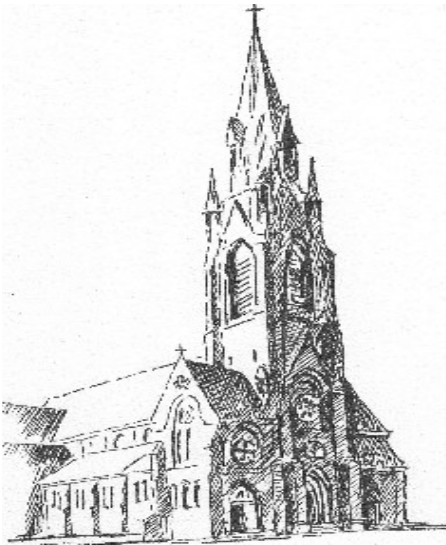
Pope Francis declared this on the Jubilee of Mercy, and at every opportunity, he has been reminding us that forgiveness and mercy are the heart of our faith. “No one can be condemned forever because that is not the logic of the Gospel!” and this applies not only to the divorced and remarried, “but to everyone in whatever situation they find themselves”. Families are under siege by the pressures of modern life and the message of this apostolic exhortation is “Welcome”.

“Today, more important than the pastoral care of failures, is the pastoral effort to strengthen marriages and thus to prevent their breakdown”.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is a process for adults who want to become Catholics. It involves catechesis, scripture studying, learning about the sacraments and regular participation in the Sunday liturgy. R.C.I.A. is not a means of obtaining a certificate in order for someone to register their child in the Catholic school. At St. Mary’s the R.C.I.A. instructions will begin in November.

St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)
Rev. Fr. Andre de Lima (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

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

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

English Choir
Susan Taylor 416-277-6291

Portuguese Choir
Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

Santo Cristo
Joey Teves 647-887-2804

Santo Cristo Band (Hall) 416-703-2231
Paul Valerio (President) 647-998-5916

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

Espirito Santo
Jose & Margarida Silva 905-873-1908

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



XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 23, 2023

First Reading: (Wis 12:13.16-19) God has both the knowledge and the power to root out evil people if he so desired. But this reading talks about his leniency, and how we ought to imitate it.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading: (Rom 8:26-27) The Holy Spirit helps us to pray when we can't find the words to express what is on our minds.

Gospel (Mt 13:24-43) The Church, and indeed the world, is like a field in which wheat and weeds grow side by side until they are separated at the harvest time.

Christ's parable originally addressed the problem of sinners in the Kingdom of God. The Pharisees believed that the Kingdom was for saints only; sinners therefore should be ruthlessly weeded out. But Christ didn't agree, as this parable shows. The main point of the parable is clear: up to the last judgement, the Kingdom will be a mixed bag of good and evil. In the meantime the Church must be patient; it must preach repentance and practice leniency. Mercy and leniency are an expression not of weakness but of strength.

Glory and Praise to Our God

Glory and praise to our God
Who alone gives light to our days
Many are the blessings He bears
To those who trust in His ways.

We the daughters and sons of Him
Who built the valleys and plains
Praise the wonders our God has done
In every heart that sings.

In His wisdom He strengthens us
Like gold that's tested in fire
Though the power of sin prevails
Our God is there to save.

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Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
Who will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

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Immaculate Mary

Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing.
You reign now in heaven with Jesus our King.

Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Maria!

In heaven the blessed your glory proclaim;
On earth we your children invoke your fair name.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 22nd
5:00 pm. Mariano Machado & family—Manuel & António Faria—Leonel Moniz Cabral, parents, in-laws & family—25th Aniversary of Diana & Mike Gonçalves

Sunday, July 23rd
8:30 am. Souls in purgatory, parents & in-laws of José Silva

10:00 am. Comunidade—Maria Fátima Melo—Libério & Conceição Ledo—Frs. Manuel Gonçalves Fernandes, Agostinho Pacheco, António Arruda, António Teixeira, Manuel Bernardo, Pat—Paulo & Bartolomeu Pacheco—Albertina de Sousa—Maria Goreti Sousa, parents & grandparents

11:30 am. Mary Celmira & Alida Rita Delgado
1:00 pm.

Monday, July 24th
9:00 am. Rosária Ferreira
6:00 pm. José & Maria Bernardo & children

Tuesday, July 25th
9:00 am. Olinda Adriana & family
6:00 pm. Ermelinda Arruda

Wednesday, July 26th
9:00 am. Praise to Saint Anne
6:00 pm. António Gaspar

Thursday, July 27th
9:00 am. Souls in purgatory
6:00 pm. Danilo Lamila

Friday, July 28th
9:00 am. Souls in purgatory
6:00 pm. Nelson de Melo

Saturday, July 29th
5:00 pm. Maria Fátima Couto—João Rodrigues—Violeta Purizaga