

St. Mary's Church

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.

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Missions Co-Op

Last weekend we held the Missions Co-Op collection. We received a total of \$2,105.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Catechism/Sunday School Registrations

All registrations for First Communion (Grade 2) and for Confirmation (Grade 7) must be carried out during the month of September. You can pick up a registration form after each Mass.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Needs of the Church in Canada (Bishop's Collection)

Next Sunday, September 24th, we will have the annual collection that will be taken up for the needs of the Canadian churches.

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

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

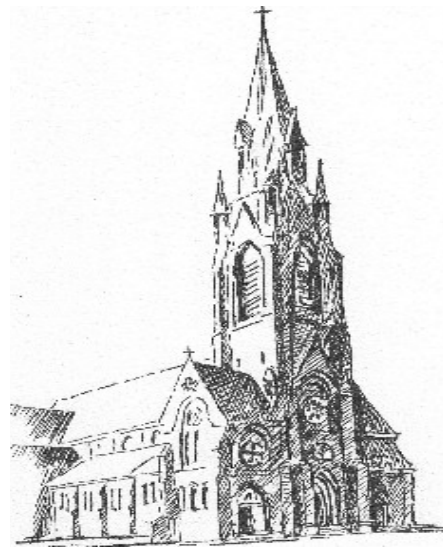
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

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



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OFFICE HOURS
Mon.— Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

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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



**XXIV Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2023**

First Reading: (Sirach 27,33-28,9)

In refusing to forgive those who have sinned against us, we exclude ourselves from receiving God's forgiveness for our own sins.

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

Second Reading: (Romans 14:7-9) The entire existence of a Christian is for Christ and for others.

Gospel (Matthew 18: 21-35) We must be willing to extend to others the generous forgiveness God has extended to us.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that if we want God to forgive us, we must forgive others. We all know how hard it can be to forgive. At the same time we know how lovely it is to be forgiven. We always begin Mass by asking forgiveness for our sins. As we do so we should also ask for the grace to be able to forgive those who have sinned against us.

You Are the Voice

**You are the voice of the living God,
Calling us now to live in your love,
To be children of God once again!**

Praise for the light that shines through the night,
from darkness to light, from death to new life,
and praise to the morning that brings forth the
sun,

to open our eyes to the Lord!
to open our eyes to the Lord!

Praise for the water that springs from the sea,
the seed that gives life to all who believe,
God's love overflowing, our hearts know the joy
to be daughters and sons of the Lord!
To be daughters and sons of the Lord!

Praise for the singing and praise for the dance,
with new heart and voice,
all raise the song of praise to creation;
all heaven and earth, come sing of the glory of
God!

Come sing of the glory of God!

All That I Am

All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.
All that I dream, all that I pray,
All that I'll ever make, I give to you today.

**Take and sanctify these gifts
For your honour, Lord.
Knowing that I love and serve you
Is enough reward.**

All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.
All that I dream, all that I pray,
All that I'll ever make, I give to you today.

Peace Prayer

Lord make me a means of Your Peace;
Where there's hatred grown
Let me sow Your love
Where there's injury Lord
Let forgiveness be my sword
Lord make me a means of Your Peace.

Lord make me a means of Your Peace;
When there's sadness here
Let me sow Your joy
When the darkness nears
May Your light dispel our fears
Lord make me a means of Your Peace.

Lord grant me to seek and to share;
Less to be consoled
Than to help console
Less be understood
Than to understand Your good
Lord make me a means of Your Peace.

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, 16th of September

5:00 pm. José Manuel Oliveira Correia & intention of Lucia Correia—Danilo Lamila—Maria da Aparecida & family—Maria José Benevides & João da Ponte Benevides

Sunday, 17th of September

8:30 am. Beatriz & Agostinho da Mota
10:00 am. Community—Jaime de Sousa—Irene Loureiro—Jaime Teotonio—Souls in purgatory—Abel Da Rocha

11:30 am. Elvira & Francisco Bolieiro- 40th Wedding Anniversary

1:00 pm Bellia Medrano & Rolando Reyes—Luis Cabral

Monday, 18th of September

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado

6:00 pm. World Peace

Tuesday, 19th of September

9:00 am. Liberal Paul Silva

6:00 pm. Manuel & Maria Couto & family

Wednesday, 20th of September

9:00 am. Conceição Oliveira & Maria de J. Medeiros

6:00 pm. Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, 21st of September

9:00 am. Thanksgiving to Padre Pio

6:00 pm. Deodato & Leontina Medeiros

Friday, 22nd of September

9:00 am. Thanksgiving to Divine Holy Spirit

6:00 pm. Nelson de Melo

Saturday, 23rd of September

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado, & in-laws—Mary Celmira Delgado & Alida Rita Delgado—Manuel & Ana Faria—Leonel Moniz Cabral, parents & in-laws—João Rodrigues

