

What is Liberation Theology?

One could say that Liberation Theology is a synthesis of Christian theology and Marxist socio-economic analyses that emphasizes social concern for the poor and the political liberation for oppressed peoples.

In the 1950s and the 1960s, liberation theology was the political praxis of Latin American theologians, such as Gustavo Gutiérrez of Peru, Leonardo Boff of Brazil, Juan Luis Segundo of Uruguay, and Jon Sobrino of Spain, who made popular the phrase the “Preferential option for the poor”.

Simply put, liberation theology is a movement that attempts to interpret Scripture through the plight of the poor. Some took it to extreme. For example Camillo Torres was a Colombian priest who took part in armed uprisings and insisted that the Catholic who was not a revolutionary was living in mortal sin.

By the end of the last century many priests lived and worked among the poor in order to empower them and help them to educate themselves. In this struggle many priests were jailed and even murdered.

Bishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) preached sermons every Sunday which were broadcast on the radio. These were critical of the way in which the poor were treated in his country. He opposed violence but encouraged poor people to organise in order to oppose the government. In March of 1980 he was killed while celebrating Mass. His death had a great impact on El Salvador and on the whole of the Roman Catholic Church.

Father Rutilo Grande, for instance, was killed by government forces for his outspoken opposition to the government. The same happened in many Latin American countries. In Brasil there was an assassination attempt on Archbishop Helder Camara who said: “When I feed the poor they call me a saint. When I ask why so many people are poor they call me a communist”.

Liberation Theology is like a pilgrimage toward a better life and a more just society. Liberation theologians draw on the Bible for examples of God helping people to oppose slavery and political and social discrimination. These include the Exodus from Egypt when Moses led the Hebrew slaves to freedom, the return of the Israelites from the exile in Babylon, and the struggle against the Greeks led by Judas the Maccabee. We can also think of liberation from poverty, sexual exploitation, racism, etc.

First Confession

All children receiving their First Communion will have their First Confession on Wednesday, March 13, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.



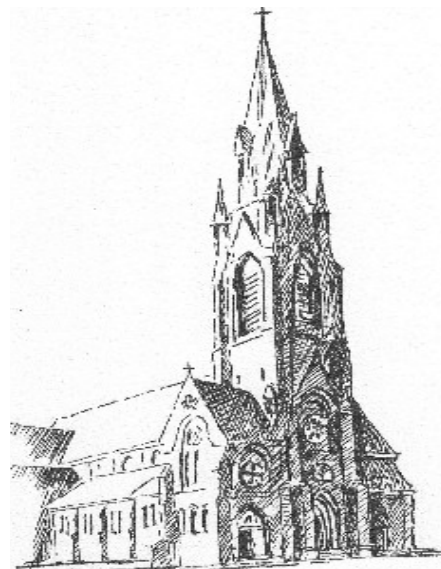
Lenten Confessions

We will have our Lenten Confessions on Thursday, March 14th from 10:30 to 12:00 noon and from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Artur Rocha 647-624-7113

Santo Cristo Band (Hall)

Paul Valerio (President) 416-703-2231
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



III Sunday of Lent

March 3, 2024

First Reading (*Ex 20:1-17*) The ten commandments are a map of life for the people that have a special relationship with God.

Psalm — Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

Second Reading (*1 Cor 1:22-25*) Paul preached a crucified Christ. To some the idea made no sense. To others it was a sign of the wisdom and power of God.

Gospel (*Jn 2:13-25*) By chasing the money changers and sellers of sacrificial animals out of the Temple, Jesus passed judgment on the Jewish system of worship.

Time Change

Next Sunday, daylight saving time begins, we should forward one hour on our clocks.

Tax Receipts

All tax receipts have been mailed. If you have not received your tax receipt, please contact the parish office.

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.

Blest are they, who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God!

Hosea

Come back to me, with all your heart
Don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, though straight and tall,
So must we to others' call.

**Long have I waited for your
coming home to me
And living deeply our new life.**

The wilderness will lead you
To your heart where I will speak.
Integrity and justice
With tenderness you shall know.

You shall sleep secure with peace,
Faithfulness will be your joy.

Song of the Cross

**Love lifted on the cross for me:
my Lord, my God, my salvation.
Love lifted high to set me free:
my Lord, my God, my salvation.**

Behold the wood of the cross,
behold the lamb that was slain.
Behold your king comes victorious,
behold he has risen again.

O be exalted, O God,
above the heavens and the earth.
For by your cross and resurrection
you have redeemed the world.

Give glory to the Father,
give glory to the Son,
give glory to the Holy Spirit;
give glory to the Holy One.

How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 2

5:00 pm. Manuel Pereira—Intentions of Micah MacMullan—António & Natália Furtado & family—Juanito Ibasan

Sunday, March 3

8:30 am. Francelina & Manuel Mendonça

10:00 am. Community—Henrique Sebastião—José Luis & Maria Teresa Branco — José, Henriqueta & John Rebelo—José Carlos Silva, Manuel Pereira

11:30 am. Arlindo, Ilda & Richard Vicente—Juanito Ibasan—Alfredo Castro & Edgar Marin

1:00 pm. Manuel Inácio, Maria Amaral, children & grandson—Francisco do Rego, Maria da Conceição do Rego & spouse

Monday, March 4

9:00 am. Mario Gomes Ferreira, family intentions, for the sick

6:00 pm. Manuel Afonso

Tuesday, March 5

9:00 am. Honour to Our Lady of Light

6:00 pm. Parents of Odilia Soares

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 am. Manuel Cordeiro & family

6:00 pm. António Rodrigues Marcos

Thursday, March 7

9:00 am. Manuel Silva & in-laws

6:00 pm. Francisca Paiva, Alfredo da Ponte Garcia, souls in purgatory

Friday, March 8

9:00 am. Ermelinda Arruda

6:00 pm. Luis Augusto Ribeiro Raposo

Saturday, March 9

5:00 pm. Souls in purgatory—Alda Jacob