

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

21 Simonston Blvd.
Thornhill, ON L3T 4R6
905-881-1534

Pastor

Rev. Anthony Iacobelli

Deacons: Michael Gennaro
James Shaughnessy

Celebration of The Eucharist

Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am
Thursday: 12:00 noon

Eucharistic Adoration (First Friday - following the 8:30 am Mass and closing with Solemn Benediction at 12:00 noon)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

Second Sunday of the Month
By appointment only.

Sacrament of Marriage

By appointment only - Contact the pastor at least one year in advance.
An approved preparation course is mandatory.

Parish School

St. Michael Catholic Academy 905-889-4816

For more information on Catholic education in our community, or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the Toronto Catholic District School Board at 416-222-8282 or www.tcdsb.org or the York Catholic District School Board 905-713-1211 or www.ycdsb.ca

email: gspadmin@bellnet.ca

website: goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 29, 2020

READINGS FOR – Palm Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 21.1-11

1st Reading: Isaiah 50.4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2.6-11

Gospel: Matthew 27.11-54



Dear Parishioners,

In order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and so as to comply with the Government of Ontario's new regulations requiring that all non-essential workplaces be closed, we are sorry to inform you that **the church and the parish office must remain closed until further notice.**

This is a deeply painful, but necessary, decision for our faith community.

However, we are still here for you during this difficult time. You can still leave a voicemail at the parish office: 905-881-1534. Or you can email us at: gspadmin@bellnet.ca. We will return your message as soon as possible. Visit www.archtoronto.org/covid19 for updated information from the Archdiocese of Toronto and for links to view the Daily Mass online.

Please continue to pray for those sick and those caring for them. Be assured of our daily prayers for you.

Yours in Christ

Father Anthony



THE WORD THIS WEEK

"I am the resurrection and the life"



The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. When Christ performed the great miracle of Lazarus' resurrection, He announced, through the work of the Father, that He, Himself, is the Resurrection and the Life. The story of Lazarus demonstrates that resurrection is not restricted to Jesus alone. In order to make this clear, Jesus delayed going to see his sick friend, with the result that by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. This reminds us of Jesus' own resurrection after three days.

Every time we gather, we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection in the Eucharist. We also proclaim it aloud when we recite the Mystery of Faith, affirming His death, His resurrection and His return in glory, when we too shall rise from the dead.

5th Sunday of
Lent
We prepare

To All Parishioners,

I hope and pray that you are staying healthy – both physically and spiritually. Please let me know if the parish can help you during these difficult times.

No doubt you are aware that our parish relies on the support of our parishioners to operate – parish salaries, programs and ongoing operating costs (heating, water, electricity, etc.) – are funded through the generosity of our parish community. It will be a challenge for our parish to maintain operations without the weekly offertory collection.

If you wish to continue supporting the parish financially, you can drop your envelope at the parish or mail it to us. You can also contribute through **pre-authorized giving**. For information on pre-authorized giving, you can obtain a registration form from the parish. Return the completed form and a voided cheque to get started. You can also e-mail the form and a scanned copy of a voided cheque to gspadmin@bellnet.ca.

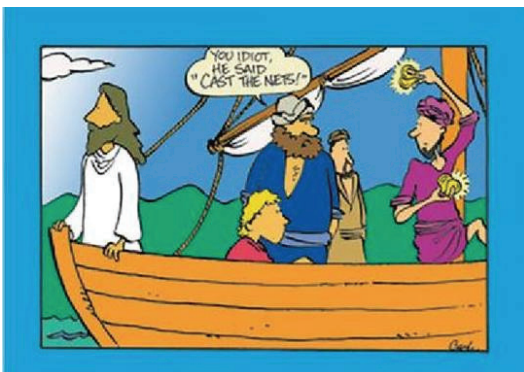
For more ways to give go the Archdiocesan website at www.archtoronto.org/covid19/pages/support_your_parish

If you have any questions please contact the Development Office at the Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-934-3400, ext.540 or development@archtoronto.org.

Thank you for your many contributions to our parish community. I miss seeing all of you at the Mass and I pray daily that we will be able to gather together again soon.

Yours in Christ,

Father Anthony



A LITTLE HUMOR



The \$20 and the \$1 Joke

Two well-worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired - a twenty and a one. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The twenty reminisced about the interesting life he had, traveling all over the country. "I've been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Las Vegas, Atlantic City," he said. "I even went on a Caribbean cruise. Where have you been?" "Oh," said the one dollar bill, "I've been to the Methodist church, the Episcopal church, the Lutheran church." "What's a church?" asked the twenty.

The Ham Sandwich

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. "You know," he said to his friend, "this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you're not supposed to eat ham, but I don't understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you break down and try it?"

To which the rabbi replied, "At your wedding."

Pearly Gates

A minister dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?" The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi driver, of Noo Yawk City." St. Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

The taxi driver goes into Heaven with his robe and staff, and it's the minister's turn.

He stands erect and booms out, "I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Calvary for the last forty-three years."

St Peter consults his list.

He says to the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff. How can this be?" "Up here, we work by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

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