

Teach me Your ways, O Lord...

It is true that we have all experienced our fair share of hurts in life and have wasted endless energy trying to settle old scores. One of the most difficult lessons to learn is forgiveness of those who have wronged us. The reluctance to forgive and the rush to judgement is the kind of thing that Jesus is trying to eliminate from our lives, and he sets the example for us through his own life as he extended the hand of love, kindness, and forgiveness until his death on the cross when he prayed, **“Father, forgive them”**.

He never sought revenge or retaliation against those who wanted to hurt him and in the end, it cost him his life. Forgiveness is a life-giving force that checks the downward spiral of hatred and revenge. The whole story of salvation is one of loving forgiveness.

Every time we recite The Lord’s Prayer, our request for forgiveness is conditional on ourselves showing forgiveness to those who have offended us. Not to forgive is to harbor resentment and to allow enemies to have control over us.



Mass Intentions

Monday	Intentions of Rosa Jung
Tuesday	Soul of Ivor Fernandes Soul of Anton Kwee Soul of Christa Souls of Artemio & Mindanita Agoncillo Soul of Jonna Agoncillo
Wednesday	Soul of So Tong
Thursday	Soul of Armando Santos
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

“Love Your Enemies!” What Does It Mean? Can It Be Done?

While breaking open the Word and reflecting on the Gospel reading during our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) session this week, the reaction of our group was one of disbelief. “Really, we must do this?” was the question on the group’s mind.

In Luke’s Gospel Jesus said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” (Luke 6:27-28) There it is, very clearly stated. To love your enemies is a powerful statement and not one that goes down easily. For me, it is one of the most challenging verses in the Bible. I ask myself, “What does loving my enemy mean? A better question may be, “What does my enemy look like?”

There are many types of enemies. Here I am referring to someone who may have hurt us in very serious, deep ways. Where our relationships have been tarnished by a negative experience. Have you ever gotten in a fight or misunderstanding with a friend? Have you been hurt by something a family member has done or said to you? Often there is a justifiable reason for hating and not liking someone. However, on the other side of those feelings and situations, there is another *person* who has become our enemy. This person offends us, does us harm, and makes life miserable for us. Still, they are the person God commands us to love, bless, do good to, and pray for. Jesus is saying that if we choose not to hate and to love and pray for those who wrong us, then there is the potential for change. Change for the person who chooses to forgive and love and change for the offender who may change by being shown mercy and forgiveness. A healing process can start. Jesus is not saying that we should put up with mistreatment or allow ourselves to be abused but rather by not behaving the same way as our offender and by responding with love. Love does not take revenge. Love does not hurt the other who has caused us harm. Love always treats others, even enemies, with a humble heart. Love calls us to go above and beyond, even more than expected.

It is easy to love someone who loves us, but Jesus says where is the gain in this? God shows his goodness and love to everyone even those who do not deserve it. Jesus knew what it meant to be hated but through loving those who wronged him, he used it to change lives. Jesus wants us to understand that true love comes from a deep trust in God. Jesus’ dying on the cross is the perfect example of this love. Jesus did not take revenge or get even, but gave His life as a payment for our sins.

“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.” – Nelson Mandela

Antoinette

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250



OLEG SAMOKHIN PIANO RECITAL

Saturday March 2, 7:30 p.m.

Oleg is holding a recital here in the sanctuary on the above date. You and your friends and relatives will not want to miss his dazzling performance of the wonderful music of Beethoven, Schumann, and Schubert. Tickets at the door will be \$35. **Reserved tickets** are \$20, \$25, and \$30. If you have questions speak to Greg Benoit after the Sunday masses, call him at 647-296-6851, email him at greg.benoit@rogers.com, call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or log on to: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4056351>. Come join us for a most inspirational evening!



St. Luke's CWL News

Parish Pancake Breakfast

Pre-Lent event! **March 3rd** after all masses.

CWL General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 26th at 7:30 pm in the parish hall. All members and anyone interested in joining are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Spring Trip to Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre

Thursday May 16th, 2019. Tickets still available. All men and women welcome! See our bulletin board or contact CWL at stlukesw12018@gmail.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 1, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY AUDITORIUM

140 Brooke St. Thornhill

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. Each year highlights a different country.

This year's theme, written by the women of Slovenia is: **"Come – Everything Is Ready"**.

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES
ARE DUE THIS SUNDAY. THANK YOU!

27th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally

Saturday, March 2nd

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

*Metro Toronto Convention Centre North Building,
255 Front Street West, Toronto*

Lift Jesus Higher Rally (LJHR) is an annual event for Youth and Adults that focuses on evangelizing through uplifting music, testimonials, confessions, reflections, Divine Mercy celebration and a Eucharistic Procession. Come and experience why thousands return each year! Adult Rally \$25.00, Youth Rally \$15.00. For tickets, consignments and information: visit www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca Email: contact@lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca or call 647-243-9441 or 905-270-2510

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Monday, February 25th at 7:30pm

Join us for an evening of Praise & Worship in the parish hall. All are welcome!

March Break Day Camp 2019

When: March 11-13. 9am-3pm (Drop-off 8:30am)

Where: St. Luke's Parish

Who: Grades 1-5

Cost: \$20/Day OR \$50 all 3 Days.

Families of students in grades 1-5 are invited to register their children for our parish day camp. The goal of the day camp is to challenge campers to grow in the spiritual gifts of wisdom, courage and strength by taking part in sports, high-energy activities, arts and crafts and reflection on Scripture. To register your child please visit the parish website: <https://stlukesstn.archtoronto.org/Ministries/youth-ministry>

For any inquiries please contact Greg Garda at SaintLukesYM@gmail.com OR 905-881-2786 ex.232.



Thank you for your generous clothing donations for our Out of the Cold Program. **The program has now ended for the season.**

As we have very limited storage space at the parish, the Salvation Army located at the Thornhill Recycle Centre will be pleased to accept your gently used items, or watch for SVDP Bundle Up Sunday May 11/12th weekend.