



*I am
with you always*

The gospel from Mark tells us that, after having spent the morning teaching in the synagogue, Jesus goes to Peter’s house, where he heals Peter’s ailing mother-in-law and dispels her fever. The heart of Jesus goes out to the suffering and he is unwilling to turn anyone away who is in need of his help. Everyone is looking to him for an answer to their problems and uncertainties. As he moves through the crowds Jesus brings consolation and hope. By identifying with the sick and afflicted Jesus is clearly indicating that suffering is part of God’s mysterious plan. Afterwards Jesus slips off in search of a quiet place where he can be alone and in silent prayer with his Father. Jesus is modeling what he may want of us – caring for the sick, time for people, moments for prayerful reflection.

When Life is Hard, Is God Punishing You?

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where everything seems to be going wrong and you start wondering, “What have I done to deserve this?”

In today’s first reading, we are presented with Job; a man who is experiencing desolation. Listen to his cynical attitude towards life: “Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never see good again (Job 7:7). Later in the chapter Job asks God, “If I sin, what do I do to you...Why have you made me your target? Why have I become a burden to you?”

Misunderstanding Our Relationship with God

When we find ourselves in desolate times we often make two mistaken assumptions..

First, God is punishing us. Unlike in Eastern religions, “karma” – that an intent or action will necessitate a deserved reaction – is not a principle in Christianity. In other words, God does not punish or reward us based on past actions.

Second, God weighs our good and bad deeds against one another. This is central in Islam. The Quran states that, “On the Day [Day of Judgement] people will come forward in separate groups to show their deeds; whoever has done an atom’s weight of good will see it, but whoever has done an atom’s weight of evil will see it” (Surah 99:6-8). In other words, our good and evil deeds will be placed before us on our Day of Judgement and God will punish or reward us accordingly. Jesus never taught this!

Amazing Grace!

God is not interested in punishing us. God offers us grace – the underserved gift of salvation- and the opportunity to co-operate with it.

If God weighed our good deeds against our bad deeds there would be no need for repentance because God has already made up his mind based on our deeds. For example, a person like John Newton, slave trader and writer of “Amazing Grace,” would be condemned to hell. Yet, because he repented and accepted God’s grace Newton played a pivotal role in abolishing the North Atlantic slave trade. Does he deserve hell?

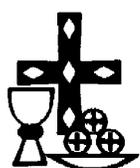
The Love of a Father

Just because God allows you to experience desolation it doesn’t mean he doesn’t love you.

My two month old daughter often feels gas pains. She doesn’t understand why she’s feeling the pain. All she can do is kick, scream, and cry. My wife or I will pick her up and hold her close to our bodies why rubbing her belly until the pain passes. We feel sad for her, wishing we could take on her pain.

There isn’t always a reason for desolation, one that we can understand at least; it’s just part of the growing pangs of our spiritual life. Just know that Jesus is not punishing you, but is holding you close to his heart as you kick and scream.

Greg Garda, *Youth Minister*



Mass Intentions

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| Monday | Intention of Raphael Kwon & family |
| Tuesday | Intention of Joyce Turk All Souls in Purgatory especially deceased members of FOSS Soul of Rita Theresia Danyo Spencer Soul of Bernard Hannan |
| Wednesday | Intention of Lucia Jung |
| Thursday | Soul of Gracinda Gabriel |
| Friday | Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson |

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250



The Community of St. Luke's will be celebrating our Pastor **Father Mark's 25th Anniversary** of his Ordination into the Priesthood at our parish church on **Sunday, May 27th at the 12:15 mass. This will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.**

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special event.

Thank You

Thank you to all who participated in the Parish Breakfast! We raised \$980.00. The money will go towards a bursary for a First Nation student at Nipissing University.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)

INFORMATION MEETING

*Thursday, February 8, 2018
7:00 - 8:30 pm Parish Hall.*

Thank you to the women who signed-up last weekend to attend the Catholic Women's League Information Meeting. All interested women are also invited to attend. Come out to see how you will joyfully affirm God's presence in all aspects of your life while serving your parish as you form lifelong friendships with like-minded women through Faith, Fun and Fulfillment.

The Information Meeting will be held on **Thursday February 8, 2018 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** in the St. Luke's parish hall. You may contact Representatives from the Toronto Diocesan Council, Hilarion Mitchell, President Elect (416-409-6337) or Andrea Smart, North York Regional Chair (416-809-3754) if you require more information. We look forward to seeing each of you.

CELEBRATE YOUR MARRIAGE WITH A WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND!

Celebrate your love and take a fresh look at your marriage! Spend a very special weekend together. A Weekend of discovery...a lifetime of love! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend getaway that helps married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The Weekend format helps couples communicate openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling.

Upcoming Weekend: March 2-4, 2018 (Four Points by Sheraton, Argentia Rd., Mississauga)

For more information and application, please go to www.wwme.org or contact: Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or (905) 792-1925.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

*Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre
Mississauga*

FEBRAURY 16-18. The retreat will be preached by the Centre team- Oblate Father Pawel Ratajczak and Mrs. Anne Hales. A beautiful way to begin the season of Lent. For information or registration please call 905-278-5229.

SENIOR MEN'S HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

*Saturday, March 17, 2018, 9:00-5:00 pm
St. Augustine's Seminary
2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough*

The retreat gives young men an opportunity to experience the seminary and engage with seminarians as well as other active young Catholic men. The retreat is directed towards serious and mature men in Grades 11 & 12 and Grade 10 students with a pastoral recommendation.

Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca.

SAVE THE DATE!
INTERNATIONAL NIGHT
SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2018