

# Teach me Your ways, O Lord...

While the physical disease of leprosy may not afflict us, there is a real sense in which all of us are as much in need of Jesus' healing touch as the man in today's gospel. Sin does to the soul what leprosy does to the body – it eats away at us and the only cure is to be reconciled with God and with other members of the community. We suffer from leprosy of sin and reject the presence of God in our lives when we cold-shoulder a neighbor. The gospel is stating that, through our warmth, the love and power that healed the leper can be at work in the world of today. We are invited to be Christ-like by reaching out to the isolated in our midst in order to affirm and renew them with our compassionate and healing touch.



## Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of <b>James Stevens</b>
Tuesday	Souls of <b>Therese Beauchamp, Souls in Purgatory, Sik Je Lam, Pak Sing Lam</b> And <b>Dr. Rose Khadori</b>
Wednesday	Intention of <b>Leo Jung &amp; family</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Maria Schastarich and Bill Lourie</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>John Frederick Jack Wilson</b>

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE**  
905 881-2786 ext. 250

## Ash Wednesday - Another Chance

On Ash Wednesday, Christian all over the world will receive ashes on their forehead as a reminder that life on this earth passes away. It is a somber day of reflection; a time to reflect on what needs to change in our lives. It also marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a time for prayer, fasting and doing charitable good works. It is an opportunity for renewal and conversion and to develop a spirit of humility. It is a time when we are given another chance to clean our interior house and begin again.

Lent begs us to examine and renew our relationship with God and with one another. It is a time that reminds us “to repent” and get our lives centred & our priorities straight; a time that offers us a new chance to say “yes” to God’s call.

As we are marked by the cross of ashes on our forehead, we should be reminded of our mortality and that death comes to all of us; we should feel sorry for our sins which breaks or cuts off our relationship with God; and we should be motivated to change our ways for the better. We should be reminded of God’s great love and mercy for us and that we have a choice, an opportunity *to begin again*; to leave the past behind and start with a clean slate. We can pray as the Psalmist prays, “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10)

While many look forward to this time as an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal, quite often many of us see it as a time to dread. Often I find myself focused on such things as, “What am I going to give up?” “How long can I do without such and such that I am going to give up?” “How long can I stay committed to this decision? Maybe I shouldn’t commit at all!” and so on... excuses are endless.

I was reading an article on Lent recently and was struck by the idea that the author spoke about. She said, “Ask God every day, “What does my soul need?” Just ask, and wait quietly. Ask God, every day, “What about my life makes you happy?” Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God’s heart. Think of how your children or grandchildren or other people close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your sins grieve God’s heart, but also that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. (Vinita Hampton Wright on Spirituality)

This Lent I hope to spend more time quietly reflecting: *where am I drawn? Where is God calling or drawing me?* And then spend some quiet time prayerfully listening for God’s voice and take the plunge to start fresh, start anew allowing God to lead the way.

Antoinette

**PARISH NEWS** 



**Mass times are 8:00 am and 7:00 pm**

**NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY**  
*Inaugurated February 15, 1965*

We encourage all Canadian residents to show their patriotism by wearing red and white and display Canada's flag with pride. "We are the true north strong and free" and the whole world knows it.

Celebrate its 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday.



**THORNHILL MINISTERIAL**  
**LENTEN SERIES 2018**

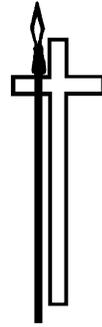
The Thornhill Ministerial is marking **50 years** of Ecumenical Lenten Services. This year the theme is

**Celebrating our Common Faith:  
A Fresh Look at the Apostles' Creed**

Guest Speakers have been invited to preach

**Sunday February 18 at 4:00 p.m.**

**I Believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and Earth  
Thornhill Baptist Church; 8018 Yonge St.  
Speaker: Bishop Peter Fenty  
(Offering to Out of the Cold)**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

You are invited to join in praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at **7:30 p.m.** in the church. All are invited to come and spend one hour in prayer.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

This Sunday is World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Please say a prayer for all those who you know are sick.

**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](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca).

Association of Hebrew Catholics Toronto  
The Fellowship of St. Joseph

**THE JEWISH BACKGROUND TO THE**  
**MASS**

**Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**Blessed Trinity Church**  
**3220 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON**

A look at Jewish liturgy and practice as it informs our Catholic Faith.

As part of the series on testimonies and history, there will be a PowerPoint presentation on Jewish elements that form the background to our Catholic Faith. The focus will be on Jewish liturgy, Temple, and synagogue practice. This will be an informative and inspiring presentation.

All are welcome!