

Teach me Your ways, O Lord . . .

In today's Gospel Jesus performs the first of his miracles by turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. As Christians we must not merely dwell on that wonder.

This gospel is also a marvellous picture of the loving relationship we have with Jesus who is present in the various activities of our lives. He is aware that our best efforts require the touch of God and is always willing to help especially when we experience difficulties. He brings healing where there is hurt, forgiveness where there is misunderstanding and encouragement where there is a lack of support. The wine is the life of God brought to people through Jesus. He can transform us, taking the ordinary in us and making it extra-ordinary, turning anguish into wonder and want into wealth. Life is always changed for the better when we allow Jesus into our hearts and home for he enriches the very ordinary, makes it precious and gives an eternal flavour to the commonplace. His presence among us prompts us to think about the shortages in our own lives.



Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of Don Turk
Tuesday	Soul of Willis Gow Intentions of Susan Hannan Soul of Bernard Hannan
Wednesday	Departed Soul
Thursday	Soul of Maria Facchini
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250

Am I Not Here, I Who Am Your Mother?

This weekend we witness Jesus' first public miracle at the wedding feast of Cana where he is assured by his mother's loving presence to commence his public ministry.

I was recently reflecting on this passage with my brother who just returned from Mexico. As we reflected on Mary's role at the wedding feast my brother shared how wonderful his visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe was. The Basilica, located in Mexico City, is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site and the world's third most-visited sacred site.

My brother shared that he was especially touched by Our Lady's words to Juan Diego the Mexican peasant who experienced her apparitions in December 1531 when Mary encouraged him not to worry about his ailing uncle and to trust in her saying: "Do not fear any illness, vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here, I who am your Mother?", when a fearful Juan had not sought her assistance. Mary's words: "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" have become the central phrase of the Guadalupe event and are inscribed over the main entrance to the Basilica in Spanish: "No estoy yo aquí que soy tu madre?"

After saying these words to Juan Diego, Mary asked him to gather some flowers from the top of a nearby hill, which was normally barren, especially in the cold of December and to take them to the archbishop as proof of her apparitions. Juan followed her instructions and he found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico, blooming there. Mary arranged the flowers in Juan's tilma or cloak, and when Juan Diego opened his cloak before the archbishop on December 12, the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Consequently, the archbishop granted Mary's request to have a church built on the site of her apparitions.

To this day almost 500 years later the tilma and the church continue to attract much attention and the cloak remains in remarkable condition, though there are some sceptics that see the story and the tilma as more fiction than fact. Regardless of whether the tilma in the Basilica is an authentic miracle or not, the story has a ring of authenticity to me. So many times in life I find myself like Juan Diego attempting to navigate the challenges I face independent of my faith. Even though I realize God is patiently waiting to help I attempt to follow my own road and end up getting lost. It is then that God comes to my assistance as Our Lady did with Juan Diego, reminding me that Mary 'is' here and with her motherly love I can do whatever He tells me.

John Humphries.



VILLANOVA COLLEGE
Open House

WHEN: Feb. 1 at 10am (public school PA Day).

As York Region's only independent, Catholic school, Villanova College offers an enriched academic program from Grades 4 to 12, focusing on the development of the whole child through the teachings of the Catholic Church and through extensive co-curricular programs. Please visit our website at www.villanovacollege.org to register for our upcoming Open House or contact the Office of Admissions at 905-833-1909 or admissions@villanovacollege.ca

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE
TO CELEBRATE

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019
Theme: **JUSTICE, ONLY JUSTICE, YOU SHALL PURSUE** (Deuteronomy 16:20)

Organized by the Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches, the prayer service will be led by Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox bishops, along with leaders from Christian churches in the GTA.

WHEN: Sunday January 27, 2019 AT 4:30 PM

WHERE: St. James Anglican Cathedral,
106 King St. East, Toronto

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin soon. The advertising will begin in April 2019 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637.

York Catholic District School Board
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration has begun in all York Catholic Elementary schools. We look forward to welcoming your child into our schools, where we emphasize academic success using a curriculum that is infused with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You can register your child at your local Catholic School. For more information check the parish bulletin board or visit our website at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions

TUNA CASSEROLES

The Tuna Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Ministries are due on Sunday, January 27th (last Sunday of the month). Please consider joining this group who faithfully help feed the Homeless. Contact either Kay Holker (416-493-0906) or Bev McMahon (905-889-2905).

Memory Lane Home Living Inc.
“Living Well Luncheon”

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Every 3 seconds someone around the world is given a dementia diagnosis. It is time to be informed.

Please join us on Friday Jan 25th from noon to 2 pm, at Jerrett Life Celebration Centre, 8088 Yonge St., Thornhill and enjoy a sit-down lunch for \$10 per person while listening to expert speakers share information regarding dementia.

Net proceeds from this event will be donated to Alzheimer's Society of York Region.

This Luncheon is for pastoral care teams, religious leaders, caregivers and loved ones with a diagnosis, health care workers, and the public who want to learn more. Call 905.876.8666 or email mlliving14@gmail.com to reserve a spot.