

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

January 16th - January 21st, 2016

Mon. Jan. 16 th	8am +Luigi & Anna Maria Pompilio
Tues. Jan. 17 th	8am +Frank Martin
Wed. Jan 18 th	8am +Reg McKerracher 10am Willows Nursing Home
Thurs Jan 19 th	8am +Anna Grimaldi 10am Chartwell Park Place Manor 2:15pm Chartwell Aurora LTC
Fri. Jan 20 th	8am +Dominic Muirhead
Sat. Jan 21 st	8am +Addorisio & Cubellis Families - deceased members

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION DEADLINES

This weekend is the registration deadline for first communion and confirmation. This information was sent by letter to all of the children in grade 2 and 7 in the first week of school in September and repeated in December. It has also been a permanent fixture in the bulletin.

What should one do if they have missed the cut off? Waiting till next year is not a bad choice, especially if it is clearly not going to be practical to meet the expectations of preparation. The other choice is to hand in the forms late with a commitment that your household is now going to buckle down and work with the process from here on in.

Our Lady of Grace is too large of a parish to have households humored along as they prepare their children for sacraments. We strive to do our part and the great majority of families do their part. Let's make this a positive experience for everyone involved.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We have two opportunities for adults to assist with the formation of young people preparing for communion. We run a short program of catechesis for children in public or private schools. If you can help contact Fr. Joshua email at jroldan@archtoronto.org.

We will also be having two family evenings for families with a first communion candidate. These will involve crafts, a short prayer service and a tour of the church. Can you help? Please contact Sandra at sandra@ourladyofgrace.com

WALK-IN COUNSELLING CLINIC

Catholic Family Services offers counselling services for individuals, couples and families. Open to the public at two locations 1155 Yonge St. 416-921-1163, every Tuesday 9am - 3pm and 5799 Yonge St. 416-222-0048, every Thursday 9am - 3pm 416. No appointment is necessary. Fees are geared to income level.

THE MINDFUL PROJECT'S 2017 ART SHOW FUNDRAISER MAY 11th-14th

Exhibition theme: What's Inside? An insight to the brain in response to mental health. All mediums are welcomed. A maximum of 3 images per artist. Artists and non-artists are welcome to apply. Please include artist statement discussing work in relation to theme, art dimensions, medium and date. All files or questions are to be sent to themindfulproject@hotmail.com.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

The Life in the Spirit Seminars call people to a deeper relationship with God. The seminars offered here at Our Lady of Grace started on January 12th at 7:30pm in the large meeting room. For those who wish to know more contact Deacon Pat Colangelo at 905-727-8737 or Edwin or Anita Andrade at 905-727-2367. They will be happy to discuss with you any questions you have or just give you a more complete description of this eight-week process of prayer and reflection.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Kindergarten registrations are now being taken in all York Catholic 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 may register your child at your local Catholic school or at the Catholic Education Centre in Aurora. For more information, visit our website at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions.

SOME PARISH STATISTICS FOR 2016

With 2016 now complete we can provide some general statistics on sacramental life.

There were 134 baptisms and 3 adult converts, as well as 202 first communions and 405 confirmations. We had 18 weddings and 41 funerals.

The very large number of confirmation reflects the fact that all grade seven and eight students were confirmed in 2016 and the sacrament is now settled in grade seven. The low number of weddings is a universal problem with far too many couples opting for destination weddings or weddings at their reception venue.

The fact that we have significantly less baptisms than first communions can be partly explained by the fact that many young couples pull up stakes and move to Aurora when they have young children. Demographically the number of children is shrinking overall. These numbers should be a source of concern for our Catholic schools

2017 ENVELOPES

Have you put your name and address on a 2017 envelope yet? It would be a good time to do so, this will allow that proper accounting can be done for tax purposes at the end of the year.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Join us for an inspiring twelve week series of readings, discussions and fellowship with Christians from many different churches. We will explore the Gospel of Matthew using the Bible study commentary by John E. O'Grady. Beginning Thursday Jan.19th 9:15am - 11:30am. Trinity United, Main St., Newmarket 905-836-0370.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our community life group assists the parish by overseeing coffee and special events on a regular basis. They are always happy to welcome new people. There will be a meeting this coming Tuesday, Jan 17th at 7:30pm in the large meeting room, downstairs. We look forward to planning for our multicultural pot luck in February.

THE RETURN OF THE PYXES Thank you to everyone who has returned a pyx to date. We anticipate more are on the way back to the parish.

THE NEW WAY OF GOING TO COMMUNION

The practice of all going to communion by the centre aisle and returning by the side aisles seems to be working fairly well. There is no plan to return to the previous practice. There are a few things that could be done to make it work better.

Most people would say that we now form two lines in the center aisle to go to communion which is not true. We form two lines until we get to the third pew from the front and we open into four lines, one line for each minister. Too often we are in two lines sending one person at a time to the priests who are off to the sides. There should never be less than six people in line for each of the priests to give communion.

We tend to go to communion, pew by pew. Please quit going to communion pew by pew. As communion begins the first third of the church should be fully engaged. Within a minute the middle third should be engaged and of course then the last third. Do not wait for the people in the pew in front of you to go since they may not be going for any number of reasons. They may be Protestant or they need to go to confession would be two good reasons. Let`s avoid embarrassing them by standing there waiting for them to do something. This would avoid the big gaps and people running up the aisle once they figure out that these folks in front of them aren`t going. Just because you are in row ten does not mean you cannot go to communion before those in the first nine rows.

Let`s remember that it is not improper to pass someone who is taking a long time to get to the front. Why would we want to remain behind them as they struggle to the front drawing attention to their limitations? Of course if you have mobility issues we strongly encourage you to sit in the front pew and you will receive communion in your seat at the end of the communion rite. All parishioners please reserve the front seat for those with mobility issues.