



Our Lady of Grace Parish

Dedicated September 17, 1983

15347 Yonge St., Aurora, Ontario L4G 1N7

website: olgraceau.archtoronto.org

telephone: (905) 727-4594

email: olgraceau@archtoronto.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. John Bertão, Pastor

Fr. Rony Grayda, Associate Pastor

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 4 pm

Weekends & Statutory Holidays: Closed

WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE OF PRAYER.

We are thankful for your visit. Do you plan on returning? Have you considered becoming a member? If so, please take a registration form with you and return it to the parish office. One of our parish staff will contact you, or you may contact us if you wish.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5 pm;

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday: 8 am

(followed by Adoration & Rosary)

Saturday & Holidays: 9 am

First Friday Adoration

Starts at 6 pm with Benediction

at 6:45 pm and Mass at 7 pm

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 pm – 4:30 pm

or by appointment

Baptism

Families must be registered with envelopes for a minimum of one year and regularly attending Mass. A baptism preparation session is a prerequisite for both parents and godparents. Please contact the office for more information.

Marriage

12 months advanced notice required before a date can be confirmed.

Preparation course is a prerequisite.



*Our Lady of Grace,
pray for us!*

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

Pre-authorized giving (PAG) is an easy way of supporting the parish. You decide how much, and we will charge your account the amount you are comfortable with on the 20th of each month. You can change the amount at any time by contacting the parish office. How much?

For example, if you currently give \$12/week, that would be around \$52/month; and if you give \$25/week, that would be around \$108/month.

Kindly consider this convenient way of supporting our parish. The PAG form (blue) may be found near both entrances of the church or by the parish office.

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www.vocationstoronto.ca

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

www.catholic-cemeteries.com

PASTORAL REFERENCES

For a pastoral reference, you must be a registered parishioner with envelopes for a minimum of one year, attending Sunday Mass regularly, be in good canonical standing within the Church and participating in the sacramental and pastoral life of the Church community by serving in a parish ministry (e.g. lector, catechist) on an ongoing basis.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon., Mar. 16 th	8am	+ Cecile Burg
Tue., Mar. 17 th	8am	+ Regina Sim
Wed., Mar. 18 th	8am	+ Bernadette & Armand Boissonneault
Thu., Mar. 19 th	8am	+ William James Fisher
Fri., Mar. 20 th	8am 7pm	+ Candida Araujo
Sat., Mar. 21 st	9am 5pm	(SI) Da Silva family, + Edilberto dela Cruz Sr., + Vima Bueno, + Ida Mior, + Angela Mior, + Fr. Collins Okafor, + Michael & Phyllis Di Staulo + Claudia McKenna
Sun., Mar. 22 nd	8am 10am 12pm 7pm	+ Ganna Wall + Jane McNulty-Smith "Populo" for the intentions of our parish families + Pierre Thivierge

		
Palm Sunday Vigil	Sat., Mar. 28 th	5pm
Palm Sunday	Sun., Mar. 29 th	8am, 10am, 12pm & 7pm
Mass of The Lord's Supper	Thu., Apr. 2 nd	7pm, followed by adoration until 9pm
Good Friday	Fri., Apr. 3 rd	Passion with Holy Communion at 9am & 12pm, Stations of the Cross only – 3pm, - office closed -
Blessing of Food	Sat., Apr. 4 th	12noon (no 9am Mass)
Easter Vigil	Sat., Apr. 4 th	7pm
Easter Sunday	Sun., Apr. 5 th	8am, 10am, 12noon & 2:00pm (no 7pm Mass)
Easter Monday	Mon., Apr. 6 th	9am, office closed

His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo's
Lenten Message
 To access, go to <https://www.archtoronto.org>.

Are you a registered member of our parish family? If not, call the parish office for more information. Also, have you considered becoming a Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) member? It's an easy way to support the parish. You decide the amount you are comfortable with and it gets debited from your bank account on the 20th of each month. You can change it at any time by contacting the parish office. Kindly consider this convenient way of supporting our parish. The PAG form (blue) can be found by both entrances of the church or by the parish office. Thank you.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 The novena takes place in our church every Wednesday at 7:50am followed by the 8am Mass.



Stations of the Cross
 Each Friday, during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm & Mass at 7pm (the morning 8am Mass, Adoration, and Rosary will continue as usual).



Old Palm Leaves
 Don't know what to do with your old 'blessed' palms? Kindly bring them in before Holy Week and place them in the container available in the upper narthex.



Debt Reduction – Mar. 14th/15th
 This weekend of Mar. 14th/15th, our 2nd collection will go towards reducing our parish debt. Your generosity helps support our parish life and community. Thank you for your kindness.

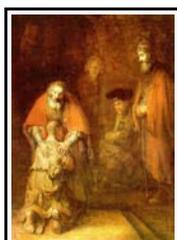
IMPORTANT DATES	TIMES
Thu., Mar. 19 th	Feast of St. Joseph
Mon., Apr. 27 th to Thu., Apr. 30 th	Confirmation Rehearsals
Mon., May 4 th to Thu., May 7 th	Confirmation Masses

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary Prayer - Mar. 19th



“O Saint Joseph, protector of the Holy Family, watch over us and guide us in God’s will. Help us grow in faith, in humility, and in trust in the Lord. St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen.”

Parish Reconciliation – Mar. 19th



When: Thu., Mar. 19th

Time: 6:30pm to 8pm

Please see below the links provided on “How to go to Confession” & “Examination of Conscience”.

For Youth:

[guide-youth-en-2016.pdf \(archtoronto.org\)](#)

For Adults:

[guide-adult-en-2016.pdf \(archtoronto.org\)](#)

Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

All parishes in the Archdiocese will be consecrated to the Blessed Mother on Wed., Mar. 25th.

Our parish will celebrate a Marian Triduum in preparation for the Consecration to Our Lady starting with Mass, followed by the Rosary on the following days:

Sun., Mar. 22nd – starting with the 12noon Mass;

Mon., Mar. 23rd – starting with the 8am Mass;

Tue., Mar. 24th – starting with the 8am Mass.

On the Day of Consecration which is **Wed., Mar. 25th**, we will start with Mass at 8am, then we will pray the Rosary, followed by the Act of Consecration, and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. Can YOU TOO say, “Yes” to Jesus and Mary to make this Lent a special one, especially when we are in so much need of peace and love in the world today?



Welcoming Arms – Mar. 21st/22nd

The following toiletries are needed for the weekend of Mar. 21st/22nd:

Body Wash	Dish Detergent
Shampoo	Laundry Detergent
Conditioner	J - cloths
Kleenex	Toothpaste
Toilet Paper	Men's Deodorant
Paper Towels	Women's Deodorant

Kindly leave your donations on the upper narthex. Thank you so much.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

(Apr. 8th - May 27th)

This Spring we will be running part 3 of the Bible study -

The Bible Timeline, The Story of Salvation, offered through Ascension Press. This is an in-depth 24-week study of the Bible divided into three 8-week sessions. This final 8-week session will run on Wednesdays from 7-9pm, from Apr. 8th to May 27th.

The cost of the material is \$90. If you are interested in this Bible Study, but were unable to attend the previous sessions, it will not impact your ability to join us for the last session. All are welcome to participate as we continue to learn about the Bible. Please register at the parish office by Tue., Mar. 24th by providing your name, contact information, and payment (cash or cheque only).



ShareLife Sunday - Mar. 21st/22nd

Next weekend of Mar. 21st/22nd, the 2nd collection will go towards ShareLife. Last year, our parish surpassed the ShareLife goal of \$163,500 for a total of \$171,381 (\$68,576 collected at the parish + \$102,805 at the ShareLife office).

Thank you for living the Gospel through your compassion which has helped so many in need.

This year, our parish goal is \$173,000.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at <https://sharelife.org/donate/>.

Potted Easter Flowers

We welcome your gift of potted Easter flowers of Hydrangea to decorate our Sanctuary.

Please bring them starting Sat., Mar. 28th until Fri., Apr. 3rd and place them in the upper narthex (top of the stairway). We thank you for your generosity.





Lenten Message 2026
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May Jesus and Mary be in your hearts.

As we enter into the holy season of Lent, I would like to share some words of spiritual nourishment and encouragement. Each year, while Ash Wednesday emphasizes repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, on the First Sunday of Lent especially, we are invited to pursue our journey of faith into the desert with Christ. However, it is not a solitary journey, nor are the three Lenten practices purely a “private affair”. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition teaches us that God never saves individuals in isolation, rather, he gathers a people to himself (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 9). Recently, the universal Church has reflected on the meaning of *synodality* and emphasized the ecclesial and social togetherness of our journey together to God, thus recalling the importance of the community in the salvific plan of God (cf. CCC 781). With this in mind, I would ask us to consider how Lent is not only about our personal conversion but also the healing and renewal of our relationship with God and one another. We would do well to ask ourselves: how do we live Lent together?

Conversion or repentance is frequently framed within the context of individual acts such as sacramental confession, penance, self-denial or acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Old Testament already understood the human person within the context of the community which is very different from the modern understanding of a radical individualism. The Hebrew Scriptures, in fact, narrate a strong sense of community and its fidelity or sinfulness in the eyes of God. This is because from the beginning, God relates to Israel as a collective body (cf. Ex 6:7). Sin is never merely a private act because the covenant binds people together, and one person’s infidelity affects the whole body. Fidelity and infidelity are corporate realities. In this way sin, though personal, is likewise always social inasmuch as it always wounds the Body. And conversion, if it is real, always restores relationships. Lent teaches us that to return to the Lord is also to return to one another, and journey together.

Today, many experience the social or communal fragmentation caused by sin: families strained by silence or envy, communities divided by fear or resentment, parishes weakened by absence or disengagement. We may live or work in close proximity to others and yet carry unspoken distances in our hearts. Lent invites us to name this reality honestly—not to assign blame, but to seek healing and forgiveness. The call of the Gospel is not simply “to be better,” but “to be reconciled” (cf. 2 Cor 5:20). Part and parcel of our journeying together is the experience of authentic and daily conversion, both personal and communal, embodied beautifully in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While Confession is deeply personal, it is never private because sin wounds not only our relationship with God but also our communion with the Church (cf. CCC, 1440; 2 Cor 5:18–20).



Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we restore not only our friendship with God but our bonds within the community—a ministry Our Lord entrusted to the apostles (cf. Jn 20:22–23; CCC, 1443–1445). Through this sacrament, the Lord repairs the bonds we have weakened—with him and with one another—and teaches us again the language of mercy and love (cf. CCC, 1468–1469; St. Ambrose, *On Repentance*, I.15). Our Lenten practices culminate on Easter Sunday when our conversion is publicly proclaimed and personally reclaimed as we renew our Baptismal vows, rejecting evil and confessing our belief in the One God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—through whom we were reborn into new life (cf. Rom 6:3–11; CCC, 1213, 1262).

Traditional Lenten practices take on deeper meaning when seen through the lens of our communion with God and one another (cf. CCC, 1434–1435). How? Prayer opens our hearts to God who unites us to him and to others, as Jesus himself prays that all may be one in the communion he shares with the Father (cf. Jn 17:20–23; CCC, 2564). Fasting teaches us to make room for God and for one another by reordering our priorities, and restoring justice and communion (cf. Is 58:6–7; Joel 2:12–13; St. Basil the Great, *Homily on Fasting*, 1). Almsgiving is a concrete act of solidarity, a recognition that my life is bound to the life of my neighbour, and my love cannot remain abstract but must be expressed in deeds (cf. 1 Jn 3:16–18; CCC, 2447).

The road to Jerusalem that Jesus walks is not a path done in isolation; he gathers disciples, eats with sinners, heals the broken, and calls the lost by name as He sets His face toward Calvary (Lk 9:51–19:27). Even as Jesus carried his cross, was crucified, and breathed his last, he remained focused on others and the mission entrusted to him by the Father (Mk 15:21, Lk 23:27–31; Mt 27:46–50, Lk 23:44–46; cf. Lk 2:35). To follow Jesus is to allow our own journey of repentance to become a journey of renewed communion (Lk 24:13–35; CCC, 781).

As we begin this Lenten season, we pray for the grace not only of conversion, but for the healing of our relationships; not only to examine our consciences, but to rebuild communion; not only to walk toward Easter individually, but to arrive there together. For it is together—as one Body in Christ—that we are led from the desert to the joy of the Resurrection. May the Blessed Mother be our inspiration, guide, model and companion on this journey of spiritual and social renewal.



Archdiocese
of Toronto

Help Not Harm

We invite the Catholic community to respectfully contact their local Member of Parliament (MP), requesting their support of a Private Members' Bill (**C-218, The Right to Recover Act – an act to amend the Criminal code – Medical Assistance in Dying**) currently before the Parliament of Canada.

What is Bill C-218? Bill C-218 amends the Criminal Code to make it illegal to provide Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) to individuals whose sole underlying condition is a mental illness. It recognizes the importance of Canadians to recover from mental illness and ensures help can be offered, not harm.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- **Every life is precious.** As Catholics, we believe in the sanctity of every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death.
- **A desire to die can be a symptom of illness.** Suicidal thoughts are frequently part of mental illness itself, raising serious concerns about whether consent can ever be truly free and informed.
- **Mental illness is often treatable.** Many mental health conditions improve over time with proper care, therapy, medication, and support. Recovery remains possible, even after long periods of suffering.
- **Gaps in mental health care remain unresolved.** Long wait times, limited access to psychiatrists, and uneven mental health services mean some may seek to end their life due to system failure, not medical necessity.
- **There is an increased risk to vulnerable Canadians.** Individuals navigating mental health challenges are more likely to experience poverty, trauma, isolation, disability, or lack of access to care—factors that may pressure individuals toward assisted suicide.

BACKGROUND ON BILL C-218

What is a Private Members' Bill?

A Private Members' Bill is a piece of legislation introduced in Parliament by a Member of Parliament (MP) or Senator who is not a Cabinet Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, or Speaker. These bills allow individual legislators to propose new laws, or amend existing ones, typically focusing on public policy issues. Bill C-218 has been introduced by the Conservative Party of Canada Member of Parliament for Cloverdale-Langley City, British Columbia, Tamara Jansen.

To pass, this legislation will require support from more than one political party. We believe that many MPs are uncomfortable with the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada and in particular, the possibility that MAiD will be offered for those whose primary underlying condition is mental illness. We are asking MPs to vote their conscience, regardless of party affiliation.

The difference in passing this Private Members' Bill could be just a few votes in the House of Commons. It is critical that constituents contact their Member of Parliament asking them to support Bill C-218. If the legislation does not pass, as of March 17, 2027, new laws will take effect to allow MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness.

TAKE ACTION AT HelpNotHarmCanada.ca TODAY!

The Bill is scheduled for second reading in early April 2026 with a vote on the legislation expected by mid-April 2026. Please visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today where you can send an e-mail directly to your local Member of Parliament in less than 3 minutes. If the legislation does not pass, as of March 17, 2027, new laws will take effect to allow MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness.

Chances are, you know someone suffering from mental illness. In any given year, 1 in 5 Canadians experience a mental illness. It may be a relative, friend or colleague. As Catholics and Canadians, we have a responsibility to offer care, hope and protection NOT death for those close to us and those most vulnerable who are suffering. **Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.**



SCAN ME

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