

# Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

– Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock, A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

Photo: Courtesy of the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto  
Item No: PH14-10P

**ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 21/22**

Your gift brings hope to those served by 40 Catholic agencies in our community and beyond!  
Please give at our parish or [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate)

**SL ShareLife**  
[sharelife.org](http://sharelife.org) | [X](#) [f](#) [@](#) /ShareLifeCan

## *Our Lady of Grace Parish*

*Dedicated September 17, 1983*

15347 Yonge St. Aurora, Ontario L4G 1N7 905-727-4594

web: [olgraceau.archtoronto.org](http://olgraceau.archtoronto.org) email: [olgraceau@archtoronto.org](mailto:olgraceau@archtoronto.org)

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon., Mar. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8am	+ Rita Cox
Tue., Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup>	8am	+ Pat Norris
Wed., Mar. 25 <sup>th</sup>	8am	+ David Moss
Thu., Mar. 26 <sup>th</sup>	8am	+ Janina Julia Grabowska
Fri., Mar. 27 <sup>th</sup>	8am	+ Jerzy Ratajczak
	7pm	+ Luiz Corsini
Sat., Mar. 28 <sup>th</sup>	9am	(SI) Eva Olejnik, (SI) Barbara Meaghgr, + Francesco & Rosa Ali, + Francesco & Vittoria D'Urzo & family, + Domenico & Anna Moscato & family, + Eugenio & Emma Mauro & family, + Mario Zuttarini
	5pm	No Intention – Palm Sunday Vigil
Sun., Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup>	8am	No Intention – Palm Sunday
	10am	
	12pm	
	7pm	



Palm Sunday Vigil	Sat., Mar. 28 <sup>th</sup>	5pm
Palm Sunday	Sun., Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup>	8am, 10am, 12pm & 7pm
** No 8am Mass on Tue., Mar. 31 <sup>st</sup> at the parish**		
Mass of The Lord's Supper	Thu., Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm, followed by adoration until 9pm
Good Friday	Fri., Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Passion with Holy Communion at 9am & 12pm, Stations of the Cross only – 3pm, - office closed -
Blessing of Food	Sat., Apr. 4 <sup>th</sup>	12noon (no 9am Mass)
Easter Vigil	Sat., Apr. 4 <sup>th</sup>	7pm
Easter Sunday	Sun., Apr. 5 <sup>th</sup>	8am, 10am, 12noon & 2:00pm (no 7pm Mass)
Easter Monday	Mon., Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup>	9am, office closed

### Communications from the Archdiocese of Toronto

- For ways to Celebrate the Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis, please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org - St. Francis Jubilee>
- For His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo's Lenten Message, please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org - Lenten Message>
- Help Not Harm: Take Action to Support Bill C-218 - Write your Member of Parliament Today! <https://www.helpnotharmcanada.ca/>



#### 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.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

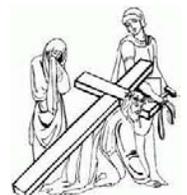
#### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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).





**Welcoming Arms – Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 The following toiletries are needed for this weekend of Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>:

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 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.

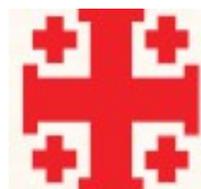
**Potted Easter Flowers**

We welcome your gift of potted Easter flowers of Hydrangea to decorate our Sanctuary. Please bring them starting Sat., Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> until Fri., Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> and place them in the upper narthex (top of the stairway). We thank you for your generosity.



**Pontifical Collection for the Church in the Holy Land on Good Friday - Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Good Friday Collection helps to maintain the Church of the Holy Land by providing educational, pastoral, and social support of Catholic youth and families committed to living their faith in the land where Christ lived, and by maintaining the Holy Sites that are so important to the faith of Christians everywhere. At the request of the Holy See, this Pontifical Collection will be taken during the Good Friday celebration on April 3, 2026. Those who are unable to attend the service, or who prefer to contribute online, may use Credit Cards, Interac, or Canadahelps, accessible at: [www.commissariat.ca](http://www.commissariat.ca), in the "Support Us" link. Fr. Robert Mokry, o.f.m., Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada.



**ShareLife Sunday - Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>**

This weekend of Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>.

**Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary**



All parishes in the Archdiocese will be consecrated to the Blessed Mother on Wed., Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>. 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> – starting with the 12noon Mass;
- Mon., Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> – starting with the 8am Mass;
- Tue., Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> – starting with the 8am Mass.

On the Day of Consecration which is **Wed., Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>**, 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?

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> - May 27<sup>th</sup>)**

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. 8<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>. 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. 24<sup>th</sup> by providing your name, contact information, and payment (cash or cheque only).





**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](https://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](https://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](https://HelpNotHarmCanada.ca) today and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.**



SCAN ME

**FAMILY LAWYER**  
**Susan Duggan**  
 647-923-8062  
 dugganlaw.ca

**Summers and Smith**  
 COOLING & HEATING LIMITED  
 905-727-2323  
 www.summersandsmith.com

Alcalde & Tomory  
 Chartered Accountants, LLP  
**Sophia Tomory, CPA, CA**  
 Accounting & Tax Services  
 416-456-0089 www.at-ca.ca

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
 FUNERAL SERVICES  
 In keeping with your Catholic faith  
 www.catholic-cemeteries.com  
 Holy Cross Cemetery & Funeral Home 905-889-7467

14800 Yonge Street, Aurora  
**NOFRILLS**  
 Joe & Val's

ROYAL LEPAGE RCR Realty, Broker  
**Key Advantage**  
 KEYADVANTAGE.CA

**Tree Valley**  
 Garden Centre Ltd.  
 4431 Stouffville Rd. (W. of McCowan)  
 treevalley.ca 905-640-2020

**THE HURST BAKERY Inc.**  
 "A TASTE OF QUALITY"  
 15543 Yonge St.  
 Units 2 & 3  
 905-841-0278

**RE/MAX** Hallmark York Group  
 Realty Ltd. Brokerage  
**Bruce Spragg, F.R.I.**  
 Broker  
 Bruce@BruceSpragg.com Children's  
 Miracle Network  
 Direct Line 416-565-8889

**PEACEFUL TRANSITION**  
  
 Fully Licensed Funeral Home  
 Family owned and operated.  
 2-15236 Yonge Street Aurora 905-841-1900  
 peacefultransition.ca

**CANADA-WIDE**  
**Rebar Ltd.**  
 Welded Wire Mesh  
 Estimating & Detailing  
 Cash & Carry Sales & Delivery  
 905-888-1777  
 cwrebar@cwrebar.com

**GLOBAL PET FOODS**  
  
 10% off  
 with coupon  
 14800 Yonge St.  
 Aurora Shopping Centre  
 905-727-3448  
**Eric McCartney**  
 Real Estate Broker  
 905-727-0075 eric@mccartney.me  
 www.McCartney.me  
 Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd., Brokerage

**St. John Cemetery**  
 Serving Parishes  
 in the local area  
 250 Old Main St North  
 905-898-4137 Ext 207

**Dr. Harry Weingarten Dentistry**  
 Serving Generations of Families  
 Accepting Canadian Dental Plan  
 244 Wellington St East Suite 100  
 Conveniently Located with Ample Parking  
 905-727-1917 • AuroraToothDental.com

**Roadhouse & Rose**  
 FUNERAL HOME  
 Playter Chapel | Family Owned & Operated  
 Traditional Funerals & Simple Cremation Services  
 Proud to offer a 10% discount to all parish members  
 157 Main St., Newmarket | 905-895-6631  
 www.roadhouseandrose.com

**Home Hardware**  
 building centre  
 Windows & Doors  
 Kitchen & Bath  
 Installed Sales  
 Lumber, Paint, Housewares  
 & All Your Hardware Needs  
 289 Wellington St. E. 905-727-4751

**Where everything is always fresh!**  
 Family-Owned serving traditional  
 British Fish n' Chips for 15 years  
 869 Mulock Drive 905-898-1888

**BERKLEY**  
 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC.  
**Paul Chisholm, MBA, CPA, CA**  
 416-230-5900  
 pchisholm@berkleypm.ca

**VILLANOVA**  
 COLLEGE  
 An Independent Catholic School  
 in the Augustinian Tradition  
**Grades 4 through 12**  
 Contact Admissions  
 www.villanovacollege.org  
 2480 15<sup>th</sup> Sideroad ~ King City

**William Reid, Barrister & Solicitor**  
 Criminal and Regulatory Law  
 30 years of defending  
 416.949.2694 ReidLaw.net

**Singing & Piano Lessons**  
 Accepting new students  
 Available to sing for  
 Weddings & other occasions  
**AnnaLisa 416-723-1973**

**Taylor Funeral Home**  
 Newmarket Chapel  
 Jason C. Ladd, Managing Funeral Director  
 Teresa Soncin, Pre-Planning Director  
**10% Discount to all Parishioners**  
 524 Davis Drive, Newmarket  
 www.taylorfh.ca 905-898-2100

**Bob's Plumbing Service**  
 EST. 1972  
 Residential • Commercial • Industrial  
 905-727-3210  
 www.bobsplumbing.ca

**AVVOCATO ITALIANO**  
**DANIELE SEBASTIANELLI**  
 Foreign Legal Consultant  
 Law Society of Ontario  
 647-981-2109

**FINANCIAL PLANNER**  
**Monica Ly, CFP, CLU, CHS**  
 416-953-8877  
 cmfinancialgroup.com

**YOUR HOMESOLD**  
 GUARANTEED REALTY™  
 Our Name is Our Promise  
**SPECIALISTS**  
 BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED  
 Your Home Sold Guaranteed at a Price  
 Acceptable to YOU  
 Or We'll Buy It! Terms and conditions apply  
**CONNIE BOVE**  
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
 416-908-5408  
 conniebovesells@gmail.com  
 www.conniebovesells.com

**DR. NORMAN ORSCHEL**  
**DR. LYNDA HYSKA**  
 All Aspects of General Dentistry  
 Surgical Placement of Dental Implants  
 Our Family Caring for Yours  
 Let Us Make You Smile  
 We Cater To Cowards!  
 Suite 211, 126 Wellington St. W, Wellington Square Plaza  
 905-727-0193 reception@AuroraDentists.ca

**Four Seasons Tree Care**  
  
 a DAVEY company  
 Pruning • Removals  
 Plant Health Care • Planting  
 Fertilization • Soil Amendments  
 Arborist Reports • Consultations  
 Anti-desiccant • Skoot  
 416-410-8770  
 Science, Service & Satisfaction Since 1983  
 www.FourSeasonsTreeCare.com

**THOMPSON Funeral Home**  
 Cremation, Burial & Memorial Services  
 Pre-arranged Funeral  
 530 Industrial Parkway S.  
 905 727 5421  
 www.thompsonfh-aurora.com  
 10% off on all new pre-arranged funeral contracts  
 Proud to be part of Service Corporation International (Canada) Limited

**ISSA VELOSO - REALTOR®**  
 416-670-4006 | www.IssaVeloso.com  
**COLDWELL BANKER**  
 THE REAL ESTATE CENTRE, BROKERAGE

**AURORA OVERHEAD DOOR INC.**  
 Garage Doors / Electric Openers  
 40 Industrial Pkwy. S. 905-727-1382

**CLEANING SERVICES**  
 Home & Commercial  
**Tesha 647-531-9838**

**VandenBosche JEWELLERS**  
 15263 Yonge St. 905-841-3760  
 vandenboschejewellers.com

**Vienna Furniture Refinishing**  
 o/b Morra Custom Upholstery Ltd.  
 17 Mary Street, Aurora  
 905 841-8444  
**ANTHONY DE GUZMAN**  
 Property Manager  
 905-727-1102  
 www.ryisproperties.ca  
**RYIS PROPERTIES INC.**

**PEFFERLAW CREEK FARMS**  
**MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**  
 Opening March 7 & 8!  
 www.pcfarms.ca  
 12300 Concession Rd 6, Uxbridge

**Auto • Home • Life • Business**  
**Richard Gong, Agent**  
 905-727-6333  
 richardgong.com **Desjardins Insurance**  
Desjardins Insurance refers to Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company, underwriter of automobile and property insurance or Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company, underwriter of life insurance and living benefits products.