

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

I remember that when I was ordained a priest in April of 2007, just a few months later, I began my time at Camp Ekon. As a new priest, I was still nervous when presiding at Mass, not wanting to forget to say some of the prayers. In the first week of working at Ekon, we had a gospel reading that was either the same as this week’s or similar. I was nervous and many of the children were homesick, and the Lord was speaking words like, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate their father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even their life itself, cannot be my disciple.” The children’s eyes looked confused and mine probably appeared panicked. The last thing I wanted was the sounds of sobs emanating from the chapel! Sometimes when we are trying to convince others of a certain idea or position, we can sometimes use strong or exaggerated words. In a way, I think that the Lord is doing just this. The Lord who reveals to us that God is a God of love and mercy, certainly does not want us to hate anyone, nor to even have hate in our hearts. And so his words to us this week cannot be about hate, but perhaps they are leading us to dwell more deeply in a passionate love.

If one is asked what they think about when they think about religion or faith, they often speak about such things, as going to Mass and morality. When they are reminded about the centrality of love in our faith, there can sometimes be a sense of let down, of taking the easy way. And yet I can think of nothing else that is as difficult as committing ourselves to be loving. It is this loving that may be the Cross which Jesus speaks of.

In the *Spiritual Exercises* of Saint Ignatius, there is an image that is used to describe how we are tempted into sinfulness. Ignatius says that the Evil One sends out his demons to each of us, and, as if they are poking at the walls of a fort, they seek our weak spots. When our weaknesses are discovered, then we are attacked. Every one of us has our “weak spots,” those parts of us that want to limit our loving. It may be an insecurity about our lovability; it may be a fear of disappointing others; it may be a concern that as we age we are not as valuable as before; it may be an excessive competitiveness that sees others as better; it may be a hurt from the words of another; or, it may be loneliness seeing the joy of the world as passing me by. These are temptations and lies! We are created to love and to be loved. And the Evil One wants us to give-up on love, to give-up on God and ourselves. But we are followers of the Lord. We see him carrying his Cross and we bend low to collect our own. With each step he takes, he proclaims that the love of the Father isn’t going anywhere; it is always given and shared with us. Our focus is not our infidelity, but is God’s fidelity to us. With each step we take, we proclaim that love is real, that we know it in our hearts and, that, we will seek to love with every thought, every word and every action. We are not made to hate, we are not made to be victims of our “weak spots.” We are made by a God who is love and mercy, we are made to love and be loved. With sounds of joy, let us pick up our Cross and love.

God Bless & Take Care,

Fr. John

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**Hotdogs & Lemonade
Saturday and Sunday September
14 & 15**



Through the summer, as a community many of us were away and busy doing summer time activities. Hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves and had time for a little rest and fun. Now that September has arrived and as a way of coming back together as God’s family we invite you all to join us for some special hospitality. Join us on the weekend of September 14th & 15th after all of our Sunday Masses for free hotdogs and lemonade. The hospitality is on us, served with a smile by members of our Catholic Women’s league. Reconnect with people you haven’t seen in a while and take the time to make some new friends. Hope to see you there!

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Morning Retreat

Join Fr. Doug McCarthy, S.J. and Sr. Mary Babic for a Morning Retreat on Saturday, **September 14 from 9am to 12 noon**. This time of prayer and reflection will take place in the Library and Loyola Halls. The theme of the Retreat is “*Are You Poor Enough to Follow Jesus?*” The Retreat is free, but we ask you to please sign up by calling the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 or email us at parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca

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Lector’s Workshop

All Lectors are invited to attend a Lector’s Workshop. The workshop will be offered on two different days. Please choose from one of the following: **Thursday, September 19 from 7 to 9 pm or Saturday September 21 from 9 am to 11am**. Please call the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 to let us know which date you prefer and to register. You can also e-mail parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca.

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**Our Lady Of Lourdes
Fall Rummage Sale
Saturday, October 5**

Join us on **Saturday, October 5** in our church halls for our Autumn Rummage Sale. If you would like to drop things off for the sale, you can do so at Lynch hall on Thursday, October 3 and Friday October 4 from 9am to 8pm. There will be a Food Pavilion as well as booths with clothing, household articles and many other items on sale. Come for the food and stay for the friendship! See you there!

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Our annual pilgrimage to the shrine of the Canadian Jesuit Martyrs in Midland, Ontario is scheduled for Saturday, **September 21**. In anticipation of the celebration of the Feast of the Martyrs on September 22 we will join in the Novena at the 12noon Mass at the Shrine. **Tickets are available from the Parish Welcome Desk and the Parish Office**. Our tickets will sell for **\$30.00 each**. Seats will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 9

- 8:00 am Virginia Dela Cueva + [Bing Arellano]
- 12:10 pm Deceased Members of Pombo Family + [Julie Pombo]
- 5:15pm Pamela Mary Hosang + [Joan Hosang]

Tuesday, September 10

- 8:00 am
- 12:10 pm Carlotta Ilar + [Ilar Family]
- 5:15 pm Rosemary Selvarajah + [Mary & Leo]

Wednesday, September 11

- 8:00 am Jorge & Lourdes Sievert + [Sievert Family]
- 12:10 pm Gil & Paz Capili + [Daughter]
- 5:15 pm

Thursday September 12

- 8:00 am Clarita Quiambao + [Josepina Quiambao]
- 12:10 pm Manuel Navarra + [Mary Carpenter Smith]
- 5:15 pm Roberto Fuentes + [Bernadette]

Friday, September 13

- 8:00 am Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit [Linda Lising]
- 12:10 pm Health of Cabrera, Ramos & Genil Families
[Marcelo Cabrera]
- 5:15 pm Thanksgiving for Gloria Baltazar [Friends]

Saturday, September 14

- 8:00 am Thanksgiving for the Safe Delivery of Alison
[Nora & Alfredo Guy-Joco]
- 12:10 pm Emilia Bautista + [Bautista]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
*Genie Apolinario, Rodolfo Gozum, James Marchall Tory,
 Clarita Quiambao & Vivencio Felonia*

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**RETURN TO
 REGULAR SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 7 & 8**

September is here and with it our regular choirs are returning to our Sunday Masses this weekend, September 7 & 8. Many thanks to those who generously helped out throughout the summer to lead our parish in song at our weekend liturgies!

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Pauline Book & Media Fair
 Here at Our Lady Of Lourdes
 in Bernadette Hall,

Saturday & Sunday September 14 & 15

before and after all of our Masses

*Catholic books, Bible's, Music CD's,
 DVD Movies, and More...*

This is an excellent opportunity to get something inspirational to listen to, watch, or read for your spiritual life. Be sure to stop by and see what's on display.

Coffee After Sunday Mass

Hospitality after Sunday Morning Masses begins again in Lynch Hall on Sunday September 8th. We hope to see you there!



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Did You Know

Why is there a moment of silence after communion?

Silence plays an important role in the celebration of the liturgy and contrary to what some may think, silence in the Mass does not mean that Father has lost his place or that the choir has forgotten to start singing. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) mentions several locations where silence is appropriate (no. 45), and suggests that silence plays at least three different roles during the liturgy depending on when it is observed: "Its purpose, however, depends on the time it occurs in each part of the celebration. Thus within the Act of Penitence and again after the invitation to pray, all recollect themselves; but at the conclusion of a reading or the homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise and pray to God in their hearts." Silence helps us in moments of "recollection," particularly before the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass and after the invitations ("Let us pray") to the major presidential prayers. Silence also helps us in "reflection and meditation," especially after each of the scriptural readings or after the homily. Finally, Silence give us the space and depth for our "prayer" of praise and thanksgiving to our God, for the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ which nourishes us.

Periods of liturgical silence are meant to be communal acts in which the assembly – all of us gathered together—permits God's whisper to be heard in the midst of the many voices that speak to us, as individuals and as the body of Christ, to gain our attention and allegiance. Our silent prayer following Communion helps us to reflect on our oneness with each other and with Jesus Christ who comes to us in the Eucharist and who empowers us to go forth to live his Gospel in the world. It is a moment to prepare ourselves spiritually for living the Eucharist in our daily lives.

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

Let your door stand open to receive Him, unlock your soul to Him, offer Him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart and stand before the sun of the everlasting light. ~ St. Ambrose