

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

3914 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 1L7 Telephone: 416-239-1259

Email: olpeace@archtoronto.org Website: www.olpeace.archtoronto.org

OUR MISSION

*"Guided by the love of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ, we the parish community of **Our Lady of Peace** come together embracing diversity and unity, to celebrate the Sacraments, to study the Word of God, and to provide unwavering support for one another. Through dynamic liturgical celebrations, meaningful fellowship, and continuous education, we strive to nurture each person's unique relationship with God and empower them to live out their faith in the world."*

Our Pastor:

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 3

Office Administrators:

Jeff Glover &

Rosanne Colavecchia

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 0

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals:

Please contact the Parish Office.



Holy Mass

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 a.m.

Confessions:

Saturday

4:30 p.m.

Adoration & Benediction

First Friday

following 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Our catholic faith has been passed down from generation to generation. Please ensure our faith lives on for generations to come by remembering your parish in your Will.

REMEMBER & FORGIVE

This Sunday's readings boldly challenge two prevailing pieces of conventional wisdom that have long guided our understanding of human nature. The first notion suggests that a person who has undergone a particular negative experience will inherently possess the empathy and understanding to relate to someone else enduring a similar ordeal. It seems perfectly reasonable; after all, we often assume that those who have tasted the bitterness of loss or grappled with anxiety are better equipped to offer solace and support to others facing similar challenges.

Yet, the parable in today's gospel dispels this assumption. In this powerful story, we encounter a servant who, despite being released from an overwhelming debt by his own creditor, displays no shred of sympathy toward a fellow debtor. His actions astonish those who witness them, and they continue to astonish us today. So much so, that we might find ourselves indifferent to the torment he faces at the parable's conclusion, even harboring a sense of satisfaction in his suffering. It's a perplexing situation that serves as an intricate trap, for it compels us to confront our own behavior. Who is this servant but a fictional character with a fictional debt? And who are we but real sinners who have received God's forgiveness for real transgressions?

Imagine, for a moment, the wicked servant, contorted in pain, gazing at us with bloodshot eyes, challenging our self-righteousness. "Do you truly believe you're any different from me?" he might ask. "Which among you, though forgiven by God for your sins, has never hesitated to forgive others? Who among you has never clung to grudges or nursed past hurts? Who among you has not sought leniency for yourselves while demanding strict accountability from others?" The lines between him and us blur, exposing our shared humanity.

The second piece of conventional wisdom under scrutiny is the notion that humans progress by forgiving and forgetting. This advice, often given to those struggling to move beyond painful experiences or betrayals, seems perfectly logical: "Forgive and forget; you must move forward and

prevent this experience from poisoning your life further."

However, the readings today propose a different perspective. They suggest that forgiveness isn't achieved by erasing the past but by remembering it—by remembering more about the past, our current circumstances, and our future destiny. While popular wisdom may encourage us to "Forgive and forget," biblical wisdom encourages us to "Remember, and in doing so, learn the art of forgiveness."

The wicked servant in the parable astonishes his colleagues by swiftly forgetting the mercy he received. If you and I struggle with forgiveness, we can start by remembering the times we were forgiven. The first reading from the Book of Sirach lays this foundation: it's unreasonable to expect forgiveness and mercy if we're unwilling to extend them ourselves. It's irrational to implore God for mercy when we're not ready to show it to others. We must remember at least this much.

But as we endeavor to forgive, we must remember more. Sirach urges us to remember the end of our lives, to remember the inevitability of destruction and death. It's a poignant reminder of how unforgiveness might feel when we look back upon our lives. Perhaps Sirach is also reminding us of the final judgment, where we must give an account of ourselves to God. Where will we stand then, eager for forgiveness but not comprehending its essence because we failed to practice it ourselves?

We are called to be ambassadors of forgiveness and agents of reconciliation in the world. Yet, forgiveness is not something we can will ourselves into. No matter how strong our resolve, we cannot force it. Ultimately, it is a divine gift, as Alexander Pope aptly noted, "To err is human, to forgive divine."



Office Hours Changed

We are pleased to announce that our parish office is now accessible to the public from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 9:30 am and 4:30 pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5:00 pm † Sylvia Persaud
Sep.16th Requested by: Noronha Family

Sunday 9:00 am For † Joseph & Halina
Sept.17th Drozdal
Requested by: Drozdal Family

9:00 am For † Ester Lopez
Requested by: Lopez Family
11:00 am For OLP Parishioners

Tuesday 9:00 am
Sept. 19th

Wednesday 9:00 am For † Lourdes Mathias
Sept. 20th Requested by: Peter Mathias

Thursday 9:00 am
Sept.21st

Friday 9:00 am **Mass of Thanksgiving**
Sept.22nd Requested by: Walsh Family

Saturday 9:00 am † Ada Pulla
Sept.23rd Requested by: Colavecchia Family



September 17 - 23, 2023

Sacred Heart: Giorno Family

Sanctuary Candle: + Joseph Sebastian DeSouza



Please pray for those who have died recently: Ester Lopez, Emma Rosas, Mary Strachan, & Angela Young.

Stewardship Weekend

Stewardship allows us to thank God for all the blessings He has given to us by committing to a life of prayer, participation, and generosity. At all Masses next weekend, you will hear more about stewardship from our pastor and will receive a commitment card asking you to be a good steward by committing to a life of prayer, participation, and generosity. Please pray that our Stewardship initiative will enlighten our entire parish.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy of the Word is designed to make the gospel message and the celebration of the liturgy relevant to the lives and experiences of young children. During the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, children ages 4 through grade 4 are invited to join Children’s Liturgy of the Word to hear and reflect upon an age-appropriate version of the Sunday gospel. Come join us for a Sunday filled with smiles, stories, music, and spiritual growth.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN (RCIC)

Baptism serves as a foundational step for receiving other Sacraments, including First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If you desire to have your child, who is in Grade 2 or older, baptized or received into the Roman Catholic Church (if already baptized in another Christian denomination), kindly reach out to the Parish office. Registration packages can be obtained either directly from the parish office or from the website or from the table located at the rear of the church.



FIRST COMMUNION

Registration at the Church: - Saturday September 30, 2023, at 3:00 pm

We request that at least one parent attend this meeting with the child. To register, please bring with you the completed registration form, donation amount (suggested \$75 minimum- cash only please), and a copy of your child’s baptismal certificate.



CONFIRMATION

Registration at the Church: - Sunday October 1, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

We request that you attend Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m. and register your child for Confirmation. To register, please bring with you the completed registration form, donation amount (suggested \$75 minimum- cash only please), and a copy of your child’s baptismal certificate.





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