

# 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](mailto:olpeace@archtoronto.org) Website: [www.olpeace.archtoronto.org](http://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:

**Teresa McNamara &**

**Rosanne Colavecchia**

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 0

#### Office Hours:

**Monday to Friday**

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Baptisms,**

**Weddings & Funerals:**

Please contact the Parish Office.



#### Holy Mass

**Saturday**

5:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday to Friday**

9:00 a.m.

**Confessions:**

**Saturday**

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 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.*

## Cleanliness and Godliness

As children we were told always to wash our hands before meals. Nowadays we're much more conscious of the need for cleanliness to avoid spreading diseases. Cleanliness is a matter of practical common sense, simple hygiene. Removing the grime was even given a religious spin with the maxim, "cleanliness is next to godliness."

Jesus wasn't knocking that. Nor was He attacking the idea that none of us is fit to enter the presence of the All-Holy God. In comparison with Him we are all spiritually unclean. We are ungodly, unclean, to the extent that we sin. The Jews expressed this sense of unworthiness by laws about washing. We Catholics do the same thing at Mass when the priest says, "Lord, wash away my iniquity and cleanse me of my sin." These laws about washing were not a question of removing physical dirt but spiritual uncleanness.

And they have another value. As these laws were handed on from one generation to the next, they helped to give the Jews a recognizable identity. We Catholics value traditions and customs, which give us a recognizable identity. When you see someone making the sign of the cross you can be certain he's a Catholic. He will do that before competing in a sport. We're encouraged to say grace before meals, even when dining out. This gesture expresses our dependence on God and our gratitude for His gifts. These customs are important in reminding ourselves and other people of our religious identity. If we lose our traditions, we can lose our identity.

So why did Jesus and His disciples fail to keep the laws about washing before meals? Far from trying to abolish God's Law He wanted to restore its true meaning and purpose. This was necessary because over the centuries this had become obscured. Religious legislators had become over-zealous in defining how the general Laws God had given His people should be applied to every possible situation. God's will had become lost among the mass of detailed human rules, which few could know and therefore observe. Everyone else was dismissed as an ignorant sinner.

Jesus wanted to get back to basics. He cut through the forest of minute rules and regulations and revealed the whole purpose of God's Law. This was to protect and foster love for God and each other. Good law should provide a framework in which love can grow. Bad law stifles real love.

Jesus provoked this confrontation to provide Him with an opportunity to get a true understanding of the kind of cleanliness that is necessary for us to have a true relationship with God –the kind of uncleanness that damages that relationship. This has little or nothing to do with ritual physical cleanliness, whether that be of our bodies or our cooking utensils. Still less should we make a display of meticulously observing such traditions. We may impress other people, but certainly not God.

Inner purity is far more important than outward cleanliness. What really matters is the way we think, our inmost desires and longings. These lead to the way we behave. With dirty hands we can have a good relationship with God –but not with a dirty soul, mind, and heart. That's not confined to lustful thoughts and desires, but includes malicious, spiteful longings, a refusal to apologize or forgive, an arrogant contempt for other people. It's far more worthwhile and demanding to keep a guard on our thoughts and desires than to be scrupulous in washing our hands and cooking utensils.

But before we Catholics become too smug and self-righteous, we should ask ourselves some uncomfortable questions. Have we always got our priorities right? Does the way we behave in our daily lives contradict the faith we profess as 'practicing Catholics,' who regularly come to Mass? Do we make being a meticulous perfectionism a substitute for being perfect? Do we make a hypocritical display of outward respectability while being rotten inside?

In today's Gospel Jesus helps us to understand the kind of cleanliness that's essential to our having a good relationship with God. That's inner, not external purity. Only in this sense is cleanliness next to godliness



**Mass Intentions**  
**Saturday August 31st**

**5pm**

†Norma & †Anacleto Palma Requested by Eden Molina  
†Ross Gagliardi Requested by Susan Gagliardi

**Sunday September 1st**

**10am**

†Norma & †Anacleto Palma Requested by Fr. Yaw  
†Ester Lopez Requested Imelda Lopez (1st Anniversary)

**11:30am**

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**9am - Monday September 2nd**

No Mass

**9am - Tuesday September 3rd**

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**9am - Wednesday September 4th**

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**9am - Thursday September 5th**

For Special Intention-Rebecca Mahon  
Requested by Teresa McNamara

**9am - Friday September 6th**

*We hope you had a wonderful, restful and relaxing Summer. Whether you were away or stayed in town, hopefully God blessed you and your families with good health and lots of fun memories. May the Holy Spirit guide us and fill us with the grace of peace, joy and charity as we start this new season.*

**The Sacraments of  
First Holy Communion and  
Confirmation**

Registration for First Holy Communion will take place in the Parish Hall



**Saturday 28th September 2024**  
After 5pm Mass  
&/or  
**Sunday 29th September 2024**  
After 11.30am Mass

**First Holy Communion Dates:**

**Saturday May 3rd 2025 – 5pm &/or**  
**Sunday May 4th 2025 – 11.30am**

**Sanctuary Candles Intentions**



**Sacred Heart:** †Ester Lopez  
Requested by Imelda Lopez

**St Joseph:** †Melanio Juanito  
Requested by Imelda Lopez

**Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine,  
Midland**

**40th Annual Rosary Sunday**

**Sunday, September 8th 2024**

**Cost \$30**

(Includes Transportation and Admission)

**Bus departs Holy Angels Church,  
61 Jutland Rd  
@ 8.15am**

**Contact:**

**Danny 416-732-4648**

**Darlene 416-526-2068**

Click [this link](#) for more info



Registration for Confirmation will take place in the Parish Hall

**Saturday October 5th 2024**  
After 5pm Mass

**Confirmation Date:**

**Sunday, June 1st 2025 – 3pm**

**Celebrant: Most Reverend Bishop Ivan Camilleri**

Candidates wishing to receive either sacrament must provide a hard copy of their Baptismal Certificate. Registration will take place on these dates only.

*Our Lady of Peace, Pray for Us*





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