

# Our Lady Of Peace Parish

March 9th, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

3914 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 1L7

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## Holy Mass

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

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

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 a.m.

## Confession

Saturday

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

Adoration & Benediction

First Friday

following 9:00 a.m. Mass

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



## Our Pastor

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha  
Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 3

## Office Administrators

Rosanne Colavecchia  
Teresa McNamara  
Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 0

## Youth Minister

Arnold Samson  
[asamson@archtoronto.org](mailto:asamson@archtoronto.org)

## Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## 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

*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.*

## Lenten Message

**By His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo,  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, May Jesus and Mary be in your souls. I am writing to you as we prepare to enter the Holy Season of Lent; a sacred time that invites a heightened awareness of God's love in our lives, and prayerful discernment on how best to cooperate with His love. This needed cooperation with grace requires true repentance as well. The spiritual renewal that is sought earnestly by men and women of faith will come about only if the heart accepts to change. This year our Lenten observance takes on an added spiritual dimension, the Jubilee Year with its focus on Hope, born from God, born in our hearts.

As Pilgrims of Hope, our traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help to orient our thoughts, words and deeds toward God, His Kingdom and in steadfast hope. Prayer is especially important, insofar as "hope is expressed and nurtured in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire" (CCC 1820). Fasting "takes up the hopes that inspire our activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven" (CCC 1818). And finally, Almsgiving, when done with compassion and in solidarity with those who suffer, especially the sick, the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed, are concrete expressions of hope. Have you given some thought to how you will embody these three practices in your Lenten journey this year?

Lest we forget, at the core of Lent's 40 days is the Paschal Mystery—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis suggests that to "experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is "making all things new" (cf. Rev 21:1-6). It

means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being "prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls us to account for the hope that is in us" (1 Pet 3:15)". As Pilgrims of Hope, we walk with Christ through His suffering and death on the Cross, to a profound hope in the resurrection and witnesses to the new life that is offered to us. In this way the Cross is the ultimate symbol of Christian hope—what appears to be defeat and despair on Good Friday is revealed in the resurrection as the triumph of life over death.

We live in challenging times and there are myriads of voices that proclaim fear, despair, and desolation. Taking seriously the call to be Pilgrims of Hope, we readily listen to the voice of Christ, knowing that "hope does not disappoint" (Rom. 5:5). Let us boldly dare to live differently, to live as one who has hope. What does that "difference" look like in your life and relationships? 1 Hoping as intended by the Lord necessitates that we are willfully engaged in a continuous process of interior purification and repentance, which means we are striving to reorient our entire life, to return back to the Lord and away from sinful thoughts, words and deeds. Welcoming the grace of renewal entails desiring and deciding to place all our trust and all our hope in God's truth and mercy and walk resolutely in His presence.

In conclusion, let us remember the Catechism teaching that Lent is an "intense moment of the Church's penitential practice" (CCC, 1438). But Lent is also a time of renewal and reconciliation—two hallmarks of the Jubilee Year as well. I encourage you to take advantage of this sacred time of 40 days and discover the hope into which we were born. While wishing you all and your loved ones and communities a most sacred Lent, I invoke upon us all the powerful blessing of Almighty God through the loving intercession of the Blessed Mother.

### Curious about faith?

Join us for a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in small groups to watch an episode on a different question of life & faith – then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. All are welcome, no matter your background or beliefs, and it's completely free! **Monday March 10th, 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 11 sessions.** Doors will open each evening at 6:30 pm in the church basement. **For more information on Alpha or to register online click here**

<https://olpeace.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/alpha-2025/>



## A Road Map of Christian Living

At the commencement of the Lenten season, the readings of this first Sunday liturgy, especially the gospel, present a road map of Christian living in the midst of today's world with its many forms and types of attractions, distractions as well as allurements.

The gospel deals with the story of Jesus being tempted by the devil. The temptations of Jesus were surely part of his redeeming action for the world; but it was also his self-gift as a role model for us to follow in similar circumstances of our everyday life which is often beset with evils of suffering, testing and temptations. The three temptations together cover human life in all its major dimensions, economic, social and religious.

Temptations and tempters, failures and defaulters may be called God's sand paper process: Fine wood furniture must endure a great amount of polishing by sand paper. All the rough places - the nicks, the irregular surfaces and the splinters must be sanded until the wood pieces are perfectly smooth and ready for the finishing process, for the sale-shop and the buyer's home. God wants to do the same with us to make us fit for his home, the heaven. But to do this, he must rid us of our chronic character flaws and bring us to spiritual maturity.

God's sanders may be people with obvious personality flaws, like impatience, anger, pride, laziness and so on. May be also holy people with good intentions. God makes these sanders to come into contact with us daily and rub up the wrong way as sand paper rubs against unfinished wood furniture. They grate and grind, trouble and taunt us, even to the point of driving us crazy, as the devil did to Jesus at the end of the temptations. As Jesus stood his ground undeterred and unscathed by the machinations of the devil and drove him away by the power of the word, we shall also face any sanders rubbing and turn it to fine tuning of our personality, looking at Jesus as our role model and by his grace. As Jesus came victorious through these temptations, he stands as a brilliant example for all those who will have to wrestle with evil and suffering in the world. Lent is a time to face squarely temptations of different kinds by embracing afresh the Holy Spirit, given to us at baptism, when we were born into God's family, the Church. As the same Spirit accompanied Jesus during his desert-experience, may he also accompany us into this Lenten season, which is in fact observed in remembrance of Jesus' desert-fasting. Once again Lent has begun for us; let us examine how the gospel message of today will help us choose a pathway fitting for Jesus' disciples, and how we will make the message of fasting, penance and almsgiving most fruitful in our everyday life.



### Stations of the Cross

**7:00 pm**  
**Every Friday**  
**During Lent**



## MASS INTENTIONS

*Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**5pm**

† Anna † & Giovanni Fasciano

Requested by Fasciano Family

† Jack Fitzgerald Requested by Pat Fitzgerald

**Special Intentions – Ward & Hamel-Smith Families**

*Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**10am**

† Zofia Rogowska Requested by Podbielski Family

**11:30am**

† Luiza Perucello Requested by Marcos Saviolli

*Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 - No Mass on Mondays*

*Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**9am**

† Steve Castrucci Requested by Carolyn Kennedy

*Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**9am**

† Paulina & † Giuseppe Picciuto

Requested by Picciuto Family

*Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**9am**

† Steve Castrucci Requested by Joan Kennedy

*Friday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.*

**9am**

† Luciano D'Souza Requested by Charmine Cutinha

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The loving community of Our Lady of  
Peace is thrilled to welcome

*Roarke Evans*



*Calia Brie Onari Cajoles*

May your baptism be the start of a life  
filled with faith, love, and God's presence.  
Amen.

## *OLP Youth Ministry*

**Fridays at 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.**

21-March-2025,

04-April-2025 & 23-May-2025

Location: St Elizabeth School,

5 Redcar Ave, Etobicoke

Register on our Youth Ministry page, or contact

Arnold Samson at [asamson@archtoronto.org](mailto:asamson@archtoronto.org)

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