



Sat. Feb. 9

5:00pm +**Tony Alonzi**

Sun. Feb. 10

8:00am + **Napoleone DeRose**

9:15am +**Pietro Stillitano**

10:30am +**Rino Mazzuca**

12:00 noon **For the people of the Parish**

Mon. Feb. 11

7:00pm +**Anna Ignagni**

Wed. Feb. 13

7:00pm +**Perno Silla**

Thurs. Feb. 14

7:00pm +**Antonio, Isabella & Patricia Virgilio and deceased members of the Romanelli family**

Fri. Feb. 15

9:00am +**Vincenzo & Rosalinda Evangelista**

Feast Days This Week

Mon. Feb. 11 – **Our Lady of Lourdes**

Thurs. Feb. 14 – **St. Cyril**, monk &
St. Methodius, bishop

Marriage Sunday – Cardinal Collins has designated this weekend as Marriage Sunday in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The event provides an opportunity to honour husband and wife while saluting the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy that comes with the marriage covenant. To those preparing for marriage, newlyweds and those that have been companions on the journey for decades, we offer our prayers and best wishes in a special way this weekend.

Blessing for Marriages

"Almighty and eternal God, you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage that it has become the sacramental sign of your Son's union with the Church as His spouse. Look with favour on these married couples, whom you have united in marriage, as they ask for your help and the protection of the Virgin Mary. They pray that in good times and in bad they will grow in love for each other; that they will resolve to be one of heart in the bond of peace.

Lord, in their struggles, let them rejoice that you are near to help them; in their needs, let them know that you are there to rescue them, in their joys let them see that you are the source and completion of every happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen"

First Reconciliation

We offer our congratulations to the children of St. Stephen School who will be receiving their

First Reconciliation this Monday, Feb. Feb. 11 at 7:30pm in the church. Also, a special thank you to the teachers and families who helped prepare the children for this sacrament.

Life in the Spirit - Begins on Wednesday, February 13th at 7:45pm at St. Padre Pio Parish. Each of the seven sessions consist of a teaching and a short time of reflective sharing. These seminars have been given throughout the Catholic Church for fifty years and have helped people to deepen their faith and their relationship with Jesus. It has opened them up to scripture and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For more information and to register, please see the signup sheets in the Narthex, or call the Parish at 905-893-7879 ext. 202.

Wedding – Next Saturday, Feb. 16, we will be celebrating the wedding of Matthew Gullo and Jessica Panza. We offer them our best wishes and ask God to bless them and grant them happiness, peace, and joy and strength in trials, all the days of their lives together.

Valentine's Sale - This weekend, after all the Masses, the Knights of Columbus will be selling chocolates for Valentine's Day.

World Day of the Sick - The ministry of Jesus to the sick is central to the life of the Church. Pope John II in announcing this day stated: "I consider most appropriate indeed, the bestowal upon the entire ecclesial community of an initiative which, as already practiced in some nations and regions, has brought forth precious pastoral fruit." Each year this observance occurs on February 11, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This day highlights the healing ministry of the Church. It reminds us that service to the sick and suffering cannot be neglected. It recognizes the great efforts of doctors, nurses, health care institutions and pastoral care givers to restore health to those afflicted with illness and disease. "Jesus went forth healing the blind, the lame, the cripples, those afflicted with pain and illness."

Lord Jesus, our brother, you showed your love for the sick by your concern for them. Help us to see you and serve you in the sick. Bless these men and women who are dedicated to helping and healing the sick. Guide them in their labours, and give them a greater share in your love. Reward their service by the peace and joy of your Holy Spirit, and by the everlasting happiness of heaven. Lord Jesus, we praise you, for you are our Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Thursday, February 14 – St. Valentine’s Day

History tends to be confusing and vague, but despite several different possibilities for his identity, it is believed that the actual Valentine who inspired this holiday was a priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II.

Valentine, or Valentinus is credited, along with St. Marius and his family, with assisting the Christian martyrs during their persecution by Claudius. At that time it was a crime to provide aid and comfort to Christians. Claudius had also issued an edict forbidding marriage. He believed married men made poor soldiers because they grew attached to their families. Therefore, to guarantee a steady supply of soldiers for his empire, Claudius abolished marriage and cancelled all engagements.

Valentine invited young lovers to come to him in secret, where he joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Claudius learned of this ‘friend of lovers’, and had Valentine brought before him. The emperor, impressed with the young priest’s dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the Roman gods to save him from otherwise certain execution. Valentine refused to renounce Christianity and instead attempted to convert the emperor, thereby signing his death warrant.

Thrown into a dungeon, and tended by a jailer named Asterius, the young priest had only the barest necessities of his life. His one comfort while awaiting execution was his friendship with Asterius’ blind daughter. She befriended the kindly priest by bringing him food and delivering messages for him. In the last days of his life, Valentine through his deep and abiding faith miraculously restored the sight of his jailer’s daughter. He also converted Asterius and his daughter to Christianity, an act that would result in their eventual execution by Claudius.

On the eve of his execution the priest wrote a farewell message to the girl and signed it “from your Valentine,” a phrase that would live long after the author died. He was beaten and beheaded on February 14th, 273 AD, outside the Faminian Gate (now the Porta del Popolo but known for a time as the Porta Valentini) in Rome. According to a legend, a pink almond tree, a symbol of abiding love, blossomed near his grave.

In the 4th century, Pope Julius I built a church in honour of St. Valentine. In the 7th century, Pope Honorius I restored it and it became a very popular pilgrimage site.

The Valentine has become the universal symbol of friendship and affection shared each anniversary of the priest’s execution – St. Valentine’s Day. St. Valentine has also become the Patron of those couples who are engaged to be married.

Tax Receipts - Tax receipts will be available for pick up this weekend. Tax receipts are sorted

alphabetically by last name. Receipts are issued for donations over \$50.00. Family of Faith tax receipts will be sent to you from the Family of Faith office.

Lent Begins March 6 in 3 ½ weeks!

Family Prayer – Lent is a good time for us to look at our family prayer and to work to improve it. We need to ask ourselves: When do we pray as a family? Do we pray at any of the traditional times – morning, evening, night and mealtimes? Do we pray at other times? Have we abandoned family prayer in our home? Most families admit that they don’t have enough time to pray or that they want to grow in prayer but don’t know how. Lent is a time we can begin to improve, to move ahead from where we are now in our personal and family prayer life. The six weeks of Lent can be a time of real progress if we are open to God’s Spirit.

Offertory Envelopes for 2019 - Envelopes are in the Vestibule. Envelopes are sorted by envelope number. If you don’t know or remember your envelope number, there are lists available by the envelope boxes. The lists are in alphabetical order with your envelope number beside your name. If you are new to the parish and would like to start using envelopes, please ask one of the ushers to get you a new box. This will be the last weekend that they will be out.

Stained Glass Windows – Only 4 portions left! - Feeding the 5,000 – 4 portions available.

The window will be sold in 10 portions at a cost of \$6,500 per portion. A plaque will be placed below the window, once your portion has been paid in full. This is a wonderful way to honour those who are still living or to remember those who have died. For more information, please contact the office at 905-893-7879.

Sympathy - We offer our deep sympathy to Angela Loschiavo and her family on the death of her husband, Gaetano Loschiavo, and Emma Ientile and her family on the death of her husband, Cosimo Ientile, and Nancy Comella and her family on the death of her mother, Charlotte Pazder. May God grant them His eternal peace and joy and send comfort to all who mourn their passing.

Family Skate– Knights of Columbus invite everyone to St. Padre Pio Parish Family Day skate on Mon. Feb. 18, from 5-6pm. Join other families from our parish for FREE skating at Al Palladini. Please bring a non-perishable food item in support of the Vaughan Food Bank. See you there!