



2775 Erin Centre Boulevard
Mississauga, ON L5M 5W2
Phone: (905) 812 0030
Fax: (905) 812 0011
www.mercifulredeemer.org

OFFICE HOURS

Appointment required

Tuesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MASS TIMES

Monday 12:15 PM

Tuesday 7:00 PM

Wednesday 12:15 PM

Thursday 7:00 PM

Friday 12:15 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM,

5:00 PM*, 7:00 PM*

**Sunday vigil Mass*

Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM,

12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

CHURCH HOURS

Mon., Wed., Fri. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tues., Thurs. 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sat. 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

ADORATION CHAPEL

Closed until further notice

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@MercifulRedeemerParish

@RedeemerParish

@RedeemerParish

@mryouthministry

@forged.jpg

@forgedministry

@mrcssvp

PARISH TEAM

Msgr Owen Keenan, Pastor
pastor@mercifulredeemer.org

Fr Suresh Xavier, Associate Pastor
associate2@mercifulredeemer.org

Fr Tom Kluger, Associate Pastor
associate@mercifulredeemer.org

Patricia Pereira, Office Manager
office@mercifulredeemer.org

Elizabeth Nogueira, Daytime Secretary
Flavia Fernandes, Evening Secretary
secretary@mercifulredeemer.org

Danielle Lape, Youth Ministry
mercifulredeemerym@gmail.com

Jane Scamurra, Lay Pastoral Associate
jane@mercifulredeemer.org

Kielon Gerra, Communications Coordinator
communications@mercifulredeemer.org

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius Gonzaga 2800 Erin Centre Blvd. | (905) 820 3900

Divine Mercy 2840 Duncairn Dr. | (905) 812 5445

Our Lady of Mercy 5820 Glen Erin Dr. | (905) 814 9216

St. Rose of Lima School 4590 The Gallops | (905) 828 4076

St. Sebastian School 3460 Aquinas Ave. | (905) 607 0107

PARISH COMMUNITY

Charismatic Prayer Group Mondays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

St. JP II Theology of the Body Prayer Group Wednesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 PM, by Zoom, tob@bell.net

Knights of Columbus Michael Fonseca, gk16254@ontariokofc.ca

Men's Fraternity Saturdays, 8:00-10:00 AM, by Zoom

Merciful Moms Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 AM

Youth Ministry <https://mercifulredeemer.org/youth-ministry>

Forged Young Adult Ministry www.forgedministry.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul www.mrcssvp.ca

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services www.catholic-cemeteries.com

Bible Study Group Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM

CONFESSION TIMES

Refer to page 5

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 15, 12:15 PM

+ Joseph Fernandes
Thanksgiving for Nick Slim

Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 PM

+ Maria Pereira, +Rufus Dias
Special Intention for Tenedero Family

Wednesday, March 17, 12:15 PM

+ Laz Fernandes, + Joseph Diaz, + Lima Almeida
+ Margaret Pearl Nevins-Selvadurai

Thursday, March 18, 7:00 PM

+ Jennifer Jacob, + Rufus Constantin Dias
Special Intention for Bernie & John Mendonca
Thanksgiving

Friday, March 19, 12:15 PM

+ Deceased Members of Katarincic Family
+ Thomas Virey
Special Intention for Luk & Chui Families
Thanksgiving to St. Joseph

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 AM

+ Joseph Kuczkowicz, + Susana Canonigo
+ Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thanksgiving by D'Costa Family
Thanksgiving by Antonia & Bart Maputi
Thanksgiving by Mohan Joseph & Family
Thanksgiving for Linda Beairsto

Saturday, March 20, 5:00 PM

+ John D' Souza
+ Maria Rolinda Hodgkinson
+ Neville Pereira
+ Joseph Sebastian D'Souza

Sunday, March 21, 8:30 AM

+ Irwan Gunadi, + David Gorka, + Benita Ang Co
+ Renata Mirowska, + Vince Schiraldi

Sunday, March 21, 10:00 AM

For All Parishioners

Sunday, March 21, 12:00 PM

+ Josefina Arciaga & Marieta Areiaga Keane
+ Father Aniceto Nazareth

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Here we are at the mid-point of our Lenten journey.

During the past three weeks, we have been listening to the call of the prophets and Jesus himself: "Repent and believe the Good News." Change your way of living.

Today, in the midst of these voices for change, we hear the Good News: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world" but to save it.

We heard St. Paul expand on John's words: "God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in sin, brought us to life in Christ – by grace you have been saved."

The wonder of God's loving mercy shown to us in Jesus: the immeasurable riches of his grace, his kindness to us in Jesus.

Our salvation, our new life, is pure grace, freely given by the God who loves us. We have done nothing to deserve it; we can do nothing to merit it. It's ours because God loves us. When we have the humble faith to accept this gracious gift of our God, then we can be made new, for we share in the life and love of God.

When we listen to the Good News and trust in God's faithful word to us, then we are open to confessing our sins and receiving the mercy of God. When we understand what God is doing in us, we will find ourselves being led to gratefulness. And our gratefulness will show itself in the way we live with one another. We then choose to become part of the light that Jesus is bringing into our world. The good we do for one another is done in response to God's graciousness.

It is good to be reminded that God has loved us so much. May today's reminder be a source of encouragement as we continue our good works on our journey to our Father's house.

Gospel Reflection CF: <https://oblates.squarespace.com/sundays-salesian-feed/fourth-sunday-of-lent-march-14-2021>
Article CF: <https://medja.ascensionpress.com/2021/02/22/looking-for-the-lamb-not-the-chocolate-bunny/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Catholic Family Services of Toronto's Online Sessions

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online quick access single sessions. The single-session consultation is a quick and effective way for individuals, couples or families to address a mental health or relationship concern. To arrange for a session, please contact: info@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 or 416- 222-0048.

Leave us a message with your name, email and phone number, and a staff person will contact you. Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs. Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees.

Poster: <http://bit.ly/CFSToronto>

Letters of Reference for Catholic Teacher Applicants

If you or one of your children are currently studying to become a teacher in our Catholic schools, part of the application process for the Board includes a letter of reference from your pastor. If you are from this parish and intend to ask for a reference letter, please note that you will have to be attending Mass here regularly and participating in a parish ministry before such a recommendation will be given. If you have a son or daughter currently in Teacher's College and they intend to use Merciful Redeemer as the parish from which they will request a letter of reference, but they do not attend this parish (because they are away at school), they will be required to obtain a letter from the pastor of the parish where they are attending while away at school. Please remember all our teachers – present and future – in your prayers!

Change of Address

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at register@mercifulredeemer.org.

Help for Seminarians

The Archdiocese of Toronto is sponsoring two Vietnamese seminarians from the Diocese of Biu Chu, in their vocation to the Priesthood. The government in Vietnam might not otherwise allow them to pursue their studies, and this is one concrete help St Augustine's Seminary is giving to our persecuted brothers and sisters in Vietnam.

The two seminarians are in need of some material assistance. If you are able, please let Msgr Owen know if you have for:

Peter Tran: one coat, one sweater (size Small, long zip and black colour) and one snow boot (size 8 and black colour).

Joseph: one coat, one sweater (size Medium, long zip and black colour) and one snow boot (size 9 and black colour).

Any donation is welcome. Thank you again for your generosity.

Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund

ATTENTION GRADE 12 STUDENTS!

The In2ition Scholarship Award offers a scholarship in the aggregate amount of up to \$40,000.00 CAD to be awarded to one (1) high school student enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at a university in Canada for the 2021/2022 school year.

This scholarship is awarded primarily on the basis of financial need as well as academic merit/ scholastic achievement, previously demonstrated capacity for successful completion of studies, and a capacity for high achievement.

The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2021. The scholarship recipient will be notified by June 11, 2021.

To find out more and apply, please visit <https://croat.ca/croatian-canadian-scholarship-fund-is-accepting-applications-for-the-in2ition-scholarship-award-2021/>

LENT IS HERE!

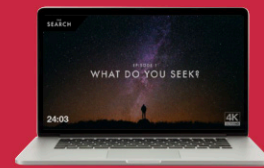
RESOURCES



Either life is an accident
or a beautiful mystery

As Catholics we know life is a beautiful mystery. Now explore the depths of that mystery and what it means for you. Watch *The Search*, a beautiful new video program that explores life's big questions.

Access Episode #1 at FORMED.org. Not signed up on FORMED.org? Visit FORMED.org/signup and search for our parish by name or Zip code.



THE
SEARCH

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM
FORMED

GET INVOLVED

Yes, Lord! A Lenten Liturgy of the Word for Kids
Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and
Sundays at 7:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m

Tune into Salt + Light Television on Friday mornings during Lent for a kid-friendly approach to the Sunday Mass readings and homily. Whether you are worshipping at home due to the pandemic or are just looking for a way to boost your family's faith life, you won't want to miss this brand new series!

On demand: www.slmedia.org/yeslord

Coffee Chat with Cardinal Collins
18 March, 2021 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 p.m.
Online Event

Join Women of the Word Toronto for a coffee chat with His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to speak to one of the successors of the Apostles! If you have a question for Cardinal Collins, send them in advance to: mary@wowblessingstoronto.com. Kindly note, that names will not be used when questions are being addressed and we will get to as many questions as time permits. Registration is required through www.wowblessingstoronto.com

Jean-Marie Cardinal Lustiger on the Ten Commandments
16 March, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Online Event

Join Fr. Favin Alemao as he speaks about the life and teachings of the late Jewish Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Lustiger. Many inside and outside the Church see in Jesus a break from the Torah (here as expressed in the Ten Commandments). However, Fr. Favin will explain that Cardinal Lustiger shows how Jesus preserves the heart of the Torah by following the Ten Commandments. Cardinal Lustiger claims, beautifully and boldly, that even God follows the Ten Commandments. All are welcome. To register, please email ahctoronto@gmail.com

Stations of the Cross
Friday evenings during Lent, 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we Livestream the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7:00 p.m. When we reopen, we will be able to walk the Via Crucis together. In the meantime, let us accompany Christ as He takes up His Cross to bring us life. The livestream link can be found on our website under "Parish Life".

LENTEN DAYS OF *Reconciliation*

TUESDAY 16 MARCH

Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fr Tom - Office
Fr Suresh - Office

Novena to St Joseph: 6:30 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church

Mass: 7:00 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church
Registration through Eventbrite is mandatory.

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

Confessions: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church
Fr Suresh - Church

Mass: 12:15 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church
Registration through Eventbrite is mandatory.

Novena to St Joseph: 6:30 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church

THURSDAY 18 MARCH

Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Office

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fr Tom - Office

Novena to St Joseph: 6:30 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church

Mass: 7:00 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church
Registration through Eventbrite is mandatory.



FRIDAY 19 MARCH

Confessions: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fr Tom - Office
Msgr Owen - Office
Fr Suresh - Stairs

Mass: 12:15 p.m.

Fr Tom - Church
Registration through Eventbrite is mandatory.

Stations of the Cross: Cancelled

Mass for Solemnity of St Joseph: 7:00 p.m.

Msgr Owen - Church
Registration through Eventbrite is mandatory.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION NEWS

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic is still upon us, we must continue to move forward with preparing our children for the reception of various Sacraments this year. Because this pandemic will be with us for a while, we need be smart, but not fearful; prudent, not scared. We need God, perhaps especially now, and the Sacraments are privileged encounters with Him Who is our life and our salvation.

It is understood that some parents or children may wish to defer the reception and celebration of first Reconciliation, first Holy Communion, or Confirmation, for reasons of legitimate health concerns. Kindly note that we celebrated first Communions and Confirmations in the autumn of 2020 in a way that was reverent, safe, socially distanced and secure. We do everything we can to ensure that those who come are protected and can worship without fear. There have been NO CASES OF TRANSMISSION IN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO, thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the sanitizing and ushering we have in place. You are as safe in this church as you are anywhere, and more so than many other public places. That being said, we respect the rights and decisions of parents to defer, if they wish.

For those who will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time, and for those who are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, note the following:

Reconciliation for Children receiving first Holy Communion:

Wednesday 24 March: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This date has been changed from 10 February. There will be a number of priests available and spread out throughout the Church.

**For those Gr 2 students who will not participate in the Confessions scheduled for 24 March, your child should still make their first Confession before they receive Holy Communion for the first time. Kindly bring your child to Confession at any other regularly scheduled time (Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.). This is a good opportunity for you also, as parents, to make a Lenten Confession, to lead by example and to be reconciled to God.*

First Holy Communion Masses:

Saturday May 8 at 12 noon

Sunday May 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday May 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday May 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Confirmation Masses:

Divine Mercy Catholic School
Monday 26 April 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School
Monday 26 April 2021, 7:00 p.m.

St Rose of Lima Catholic School
Wednesday 28 April, 7:00 p.m.

Public/Private/Home-schooled
Wednesday 28 April, 7:00 p.m.

St Sebastian Catholic School
Friday 30 April, 7:00 p.m.

** For parents of Gr 7 students who were not present in their schools during the Confirmation student Confession days, your child should still make a good Confession before the celebration of Confirmation. Kindly bring your child to Confession at any other regularly scheduled time (Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and ensure that this happens. This is a good opportunity for you also, as parents, to make a Lenten Confession, to lead by example and to be reconciled to God.*

**"What great faith our
Lord Jesus Christ asks of
us - and how just that is.
Do we not owe him such
faith? It looks impossible
to us but Jesus is Master
of the impossible."**

- Bl. Charles de Foucauld



OUR MISSION IS TO

LOVE, WALK WITH & EMPOWER THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

TO BE JOYFUL & FEARLESS

DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

MERCIFUL REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

<https://mercifulredeemer.org/youth-ministry> • mercifulredeemerym@gmail.com

 @mryouthministry



For Middle School Students (Gr. 6-8)

Schedule and Time Slot: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, 4:30 PM - 6 PM

Next Edge Night: Saturday, March 20th, 2021

Edge is a middle-school ministry program that aims to offer a safe and fun environment where you can learn more about your faith. If interested, please register using the link found on the parish website at www.mercifulredeemer.org/youth-ministry. Once you register your child with the link provided, you will automatically be sent the Zoom link before every Edge night. Join us at our next Edge night, where we will be talking about free-will and freedom.



For High School Students (Gr. 9-12)

Schedule and time Slot: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 4:30pm-6 PM

Next Life Night: Saturday, March 27th, 2021

Lifeteen is a high-school youth ministry that strives to lead teens closer to Christ by strengthening our teens' Catholic identity, while also rooting them firmly in Christ and in His Church. If you are interested in joining the program in our parish, please register your child using the link found on the parish website at www.mercifulredeemer.org/youth-ministry. Once you register your child with the link provided, you will automatically be sent the Zoom link before every Life night. Join us for our next Life night where we will be talking about the Holy Triduum!

Save The Date!

March Prayer Time - Lectio and Visio Divina
Every Tuesday of March from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Come join us as we pray as one Youth Ministry every Tuesday this month from 4-5 PM. As we continue to journey with the Lord in this season of Lent, we will be reflecting on the Word of God and some inspiring pictures. This is an opportunity for us to dive deeper into Scripture and to spend some time together in prayer. For the Zoom link, please send us an email.

Lifeteen Games Night
24 March from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Edge Games Night
25 March from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Edge Movie Night
31 March from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Bring your popcorn and favourite drink because we will be watching a movie together this month!

EDGE Camp and Camp Merciful are coming soon! See page 8 for more details.

Youth Ministry Summer Activities

As with everything else, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all our summer events for 2020. Many of our youth were greatly saddened by this news as they look forward to events such as these that we host every year in the summertime. However, we are happy to announce two great opportunities for youth this summer:



EDGE CAMP

Firstly, in conjunction with the Office of Catholic Youth, we are planning on attending the five-day summer Edge Camp.

Edge Camp is an experience unlike any other. In addition to Mass, Confession, Faith talks, sharing and prayer, there are also many outdoor activities you can participate in such as ziplining, mountain biking, and canoeing and various sports you can play in.

Edge Camp is for all those in Grades 5-8 and the price is \$425. This cost covers transportation to and from Camp White Pine, accommodations, meals, camp gear and activities.

Edge Camp is an amazing opportunity as it gives our young people a chance to learn about their faith in a fun setting, to meet new like-minded friends, and to pray and encounter our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. More information will be available at a future Parent's Info Night once we receive more updates.

CAMP MERCIFUL

We are confident that, with vaccine roll-out and warmer weather, in addition to our own safety and sanitization protocols, that we can safely offer this great experience for kids once again.

Camp Merciful is a day-camp run out of our very own parish where children can grow in their faith, build Christ-centered relationships with their peers, and have fun! We offer entertaining games, prayer, exploration, and reflection for your young ones currently in grades 1-5.

Parents have the option of enrolling their children for 1 or 2 weeks of Camp. The dates are as follows:

Week 1: July 12-16 (9am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday)

Week 2: July 19-23 (9am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday)

The cost for one week of camp is \$150 and if your child wishes to attend both weeks, it will be a total of \$250. Please save the date as spots will be limited due to the possible restrictions we may have for the Main Hall.

We all know how valuable experiences like Camp Merciful and Edge Camp can be for our youth; the benefits of being outdoors and spending time with our peers contributes immeasurably to the well-being of children. We would love for all our young people to have the opportunity to attend Camp Merciful and/or Edge Camp this year.

Please note that no child will be denied the opportunity to attend either of these events because of financial constraints. Should there be financial pressures, please speak with Msgr Owen and arrangements will be made. If, on the other hand, you can financially assist us by sponsoring a child's, please also contact Msgr Owen. In all that you do, ask you kindly to support our youth by lifting a prayer for them and Youth ministry.

For registration and further information, please email Danielle, our Youth Ministry Coordinator, at mercifulredeemerym@gmail.com or call our Youth office at (905) 812-0030 ext. 7. God bless and we are praying for you!

Looking for the Lamb (Not the Chocolate Bunny)

What are you giving up for Lent? As Mardi Gras increases the urge to binge on anything that may be targeted for fasting on Ash Wednesday, there is a collective Catholic focus on what tangible pleasures will be sacrificed to build holiness over a forty-day period. Somehow, the pillars of prayer and almsgiving are relegated to second-tier status as we debate the rigors of going without salty or sweet, Starbucks or screen time, soda or swearing. The practice is to give up something we like for six weeks and then return to it when Lent is over. What if we re-balance Lent by looking for what will really change our hearts? What if we search for the Lamb of God who will create a change in our hearts that will last beyond Easter?

When my kids were growing up, candy was the go-to sacrifice for Lent. This made Easter literally all the sweeter with the Easter Candy Egg Hunt. This tradition had all the charm and comfort of Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy until my oldest two became teenagers who balked at the idea of searching for candy when it could arrive pre-gathered in a basket. However, their little sister was several years younger, and I told them they had to keep up the tradition of The Hunt for her benefit. I tried keeping the older two interested by making sure the loot was worth rooting for. Brach's jelly beans were replaced with Jelly Belly Sours. Reese's and Butterfinger Eggs were upgraded to fair trade chocolate with organic cacao. Quarters and other loose change were added to plastic eggs to incentivize my somewhat surly, skeptical teens.

Pretty quickly, the upscale candy wasn't cutting it and many eggs were left unopened in favor of the limited effort it took to bite the ears off of the big chocolate bunny. This created more work for me because I spent Divine Mercy Sunday opening up the eggs, cleaning out rejected jelly beans, and re-pocketing change. Did I abandon my desire to cling to a clearly fading, idyllic Easter? I admit, I was a slow learner. I kept trying to preserve the sweetness of giving up candy with the rewards of the Easter Sunday hunt. I upped the ante by placing some paper in a couple of eggs, just to see what would happen.

When my oldest opened an egg that delivered five one-dollar bills, she took notice. So did her brother, who glanced at the eggs in his basket and opened one to find Andrew Jackson looking back at him. The look on his face was priceless—or maybe worth \$20.

The tradition of The Hunt accomplished what I wanted, for me. I had become focused on my kids giving up candy and relished the joy of generously indulging them with an Easter Candy Egg Hunt at the end of Lent. And that's what it was—an end. After a sugar high and stashing some extra cash, everyone moved on. What was gained? I had

somehow mistaken the annual Ash Wednesday reading to “*tear your hearts and not your garments*” (Joel 2:13).

Now a few years older, I believe I can offer my younger self a little re-centering. While there are benefits to the discipline of sacrifice, that focus often remains on ourselves. There can be a desire for forty days to go by as quickly as possible so we can return to the normal pleasures we chose to do without. This practice ignores the greater benefit of not going “back to normal.” Lent invites us to metanoia, a complete change of heart that moves forward and leaves the former self behind. Focusing on the pillar of prayer may bring about a more lasting change.

Jesus has taken on the great sacrifice for us and is waiting patiently for us to find him. He is the Lamb of God who was promised in Genesis when Abraham told his son, Isaac, that “*God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering*” (Genesis 22:8).

This Lent we can look for the Lamb by reading the Bible together with our families. The sacrifice is the dedication of time, which is enhanced by praying together with Scripture. The benefit is received throughout the forty days of Lent and will continue to enrich our hearts after the Easter baskets have been packed away.

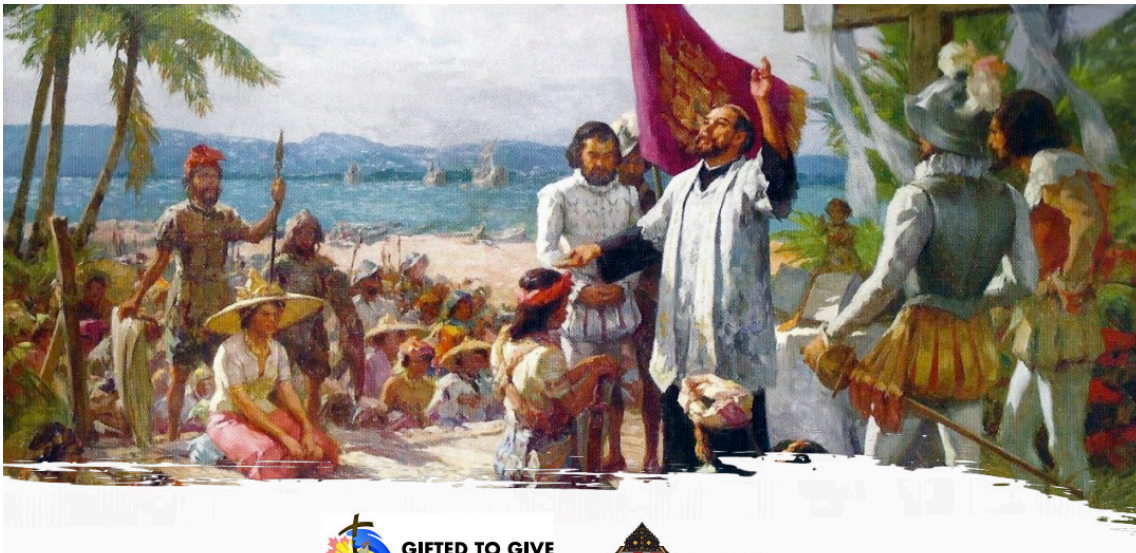
Ascension offers a Lenten Bible Reading Plan that focuses each week on six different Scripture stories in which God reveals the Lamb to us. After Abraham encourages his son to look for the lamb for the sacrifice, we read about the Israelites being saved by the blood of the lamb in Exodus. In the Gospels, John baptizes Jesus as God's voice announces, “Behold the Lamb of God.” Soon after, the Lamb of God feeds the 5,000 as a foreshadowing of how he will feed the whole Church. We truly receive the Lamb as food at the Last Supper, and we recognize Jesus as the perfect sacrificial Lamb in Revelation.

As we are reassured so often throughout Scripture, do not be afraid! Ascension guides us through the readings by breaking them down into smaller sections with suggested discussion questions. Parents can learn along with their kids and share their discoveries as they commune with the Lamb of God through the Mass. God is waiting for us to turn to him, ready to embrace us with his love and mercy.

Lent is an opportunity to move forward in our faith, which has greater rewards than going through the motions of giving up something, only to return to it forty days later. Chocolate bunnies can still be the center of the Easter basket at the end of Lent, but the Lamb of God can become the center of our hearts.

Inaugural Mass for the 500th year Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines

Please join the Filipino faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto for the virtual Inaugural Mass celebrating the 500th Year Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, on Tuesday, March 16 at 11:00 am. It can be viewed online at www.ph500toronto.com, on Facebook: @500yocto or YouTube: Gifted to Give – Toronto 2021. It was in March 16, 1521 when Christianity first came to the Philippines, making it the only predominantly Catholic nation in Asia. The faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto is in unity with Filipino communities worldwide in celebrating this significant moment. We encourage you to follow, join, and share the many other activities lined up for the celebration. Please visit the website for more details.



**GIFTED TO GIVE
TORONTO - 2021**
Celebrating 500 years of Christianity
in the Philippines



Archdiocese
of Toronto

HALINA SA ISANG PAGDIRIWANG NG PANANALAMPALATAYA!

Inaugural Mass for the Toronto Celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

To air virtually from Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Toronto ON

Please join us online: www.ph500toronto.com

f 500yocTO **▶ Gifted to Give - Toronto 2021**

Eucharistic celebration to be presided by:

Fr. Lorenzo Salandanan with Msgr. Edgardo Pan and Fr. Ben Ebcas

With messages from:



Cardinal Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto



Archbishop Romulo Valles
President of the Catholic Bishops'
Conference of the Philippines

Photo credit: "First Mass" by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines