



2775 Erin Centre Boulevard  
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[www.mercifulredeemer.org](http://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

3:00 PM (Sunday Vigil)

**Sunday** 9:00 AM

## 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

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## PARISH TEAM

**Msgr Owen Keenan, Pastor**  
[pastor@mercifulredeemer.org](mailto:pastor@mercifulredeemer.org)

**Fr Suresh Xavier, Associate Pastor**  
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**Fr Tom Kluger, Associate Pastor**  
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**Patricia Pereira, Office Manager**  
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**Elizabeth Nogueira, Daytime Secretary**  
**Flavia Fernandes, Evening Secretary**  
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[jane@mercifulredeemer.org](mailto:jane@mercifulredeemer.org)

**Kielon Gerra, Communications Coordinator**  
[communications@mercifulredeemer.org](mailto: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](mailto:tob@bell.net)

**Knights of Columbus** Michael Fonseca, [gk16254@ontariokofc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.forgedministry.com)

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul** [www.mrcssvp.ca](http://www.mrcssvp.ca)

**Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services** [www.catholic-cemeteries.com](http://www.catholic-cemeteries.com)

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

## CONFESSION TIMES

**Tuesday** 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**Saturday** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

## TODAY'S MASS READINGS

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**First Reading:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:31b-34

**Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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**Monday, March 1, 12:15 PM**

+ Maria DaSilva, + Anna Chinasang  
+ John & Raymond Henry Travas

**Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 PM**

+ Theresa Dias  
Special Intention for the Tenedero Family  
Thanksgiving by Menezes Family

**Wednesday, March 3, 12:15 PM**

Special Intention for Robert & Bernadette Douglas & family  
Thanksgiving by The Soares Family

**Thursday, March 4, 7:00 PM**

+ Sebastian Quadros, + Maria Marques  
+ Rabi Rabindran

**Friday, March 5, 12:15 PM**

+ Swampillai & Philomena Anthonypillai  
+ Holy Souls in Purgatory  
Special intention for Pereira Family

**Saturday, March 6, 9:00 AM**

+ Manuel & Clothilde Morta, + Shefena Abraham  
+ Demetrius Sposato, + Marzia Zangrilli  
Thanksgiving by Willy Menezes

**Saturday, March 6, 3:00 PM**

+Anna Dias

**Sunday, March 7, 9:00 AM**

+ Deceased Members of Luk & Chui Families,  
+ Lirio Calalo, + Margaret John,  
+ Jennifer Jacob, + John & Maria Mascarenhas,  
+ Ilda Silva

## SUNDAY REFLECTION

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*"Jesus was transfigured  
before their eyes."*

Something remarkable happened on that mountain.

Consider the possibility that it was not Jesus who changed but rather it was Peter, James and John who were transformed. Imagine that this account from Mark's Gospel documents the experience of Peter, James and John as their eyes were opened; their vision widened, enabling them to see without impediment the virtually blinding light of Jesus' love that flowed from every fiber of his being.

Indeed, every day of Jesus' life something of that remarkable brilliance, that remarkable passion, and that remarkable glory was revealed to people of all ages, stages and states of life. The shepherds and magi saw it; the elders in the temple saw it; the guests at a wedding saw it; a woman caught in adultery saw it; a boy possessed by demons saw it; a man born blind saw it; a good thief saw it.

If so many others could recognize it in a word, a glance, or a touch, why might Peter, James and John have required such extra effort in helping them to see Jesus' glory? Perhaps it was because they were so close to Jesus; perhaps it was because they were with him every day; perhaps it was because, on some level, they had somehow taken his glory for granted.

What about us? Do we recognize that same divine glory present in us, present in others, present in creation, present in even the simplest and most ordinary, everyday experiences of justice, truth, healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and compassion? Or do we take it for granted?

St. Francis de Sales saw the Transfiguration as a "glimpse of heaven." During this season of Lent, may our eyes, our minds and our hearts be transfigured and transformed. May we see more clearly the glory of a God who always loves us, who redeems us, who heals us, who forgives us, who challenges us, who pursues us, who strengthens us and who inspires us.

May we grow in our ability, through the quality of our lives, to make that "glimpse of heaven" visible in the lives of others.

Gospel Reflection CF: <https://oblates.squarespace.com/sundays-salesian-feed/second-sunday-of-lent-february-28-2021>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
**Gospel:** John 2:13-25

### 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!

## Communion Service

The Cardinal has extended the permission for Communion services in lieu of Mass for the duration of the current lockdown.

The Communion service schedule is as follows:

### SATURDAY

5:00 p.m. – 8:50 p.m. in 10-minute intervals.

### SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. - 1:50 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m. in 10-minute intervals

**NOTE:** Registration is mandatory, will open on a weekly basis (every Sunday at NOON) and will close ONE DAY before Communion service begins.

Visit [www.mercifulredeemer.org/communion-service](http://www.mercifulredeemer.org/communion-service) for more information and to register for Communion service.

### Gender Identity: Overcoming the Confusion

The Catholic Church has been thinking and reflecting on what it means to be human, to be male and female, made in the image and likeness of God, for 2,000 years. Saints and scholars, doctors and philosophers, popes and mystics... have looked to Christ to be the model of who we can be, who we are called to be. The beauty, depth and rationality of the Catholic vision of the human person needs to be better understood, especially in light of contemporary culture's new visions of humanity, sexuality and identity. If you find yourself challenged to articulate a Catholic understanding of the human person, especially when confronted by proposals and widely different views on gender, identity, sexuality and morality, now is a good time to educate yourself, to deepen your knowledge and appreciation of the Church's unparalleled insights into what it means to be human, to be male or female, to have a soul and a body, and to share this with others.

Visit [www.personandidentity.com](http://www.personandidentity.com), for a respectful, intelligent, compelling and hope-filled presentation on these important themes.

*"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a reason to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, with gentleness and respect" (1 Pet 3:15).*

### Download Our Parish App!

Visit [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com)

- 1) Download **myParish App**
- 2) Enable the location setting on your device
- 3) Select our parish after opening

### Change of Address

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at [register@mercifulredeemer.org](mailto:register@mercifulredeemer.org).

### Tax Receipts

Tax receipts will be mailed out in February by the Archdiocese of Toronto. If you have not received your 2020 tax receipt by the end of February, please email or call the parish office to be put in contact with the Archdiocese.

# LENT IS HERE!

## BIG NEWS

### 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".

## GET INVOLVED

### 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](mailto: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>

### Want to Know More About The Bible?

You can now access our Bible study archive at <https://mercifulredeemer.org/resources/catholic-materials> where you'll find weekly notes from past studies like Revelation, Isaiah, Genesis and many more!



### Yes, Lord! A Lenten Liturgy of the Word for Kids

Starting 19 February on 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](http://www.slmedia.org/yeslord)

### The Holy Spirit and the Abandonment of the Saints

13 March from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Online Event

The transformation of Christian life is accomplished by the Holy Spirit and the saints conform to the Holy Spirit through abandonment or surrender. This retreat will explore the thought of Jean-Pierre de Caussade who unveils the secret of how saints encounter God by surrendering to His action in each present moment. This abandonment is at the heart of the Holy Family at Nazareth and far outstrips even the asceticism of John the Baptist in the desert. Registration is \$25. To register, please visit <http://bit.ly/RegisterLentenRetreat>

# SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION NEWS

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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 8 May 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9 May 2021, 12:00 p.m.

Saturday 15 May 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 16 May 2021, 12:00 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.*





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](mailto: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 6th, 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 your child is interested in joining, please register using the link found on the parish website at [www.mercifulredeemer.org/youth-ministry](http://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 prayer.



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 13th, 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](http://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 next time where we will be talking about family and the saint we are called to journey with this year, St. Joseph!

### FILL IN THE BLANKS Mark 9:2-10

#### The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him \_\_\_\_\_ and James and John, and led them up a high \_\_\_\_\_ apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them \_\_\_\_\_ with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "\_\_\_\_\_, it is good for us to be here; let us make \_\_\_\_\_ dwellings, one for you, one for \_\_\_\_\_, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were \_\_\_\_\_. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the \_\_\_\_\_; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only \_\_\_\_\_.

#### The Coming of Elijah

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, \_\_\_\_\_ what this rising from the dead could mean.

### WORD BANK

questioning, mountain, Elijah, Jesus, terrified, Peter, three, risen, Beloved, Rabbi, Moses

*Answer: Peter, mountain, Elijah, Rabbi, three, Moses, terrified, Beloved, Jesus, risen, questioning*

# Meet the Messengers: Malachi and His Relevance Today

When people tell me they think the Old Testament prophets are irrelevant or simply artifacts of the past, I often point to the prophet Malachi.

Consider the challenges he faced: a poorly catechized people, priest scandals, low offertories, widespread divorce, and general spiritual malaise among God's people.

Sound at all familiar? Truly, there is nothing new under the sun.

*This is the fifth part of a series where Thomas Smith takes a closer look at six prophets from the Old Testament, God's messengers. Be sure to check the bulletin next to catch the last installment of the series! If you missed the previous posts, you can look at our past five bulletins to catch up!*

## Hollow Rituals

It's hard to believe that things could look so grim in the time of Malachi. After all, the people have returned to the Promised Land under the Persian decrees. The temple has been rebuilt and the city of Jerusalem fortified. Strong leaders were given to them by God, including Ezra, Nehemiah, and the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. Their daily rhythms have returned to relative normalcy.

These seem like ideal conditions, and yet Malachi's time reminds us that the spiritual life requires constant care and vigilance. St. John Paul II warned us that we can easily fall into what he called "hollow ritualism" (Catechesi Tradendae, 23), or simply going through the motions.

It was a danger for the Jews offering continual sacrifices in the Temple, and it can be one for us who attend Mass daily or weekly.

## Renewing the Covenant

Then as now, we hear the heart cry of God:

*"Return to me, and I will return to you."* - Malachi 3:7, RSV

That turning is the ongoing process of conversion. It requires more than just outward participation. There must be an interior transformation, a conforming of our lives to Christ, a renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2).

Every day we must intentionally cooperate with God's grace.

One of the helpful ways I have found to do that is to pray the simple prayer of renewal that Pope Francis gave us in *Evangelii Gaudium*. It is so simple, yet profound. It gathers together the great themes of Scripture, especially the message and mission of the Prophets. I've been praying it every day and have shared it with thousands of Catholics on a prayer card. This prayer has become part of my consciousness now and it speaks to me throughout the day to more clearly see Christ and be Christ in the world.

Let's close this series by praying it together:

*"Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace."* - *Evangelii Gaudium*, 3

## Lenten Prayer:

### FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

Jesus,

you have known us from the beginning of time,  
you have known us in the depths of our dreams and in the darkness of our shame,  
you know us as your beloved.

Help us to own that core identity more and more in this season of repentance and mercy.

Give us the rock-solid assurance of your unwavering faith in us as we seek the same in you.

Amen.



Article CF: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2020/01/21/meet-messengers-malachi/>

# An Update from Cardinal Thomas Collins



## **My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,**

Lent is a penitential season in which, each year, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter by following the call of Jesus to engage in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This past year of pandemic has itself been a kind of penitential season, forcing us to consider our human fragility, and the stark fact of sickness and death.

Many people have experienced great privation, which has come uninvited, and not as a penitential choice. And yet, just as the voluntary penances of Lent can lead us to a deeper appreciation of our human frailty – the fact that we are dust and to dust we shall return - and of our need for God, so too we pray that these involuntary privations may be experienced in a way that will lead not to fruitless anger, but to a deeper self awareness, and to compassion for our neighbours who are suffering.

Especially in a time of crisis, our sacramental life is essential. Here is an update on the operation of churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto. As of this writing, the following restrictions remain in effect for places of worship in the archdiocese:

Durham Region, Simcoe County, Orangeville and York Region churches – these areas have returned to the “Red” (Control) designation, as determined by the Province of Ontario. This permits churches in these regions to operate sacramental celebrations at 30%

capacity.

Toronto and Peel Region churches – the province, in consultation with local medical officers of health, has extended the stay-at-home order in these regions until at least March 8, 2021, restricting places of worship to no more than 10 people (including the celebrant) in the church at any given time.

I am heartened that public Masses have returned to more than 35% of our parishes. Where this is not yet possible, I have asked all parishes to remain open each day for a period of private prayer. Permission has also been granted to parishes in these regions to continue to offer Holy Communion services on the weekend. Please check with your local parish regarding their current schedule.

I am grateful for the many sacrifices that you have made over the past 11 months. Throughout the pandemic, out of love for neighbour, in an effort to minimize the transmission of Covid-19, we have followed the health authorities’ direction on significant restrictions, limiting the ability of the faithful to gather. This has resulted in great spiritual sacrifice and pain for all of us, and especially for those who are isolated and vulnerable.

Despite temporary restrictions, we need to worship together, and to return to our full sacramental life as soon as is possible. We continue to urge that places of worship be treated equitably by the province; for example, it is only fair that there be a consistent approach to restrictions as they relate to retail businesses and to places of worship. Recently, a coalition of faith leaders has written to Premier Ford, highlighting the essential nature of in-person communal worship and spiritual support. If the government does not address these issues sufficiently, we will be asking for your assistance in contacting our elected officials to amplify our voices.

Once again, thank you for the sacrifices you have made. We pray for those who have died and for those who are sick, as we pray that this pandemic may soon come to an end. May God continue to bless you.

**Sincerely in Christ,**

*Thomas Cardinal Collins*  
Archbishop of Toronto