

St. John Fisher Parish



300 Balmoral Drive, Bramalea, Ontario L6T 1V6

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Email: stjohnfisherparish@gmail.com Website: www.stjohnfisherbr.archtoronto.org

Instagram & Twitter address: StJohnFisherBrampton

PASTOR: Fr. Regulo Imperial

IN RESIDENCE: Fr. Rudy Imperial

PARISH HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY MASS:

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00, 10:30 a.m. & 12 noon

WEEKDAY MASS:

Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m.

First Fridays: 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY DEVOTION: Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Benediction: 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER GROUP:

Thursday's 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall-Upper room

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF INITIATION (BAPTISM):

By appointment only. Baptismal instruction required. Contact the Rectory.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Archdiocese policy requires making arrangements one year prior to the date of marriage. Preparatory course is required.

COMMUNION SERVICE:

For the sick. Contact the Rectory.

PARISH SCHOOLS:

St. John Fisher, 330 Balmoral Drive 905-793-8900

St John Henry Newman, 698 Balmoral Drive 905-792-2268

Georges Vanier, 28 Finchgate Boulevard 905-792-2251

Holy Name of Mary, 115 Glenvale Boulevard 905-791-5007

St. Thomas Aquinas, 25 Corporation Drive 905-791-1195

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS:

New Parishioners are asked to register. Cards are available at the back of the church.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

While we are unable to celebrate public masses, Fr Regulo Imperial will offer his daily, private masses for the following intentions:

Monday, February 22nd

9 a.m. –

Tuesday, February 23rd

9 a.m. –

Wednesday, February 24th

9 a.m. –

Thursday, February 25th

9 a.m. –

Friday, February 26th

9 a.m. –

Saturday, February 27th

5:30 p.m. –

Sunday, February 28th

9 a.m. –

10:30 a.m. –

12 p.m. – Helena Borde requested by the Miles Family

Holy Communion available Sundays from 10 - 11:30 am.



Communion is food for our soul.

and therefore, essential for our faith and well-being.

► First-come, first-served. If the session you hope to attend is full, we kindly ask you to wait in your cars for the next available service.

Please use this time to pray and meditate on this year's challenges.

Cardinal Collins continues to dispense the faithful from their Sunday obligation. If you are symptomatic, have a compromised immune system or have a greater risk of infection, please stay home.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER has been happening in Canada for almost 100 years. The 2021 service was written by the WDP committee of Vanuatu inspired by the Biblical theme "Build on a Strong Foundation" (Matthew 7:24-27). The World Day of Prayer 2021 service video, prepared by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, can be accessed for free from Feb 15 – Sept 30 by going to: wicc.org. Donations are welcome. Donations received for services support the World Day of Prayer movement and provides generous grants that support social justice projects in Canada and the world.

Lift Jesus Higher Rally Theme: Consuming Fire

Saturday, February 27th – 1-3:30 pm & 7-9:45 pm

No registration needed. Free Live stream event from

Ann Arbor, Michigan. See the schedule at ljhr.ca.



Dynamic Women of Faith - Catholic Women's Conference

Saturday, March 6th – Cost \$40

Keynote Speaker: Dr Carrie Gress – Exposing the Anti-Mary and Rebuilding Civilization, One Woman at a Time
Register at www.dynamicwomenfaith.com. Questions? 416-907-1042

31ST ANNUAL ORDINANDI DINNER (VIRTUAL) ►

Sponsored by the Serra Foundation of Canada & the 6 Serra Clubs in our Archdiocese ► **Tuesday, March 2nd from 7-8 pm** ► All are invited

to join in celebrating new priestly vocations and seminaries. ► Free to view on the Archdiocese of Toronto YouTube channel. ► Donations are welcome and will help cover the costs and support St Augustine's Seminary, Redemptoris Mater Seminary, the Office of Vocations & Serra House.



ST AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY OF TORONTO - WORKSHOPS

► **The Holy Spirit & the Abandonment of the Saints** –

Saturday, March 13th – Online – 9:30 am to 1 pm

Presenter: Fr Charles Anang

Cost \$25. Register @ www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events.



Lent: the springtime of the soul...is a time to make a new covenant with God, develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your own desert and discover what God is asking of you. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocations Director, ArchToronto 416-968-0997 / vocations@archtoronto.org / www.vocationstoronto.ca

The Church depends on your generous offerings to continue the work of God. If you are able, please consider continuing your Sunday offering by:



1 mailing it to our parish office 2 dropping your envelope in our secured, outdoor mailbox or in the donation box inside the church 3 giving online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website (Donate Now).

I thank you very much for your generosity. I continue to remember you in my private daily mass for your safety and protection from this pandemic. I am with you in asking God to bring us back to our normal life and normal Mass celebration.
Fr Regs

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES UPDATE

Construction has begun by MERCER Fire Protection to do the following: 1 Fire Panel and Devices Replacement 2 Fire Safety Plan 3 Fire Alarm System Annual Inspection 4 Emergency Lighting Annual Inspection 5 Fire Extinguishers Annual Inspection.

The Total for all of this is: \$26,766.31 (including HST).

I am grateful to report that parishioners have donated \$20,000 towards this project. We do still need a bit more. Thank you for considering a sacrificial gift to get us to the final amount. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL! Fr Regs

HOLY NAME OF MARY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL has relocated back to its Brampton home at 115 Glenvale Blvd. and is accepting Grade 9 registrations for the 2021/2022 school year. Please visit the school website to view registration details and get started. Questions? (905) 458-5541.



Dear Beloved People of God:

Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan and a wonderful thing happened: A voice came from heaven calling him a beloved son, and the Holy Spirit came upon him in the form of a dove.

So, Jesus had the loving approval of his Father and the empowering presence of the Spirit. Wouldn't you think he would immediately burst onto Palestine, all geared up and ready for his work? Strange thing happened. St Mark said: *"The Spirit drove him out into the wilderness."* Matthew and Luke say that Jesus *"was led by the Spirit"* into the desert. Different translations have even stronger versions, such as: *"The Spirit made him go"* into the desert.

Imagine the Spirit gives Jesus a big spiritual hug, so to speak, and then drives him out toward an uncomfortable place where he must battle the demons and has *"to be among the wild beasts"*.

The people considered the desert a place for wild beasts and the place where Satan ruled. At the time, wild beasts often symbolized demons. Jesus was in the demonic world. There was fighting between Jesus and Satan. We should say that the fight there was intense because Jesus was within Satan's territory.

We can conclude that because the Holy Spirit is wise and loving, it was something Jesus needed to do before he began the big events of his public life.

The Spirit is making Jesus aware of the hard reality of the world, the opposing existence of good and evil, the kind of world that he is facing as he inaugurates his public life.

Each time we pray The Lord's Prayer, it includes the petition: *"Lead us not into temptation."* This translation seems as if God wishes to lead us to do evil! But an author suggested that a better rendering might be: *"Do not let us give way or give in to that which leads us away from you, Lord."* This story is meant to tell us that evil is a harsh reality, and that temptation is necessary and inescapable.

A very overweight man decided to lose several pounds and went on a diet. He even changed the route he usually drove to work to avoid passing his favourite bakery. He was successful for days. One morning the man described how, by force of habit, he had driven by the bakery and seen the trays loaded with goodies in the window. "I decided that this was no accident that I happened to pass by this way, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you really want me to have one of those delicious cakes, let me find a parking space right in front of the bakery.' And sure enough, on the ninth time around the block, there it was!"

Let us acknowledge that there is evil in the world - we are "among the wild beasts..." So, going to the desert according to the Spirit is necessary. And so is the season of Lent.

- ◆ When you live in a society where abortion is a choice; where sex is a sport and promiscuity is a sign of manhood...
- ◆ When people in business and of influence think only of how to make more money and never think of the good of other people...

- ◆ When marriage becomes less common than couples simply living together...
- ◆ When children who watch 5 ½ hours of TV daily are conditioned not only to watch greed and violence but to absorb it as a way of life...
- ◆ When daily, children are scarred by the routine divorces of their parents...
- ◆ When a good number of our teenagers are addicted to smoke and alcohol...
- ◆ When violence and racism so pervade our society that they become common, acceptable staples of life...
- ◆ When a baseball or basketball player is offered \$250,000,000 while health-care aides - those who are willing to bathe, dress, feed, clean, and care for the elderly in their homes or in nursing homes - are in critical short supply because they are paid only the minimum wage...
- ◆ When our precious high schools are no longer safe from drugs and knives and guns...
- ◆ When the whole world is living in the difficult time of pandemic...

Then we know that Jesus is once more sitting among the wild beasts.

And there is the reality of evil within us: we have sinned in what we have done and in what we have failed to do, in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions.

We must stand up and face the beasts around us and inside us with Jesus' inaugural words: *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent! Believe in the gospel."*

How can we live among the terrible beasts of our time? The answer, and our agenda for Lent, is to be the gospel, to be good news. There is a principle in psychology which says that I can only bring love out of others if I have first experienced it. The same is true with spirituality: I can only help effect a personal relationship to God in someone else if I have experienced this myself. First, let me be the gospel to my children. As a priest, let me be the gospel to my parishioners. There's so much hatred and competitiveness in this world - so many wild beasts among us - that we must proclaim a different way of life. How, in practice, do we do this?

But can we tame the wild beasts we live among? I don't know, but in our own way we will announce that the kingdom is at hand. We will give hope to the hopeless and cynical. We will keep the presence of Christ alive in the world. Let us accept Lent as a time of testing our attitudes, values, concerns, and life goals. Tests are not there to make us fail, but, as with an athlete or a student, to make us better and stronger; to improve ourselves.

Lent is a time for us to examine our faithfulness to the covenant we made at baptism that we are God's children, and we will follow the commandments of God and love as our way of life. The church has given us tools to use for this purpose - we have prayer, almsgiving and fasting. These will make us strong to face the *"wild beast"* as we go about our daily lives. These tools will make us strong to not despair in this difficult moment of pandemic.

Fr Regulo Imperial, the Pastor

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