



Defender of the Faith
ST. JOHN FISHER
 CATHOLIC CHURCH



300 Balmoral Drive, Brampton, Ontario, L6T 1V6

February 23, 2025

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS! ST. JOHN FISHER IS A PARISH COMMUNITY THAT BELIEVES IN THE GOOD NEWS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE AND IN OUR MIDST. WE INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER BEING PART OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY. TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH DURING OFFICE HOURS.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Liborio Amaral
Deacon: Dcn. John Coletti
 Secretary: Rose Jose
 Bookkeeper: Josephine Balbidades
 Custodian: Lourdes (Lulu) Pasion

Office Hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays:
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 5 p.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5 p.m.
 Sunday: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Daily Mass Schedule:

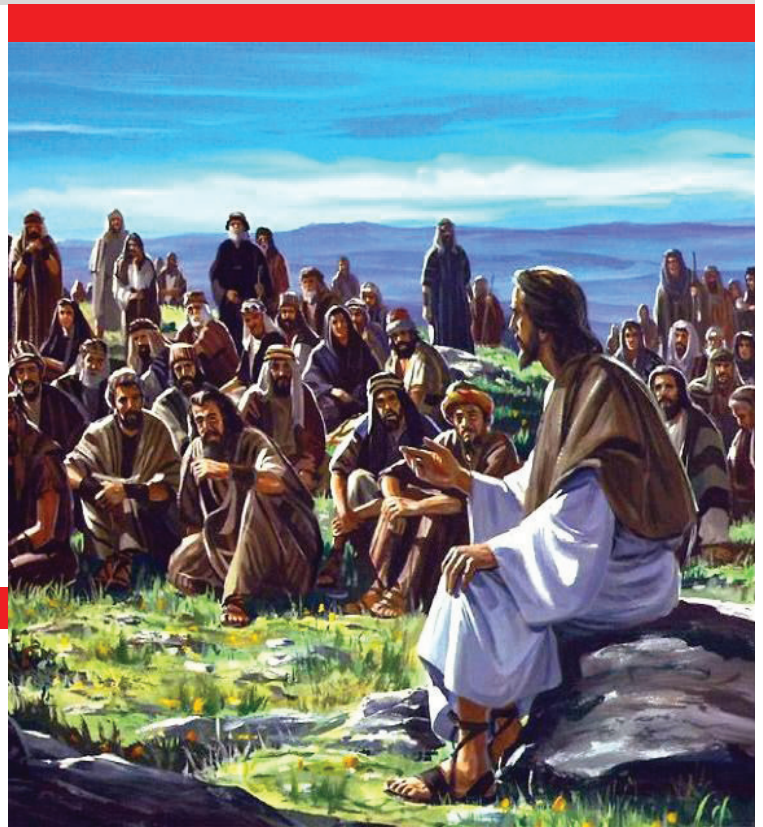
Monday to Saturday: 9 a.m.

Confessions:

Saturday: 4 – 4:45 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Baptism:

Please call the parish office to inquire about baptisms.
 Baptismal instruction required.

Marriage:

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

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

Those interested in joining our Catholic Faith are asked to reach out to the pastor via the Parish Office.

Knights of Columbus Council 10402:

Men 18+ / knightsforcolumbus10402@gmail.com

Catholic Women's League:

Women 16+ / stjohnfisherawl@outlook.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

905-790-2479 / stjohnfisherssvp@gmail.com

But I say to you who hear,
LOVE your enemies,
DO GOOD to those who hate you,
BLESS those who curse you,
PRAY for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:27-28

Toronto Vocations Office

Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocations Director,
 416-968-0997/ vocations@archtoronto.org /
 www.vocationstoronto.ca

Our Parish Schools:

St. John Fisher / 330 Balmoral Dr / 905-793-8900
 St. John Henry Newman / 698 Balmoral Dr / 905-792-2268
 Georges Vanier / 28 Finchgate Blvd / 905-792-2251

Parish Telephone: 905-793-6610 / Fax: 905-793-7721 **Parish Email:** stjohnfisherbr@archtoronto.org

Parish Website: www.stjohnfisherbr.archtoronto.org **Parish Instagram:** StJohnFisherBrampton

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday, February 24th - 9 a.m. – Ted Carey †
- Tuesday, February 25th - 9 a.m. – Walter Lawrence (SI)
- Wednesday, February 26th - 9 a.m.
- Thursday, February 27th - 9 a.m. – Cesario Salvador †
- Friday, February 28th - 9 a.m. – Eleanor Gott †
- Saturday, March 1st - 9 a.m. – Shirley Digby (SI)
– Shirley Digby (SI)
– Souls in Purgatory †



Offertory:



February 16th: \$ 2,461.75

We thank all of you who regularly give your weekly offering using envelopes. *Please remember to write your name on the outside of the envelope every week, and especially if you are a new registrant to our parish or just new to using envelopes.* We want to make sure that the envelope number matches the name so we can allocate the donation to the correct person. Thank you for your cooperation!

ATTENTION! If you are using Envelope Boxes 71, 188, 292, 302, 303, 319, 339, 360, 460, 484 please contact the office. We need your information (name, address, telephone, email) for our records.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION! We continue to expand our database to be able to communicate with parishioners more easily. Parishioners are asked to email their contact information to stjohnfisherbr@archtoronto.org. Please include:
 ①Name(s) ②Mailing Address ③Email Address ④Phone Number
 Thank you for your cooperation!

Do you have gifts and talents that you can share with our parish? Join a parish ministry today! Volunteer what you can, when you can and as often as you can. No contribution is too small. Training and support will be provided. We especially need: **Lectors, Ushers, & Sacristans.** *Call or email the office to sign up!*



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR TEENS IN GRADES 8 & UP:
 The Catholic Women's League needs help at our events setting up tables, chairs, bringing items up and down the stairs, and other jobs. Students will receive a letter confirming their volunteer service. If you are interested in signing up to be on our list of volunteers, please email us at stjohnfishercwl@outlook.com. When we need help, we will email our roster and ask who is available.



OLD PALMS: If you have old palms at home, please consider giving them to the church so that we can burn and use them for our yearly Ash Wednesday celebrations. Please bring them to the main entrance of the church (i.e. the Narthex) and place them in the basket on the side table.

A REMINDER to Parents/Guardians of *registered First Communion and Confirmation Children* that there is a meeting with Fr Liborio in the church this week:

- ▶Wednesday, February 26th at 7 pm for First Communion families
- ▶Thursday, February 27th at 7 pm for Confirmation families



Both Parents & Children should attend these meetings.

The *Knights of Columbus, St John Fisher Council*



will be holding its **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** at all weekend masses on *March 1st & 2nd*. Knights will be at the entrance of the Church to answer your questions. Men 18+ are welcome! We look forward to speaking with you!



You are invited to join us to explore 4 modules of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCC) Horizons of Hope (HOH) series.

It intends to share the truth about the *Palliative Care Approach* with participants through scripture reflection and sharing of theological and medical perspectives.

Please save the dates and plan to join us:
 May 6th, 7th, 13th & 14th / St John Fisher Hall @ 7 pm
 Further details for registration will be coming soon in March.

The Archdiocese's Office for Refugees is excited to launch the **2025 REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM FOR PARISHIONERS.**

This initiative supports parishioners in sponsoring family members who have been forced to flee their homeland because of war, violence, or persecution and who need resettlement. If you are a parishioner interested in sponsoring a family member, *please contact the parish office to schedule a meeting with the pastor.* Please note that interested parishioners will be asked to provide the necessary funds required by Immigration Canada for sponsorship. The Refugee must currently reside outside of their Country of Origin/Citizenship.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION: RESOURCES FOR THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

As Ontarians prepare for a provincial election on February 27th, Catholics are encouraged to both vote as part of the democratic process and to learn more about the candidates and parties seeking our support. To assist with this process, two resources may be helpful as Catholics prayerfully discern their vote in the coming days.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto has prepared a 2025 Ontario Election Guide and Catholic Conscience has prepared "Voting Like A Catholic", a 2025 Provincial Election resource. You can access both documents at:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/pl/outreach/news/archdiocesan/ontario-provincial-election--resources-for-the-catholic-community/>

We pray for all those who serve in elected office and for those who will form the next provincial government. May they lead prudently and thoughtfully, discerning how to best strengthen our communities and province for years to come.

Saint Thomas More, patron saint of politicians, pray for us.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
On Wednesday, March 5th (Ash Wednesday) we will begin our season of Lent. For 40 days we will be able to prepare ourselves for Easter through the Lenten Pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Although we are still a week and a half before Lent begins, we should take this time and ask ourselves what we will be doing to ensure that this year's Lenten journey will be Spiritually Fruitful.

Think about what you can do in each of the Pillars of Lent. Here are some humble suggestions:

For the Pillar of PRAYER:

- ▶ Say the rosary every day during lent.
 - ▶ Read a Bible passage each day before going to bed.
 - ▶ Spend some time in quiet reflection (i.e. about 15-30mins), thinking about the love of God for you.
 - ▶ Visit a Jubilee church (in the Archdiocese) once a week.
- There are other suggestions, but just ensure that you are praying more than you normally do now.*

For the Pillar of FASTING:

- ▶ On Wednesdays and Fridays, you can Fast from your normal food intake. You can fast on bread and water those two days but ensure that this is ok with your health and doctor's advice, so that you are not causing yourself to be sick. God would not wish for you to be sick due to fasting.
- ▶ Give up something you love, or find comforting in your life – such as having your coffee in the morning, or having sweets, or watching TV beyond a certain time, etc.
- ▶ Add something you don't normally do now – such as eating your vegetables, helping a neighbour with some tasks, read a spiritual book, etc.

For the Pillar of ALMSGIVING:

- ▶ Give to ShareLife – give a certain amount for every year God has given you – i.e. I give \$10 for every year of life as part of my donations to ShareLife.
- ▶ Participate in the food drives we will have in our parish.
- ▶ Contribute to the local catholic agencies in Brampton that support our brothers and sisters in need – i.e. St Vincent de Paul, St Louise Outreach, Knights Table, etc.

This year, please try to make a concerted effort to do something for each of the three Pillars of Lent. If you do, then at the end of our Lenten Season you will find yourself *Knowing the Lord* more and more, *Loving the Lord* more and more, and willing to *Serve the Lord* more and more.

MAY GOD GIVE YOU MANY GRACES AND BLESSINGS THIS LENT. BLESSINGS, Fr. Liborio

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 5th
Masses @ 7:30 am, 9 am & 7 pm

with distribution of ashes.




Don't forget that **ASH WEDNESDAY** is a day of Fasting and Abstinence (don't eat meat).



JOIN US ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT:

- ▶ Confessions available from 6-6:45 pm
- ▶ Mass at 9 am
- ▶ Mass at 7 pm
- ▶ Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm

 The Lord calls us to do God's Will. Pray that you may know God's Will in your life; especially, if you have the inclination that you are being called to the ordained or consecrated life. If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon Contact Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocations Director, ArchToronto 416-968-0997/ vocations@archtoronto.org / www.vocationstoronto.ca

COME & SEE WEEKEND DISCERNMENT RETREAT

hosted by the Office of Vocations for men aged 18+ at St Augustine's Seminary.
Friday, March 14 at 6:30 pm until Sunday, March 16 at 2 pm
This Retreat offers a way for men to discern a possible call to priesthood at our seminary. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee.
For more info, contact: vocations@archtoronto.org

Annual Manresa Weekend Retreat for Men:

The Wisdom of Henri Nouwen: Guidance for the Lenten Journey

This Lenten retreat will consider the common themes in Nouwen's writing, such as being the beloved of God, giving and receiving forgiveness, growing in hope, and accepting one's limitations. It will focus on providing concrete ways to incorporate these ideas into our prayer lives.

Facilitator: Fr Kevin Kelly, S.J. / Fri Mar 14 - Sun Mar 16

Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre, 2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering
For more info: 905-839-2864 / register at <https://manresa-canada.ca/events/>

DOMINICAN FRIARS YOUTH INTERFAITH VIDEO CONTEST

February 5-April 15

Theme: Faith as a Pathway from Division to Unity

High school students (aged 13 to 19 years) in the Catholic School Boards within the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual celebration of the United Nations International Human Fraternity Day (February 4th). Students are encouraged to create a three-minute video that captures this year's theme.

Start by checking the poster: <https://bit.ly/DFVCPposter>.

For info: interreligious@archtoronto.org / 416-934-3400 ext. 527

Lift Jesus Higher Rally: Power from On High

Saturday, March 29th / 9 am-5:30 pm www.ljhr.ca

Tickets: \$49 adults, youth \$25

Metro Toronto Convention Centre (north building)

Bus from St John Fisher, boarding at 6:30 am / Cost \$15

For tickets & bus reservation, please contact:

Mary Reghelini 416-882-7330 or Lorraine Carvey 647-855-8980



Sign Up to receive the Weekly Bulletin and other special alerts emailed directly to your inbox.

<https://stjohnfisherbr.archtoronto.org/en/contact-us/sign-up/>

Visit our website regularly to stay up to date.

www.stjohnfisherbr.archtoronto.org StJohnFisherBrampton



The 5 pm Saturday Choir welcomes new singers.

We practice at 4:15 pm before the mass.

And, if you are an advanced piano player (Grade 6 piano or higher) and are interested in learning what's needed to play for mass, we welcome you also!

Please contact Michelle: 416-828-8071 (call/text).

St John Fisher Catholic Women's League is hosting the **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** prepared by the



women of Cook Islands based on the theme:

I Made You Wonderful



Join us on Thursday, March 6th at 7 pm in the Church Hall.

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