



Defender of the Faith
ST. JOHN FISHER
 CATHOLIC CHURCH



300 Balmoral Drive, Brampton, Ontario, L6T 1V6

March 2, 2025

8th 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+ / knightsofcolumbus10402@gmail.com

Catholic Women's League:

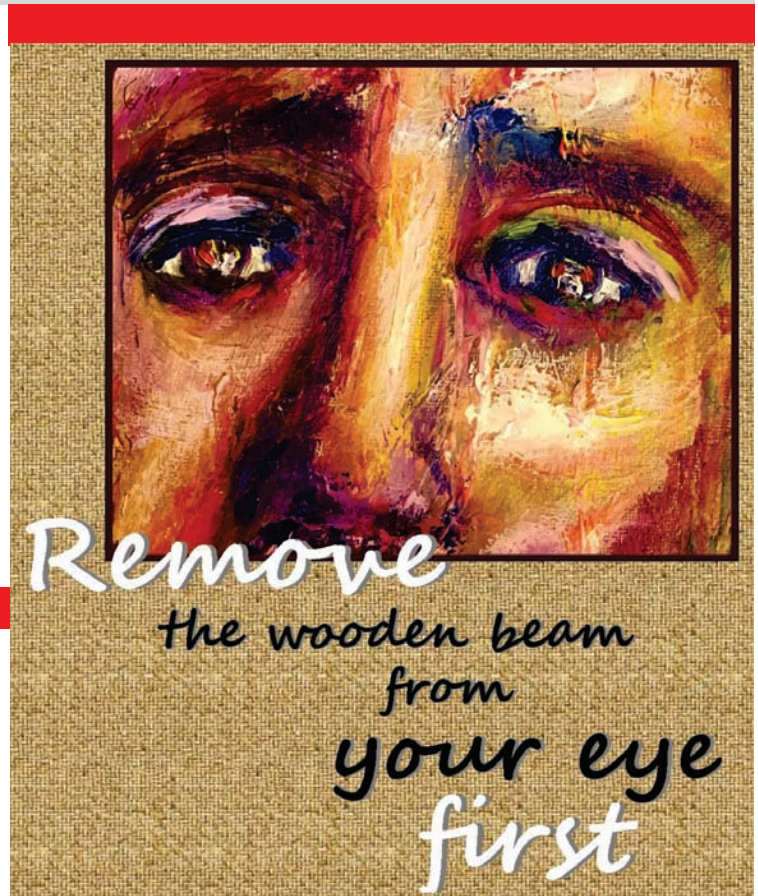
Women 16+ / stjohnfisherawl@outlook.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

905-790-2479 / stjohnfisherssvp@gmail.com

Toronto Vocations Office

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



Out of the good treasure of the heart,
 the good person produces good,
 and out of evil treasure,
 the evil person produces evil;
 for it is out of the abundance of the heart
 that the mouth speaks. *Luke 6:45*

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 3rd - 9 a.m. – Brigada & Santiago Mendoza ☩

Tuesday, March 4th - 9 a.m. – Stanley Kostelecki ☩

Wednesday, March 5th – Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 6th - 9 a.m. – Nicasio Jasmin ☩

Friday, March 7th - 9 a.m. – Souls in Purgatory ☩

Saturday, March 8th - 9 a.m. – Stanley Kostelecki ☩
 – Avita Lawrence ☩
 – Editha Dela Cruz (SI)

The **Knights of Columbus, St John Fisher Council** will be holding its **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** this weekend at all masses. Knights will be at the entrance of the Church to answer your questions. Men 18+ are welcome! We look forward to speaking with you!



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.



Thank You FOR GIVING GENEROUSLY

Offertory:

February 23rd: \$ 7,293.45
 Building Fund: \$ 2,224.96



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



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.

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



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 52, 92, 188, 260, 282, 292, 440, 441, 463 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: **1**Name(s) **2**Mailing Address **3**Email Address **4**Phone 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.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
 This Wednesday we begin our Lenten Season with the distribution of Ashes. This day that has been traditionally called *Ash Wednesday* is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.

There are two days during the year where the Catholic Church obligates its members to Fast and Abstain from meat. The first is Ash Wednesday and the second is Good Friday. These are the two days we **MUST** Fast and Abstain. But we Catholics are not limited to just these two days – we can also fast and abstain on other days as well throughout the year.

During the Lenten season, the Church invites all its members to abstain from meat on Fridays and, if possible, this can be extended to all Fridays throughout the year. We do this to remind us of the day that the Lord suffered and died for us. I know that many of our elderly continue to keep Fridays as a meatless day and this can be something our younger members can learn.

To fast or abstain is a way to look beyond ourselves and our *wants* and think of God and others. We do this as forms of *Sacrifice*. We should ask ourselves how many times we make sacrifices in our lives so that we can grow in holiness. In most, if not all, of the Marian appearances that have been recognized by the Catholic Church throughout the centuries, Mother Mary constantly asks for prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of souls and for peace in the world.

When we Fast and Abstain from meat, we are willingly saying NO to our wants and desires and choosing to make a sacrifice for a greater glory. We do little acts of sacrifice for those we love and who need God's blessings in their lives. We do little acts of sacrifice for world peace and for those who are on the path of damnation because of their sinful life. We do little acts of sacrifice for those brothers and sisters of ours who are in purgatory and need the support of our prayers to get to heaven. We do little acts of sacrifice for ourselves to help us live an upright and holy life so that we can be with God in heaven.

Lent is indeed a wonderful season where the Church reminds us of the importance of *Sacrifice* in the forms of Fasting and Abstinence. Please use these next **40 DAYS OF LENT** to grow your love of the Lord and your understanding of the importance of Sacrifice.

I humbly ask that as you are thinking for whom to make your sacrifice, please remember me so that I can be a good and holy priest. And in being a good and holy priest, I can lead many to the Lord.

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:

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



"In the Lord your labour is not in vain". Is the Lord calling you to work in His vineyard? Pray to hear God's call.

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

A DAY WITH MARY is a new archdiocesan event.

It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 31, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We will gather from all corners of the Archdiocese, at Villanova College in King City to participate in Mass and pray the Rosary. Our devotion to Our Lady will grow deeper through a keynote address for the adults and children's catechesis for the kids. Consider joining the Cardinal Archbishop and so many others who love the Blessed Mother. More information will follow in the coming weeks. *Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!*



ShareLife 2025 SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN

As we approach our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 30, it is essential that we come together in compassion to meet our Parish Campaign goal, addressing the growing needs in our communities.

By reaching this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues
 - help victims of domestic violence
 - ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten
 - distribute food to families in our community
 - form priests and deacons who will minister in our parishes
- Your support of ShareLife makes these programs possible.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

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