

St. Mark's Church Announcements and Updates

July 14, 2021

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Residential Schools

Over the past several months, there has been a national conversation on the tragic history of residential schools in Canada. The role of the Catholic Church in the residential school system has been a part of that discussion.

We acknowledge the terrible suffering that took place and condemn the system, established by the federal government and operated by faith communities, which separated children, often forcibly, from their parents and attempted to strip away their language, culture and identity.

The Catholic Church must atone for our involvement in this dark history. It is undeniable that some Catholic teachers (priests, religious men and women and lay staff) entrusted to care for children at residential schools assaulted the dignity of the students through mistreatment, neglect and abuse.

We echo the words of one of the original apologies made by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1991:

"We apologize for the existence of the schools themselves, recognizing that the biggest abuse was not what happened in the schools, but that the schools themselves happened... We wish to apologize in a very particular way for the instances of physical and sexual abuse that occurred in those schools... Far from attempting to defend or rationalize these cases of abuse in any way, we wish to state publicly that we acknowledge they were inexcusable, intolerable and a betrayal of trust in one of its most serious forms. We deeply and very specifically, apologize to every victim of such abuse and we seek help in searching for means to bring about healing."

A recent poll suggested that only 10% of Canadians have a thorough understanding of the history of residential schools. In addition to resources like the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report](#), the Archdiocese has prepared a webpage at: <https://www.archtoronto.org/residentialschools> with numerous resources available. There is also a lengthier frequently asked questions document that is also available online [here](#) which answers questions such as:

- 1. How many residential schools were there and where were they located? Did the Catholic Church run all these schools?**
- 2. What was the goal of residential schools?**
- 3. What were the causes of death for students at residential schools?**

4. I've heard a lot about the discovery of unmarked graves in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. How do I better understand these "lost" burial sites and those that may be present in other locations?

5. Is the Archdiocese of Toronto and the Vatican holding records in secret archives. Why not just turn over all the information that you have?

6. I have read many stories that talk about the Catholic Church not apologizing for their role in residential schools. Why hasn't there been an apology?

7. When will the delegation to Rome happen and who will be part of it?

8. Will the Catholic Church pay financial reparations to those harmed by residential schools?

Camille Herrera – CCO Missionary

This July 17th/18th weekend, Camille Herrera, a full-time lay missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach Canada (and our former youth minister), will be speaking at all masses in regards to finding prayer and financial partnership towards her ministry. Catholic Christian Outreach is a university student movement that focuses on building young adults up in leadership, virtue, and faith - and that seeks to invite our young people back into the Catholic Church. Please leave your name and phone number with her after mass to receive more information, or send her an email at camille.herrera@cco.ca.

More about the mission can also be found at www.cco.ca

Women's Recollection – July 19

A Women's Recollection will take place at St. Mark's Church on Monday, July 19 at 7 pm. The evening will begin with a meditation led by an Opus Dei priest, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and confession. All women are welcome to attend.

Kindergarten Registration

You can register your children to attend a York Catholic elementary or secondary school for classes starting in September, by visiting www.ycdsb.ca/admissions. The York Catholic District School Board supports and inspires approximately 53,000 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 101 schools across York Region. It offers an innovative curriculum rooted in Gospel values to educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Food Drive Organized by the Knights of Columbus

Thanks to the wonderful support of our parishioners during our recent food drive, our council collected:

Cash/Gift Cards: \$375

Online Donations: \$510

Actual Food: 500 pounds approx.

This is a great collection and represents a value of over \$1000 in donations. Thank you to all Brother Knights for helping out and supporting this effort and to all the families who contributed.

Our raffle winners can be found below. Thank you to Fr. Michael and Br. John for organizing the draw:

Ticket # 09785009 -Joe Manias – Canada Flag

Ticket # 09785019 – Macirsen – Town of Stouffville Mug

Ticket # 09785250 – Asres Lui – Town of Stouffville Mug

Ticket # 09785017 – Carmella Casullo – Ontario Flag

Prayer Shawls

Father Michael has blessed many prayer shawls, and lap shawls which were made by the prayer shawl ministry. If you know someone who is in need of comfort and would benefit from one of these items, please contact the church office.

Rosary Apostolate in the Schools

If you love Mother Mary, love children and love to pray the Rosary...

The Rosary Apostolate, Inc., is in need of volunteers to pray the Rosary with school children online - livestreamed virtually on Zoom, (Microsoft teams or Google meets).

Parents working from home, if you are interested, and can spare 2 hours every month, please contact Onesima Raponi at 905-640-6803, Yayeen Gavieres at 905-640-9752, or Jovita Lim at 647 885 0778 for more details. (Training available).

Chaplaincy Connect

Attention Gr. 12 students: If you're going to university or college in the fall, campus ministry is waiting for you! Connect with the Catholic community on your campus by visiting: www.chaplaincyconnect.ca!

ShareLife

A regrettable side effect of the pandemic is that media attention has been diverted from international crises, perhaps leading us to believe that COVID-19 has put war, famine and religious persecution on hold. Sadly, this is not the case.

"**The global refugee crisis is enormous in size,**" says Deacon Rudy Ovcjak, Executive Director of the Office of Refugees of the Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT). "In a particular way it has deeply affected the Christian community, who is **the most persecuted religious community** in the world by far."

Christians are significantly underrepresented in the resettlement efforts of western governments, as Deacon Ovcjak explains in the video above. While ORAT sponsors refugees from all backgrounds, they focus on **ensuring persecuted Christians are provided these same opportunities** to resettle in Canada.

Thanks to your support of ShareLife, ORAT has been able to continue its Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, which partners incoming refugees with cosponsoring groups like parishes. These cosponsors provide financial and other supports to their refugees, assisting them with their integration. As the largest private refugee sponsor in Canada, ORAT welcomed 165 refugees to Canada and initiated 665 resettlements last year.

ORAT cannot do its work without you. As we transition from the pandemic, it's time to **refocus our efforts on those whose suffering was forgotten** by the world but never abated. Please give generously during the Parish Campaign so that ORAT can sustain their hope and provide them a path to safety in Canada.

To donate to ShareLife, please go to: <https://sharelife.org/>

Mass Schedule

Registration for weekend Masses will now open on our website at <http://stmarksst@archtoronto.org>

beginning at 12 noon on Wednesdays.

Saturday Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 5 pm (registration required)• Confession from 4 pm to 4:45 pm
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 9 am (livestreamed)• Mass at 11 am (registration required for both Masses)
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Mass• Church will remain closed unless otherwise announced
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 7 pm
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 8:30 am
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 8:30 am
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 8:30 am• Eucharistic Adoration 9 am to 12 noon
Saturday Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass at 9 am• Confession 9:30 am to 10 am

Online Registration (required for weekend Masses only – Sat 5 pm, Sun 9 am & 11 am)

We invite you to register at: <http://stmarksst.archtoronto.org>

The link will be made active every **Wednesday at 12 noon.**

- One registration form must be completed for each person attending.
- If you are completing the registration for another family member, please put their name on the ticket not yours.
- If you register but find you are not able to attend, please contact the office by Friday so we can open the spot up for someone else.
- If you do not have access to the internet, please call the church office at 905-640-6954 during office hours and a staff member will enter your registration for you.
- Due to limited capacity, we are unable to accept walk-ins at this time.

***Online registration is not required for Weekday Masses, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration.

Stay Connected to St. Mark's Parish

St. Mark's Website link: <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/>

St. Mark YouTube Channel - Livestream of Masses link <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

St. Mark's Public Facebook Page link <https://www.facebook.com/stmarkstouffville>. Please remember to Like and Share this page with fellow parishioners so more people become aware of its existence.

St. Mark's Community Facebook Page link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarkschurchcommunity>. This page is used to share information between parishioners and ask for prayers when needed.

St. Mark's Bulletin link <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/en/bulletin/>