

St. Mark's Church Announcements

June 28, 2022

Included in this edition of the St. Mark's email blast:

- Communion Service – Wednesday, June 29th at 9 am
- Mass intentions offered privately by Fr. Michael
- Canada Day Mass – July 1st at 10 am
- Video Links
- Fr. Michael's Farewell Message

Communion Service – Wednesday, June 29th at 9 am

Fr. Michael originally planned to celebrate his last mass at St. Mark's tomorrow morning but in order to ensure that others do not contract Covid from him, he has asked Gordon Lee to take his place that day. Gordon has kindly agreed to do a Communion Service for all those able to attend on Wednesday, June 29th at 9 am.

Mass Intentions Offered Privately by Fr. Michael – June 27th

Please be advised that Fr. Michael offered a private Mass on Monday, June 27th for the following scheduled intentions.

- Pat Hughes req. by Fr. Michael
- Joe Tersigni & Family req. by Fr. Michael
- Aldo Petrilli & Family req. by Fr. Michael
- Tony Bruno and Family req. by Fr. Michael
- Elena Medina req. by Fr. Michael
- Mary Benincasa req. by Fr. Michael

Canada Day Mass – July 1st at 10 am

Please note that the mass scheduled for Friday, July 1st will begin at **10 am**. There will not be an evening mass that day.

Video Links

Dear People of God,

I attach these links not because they are the last word on the serious topics touched upon but to encourage you to turn to God in prayer and supplication by means of the daily Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration and through the Sacraments to implore His guidance and protection of the Church and for an outpouring of the Spirit of Repentance upon all of us before we bring down the justice of God upon our heads for considering Him to be irrelevant after He has given us His only Son for our salvation. So, in some areas, they are food for thought and further consideration amidst a very controlled media. We live for the most part amongst godless leaders and many non-believers who deny the true nature and dignity of the human person made by and for God and created in His image and likeness and the hard-won human rights acquired by experience over long centuries and expressed quite well in certain national constitutions. Human beings are not robots to be controlled and manipulated into a false political unity that denies the existence of truth, and the one true God of our Christian faith.

- 1) The Most Impressive Eucharistic Miracle? - Fr. Mark Goring, CC
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0V70TI86rQc>
- 2) How the Eucharist Changed My Life - YouTube
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_yKi2OJ7oqE&pp=QAFIAQ%3D%3D
- 3) Top Obama-Biden advisor proposed coercive population control measures - LifeSite
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/top-obama-biden-advisor-proposed-coercive-population-control-measures/>
- 4) NATO Begins Land Blockade of Russian Enclave of Kaliningrad, Little Russia, in an Effort to Provoke Further Conflict - The Last Refuge
<https://theconservativetreehouse.com/blog/2022/06/20/nato-begins-land-blockade-of-russian-enclave-of-kaliningrad-little-russia-in-an-effort-to-provoke-further-conflict/>
- 5) 'I Saw White People as the Enemy, Then One Man Changed My Life'
https://www.newsweek.com/i-saw-white-people-enemy-one-man-changed-life-1717017?utm_source=PushnamiMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=automatic&UTM=1655565796990&subscriberId=5f0c813723994a6b875eacc7
- 6) The World Over with Raymond Arroyo | EWTN
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/shows/world-over>
- 7) New York City has spent over \$200k in taxpayer funds on drag queen shows for public school kids: report – LifeSite
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/new-york-city-has-spent-over-200k-in-taxpayer-funds-on-drag-queen-shows-for-public-school-kids-report/>
- 8) "Take your kids out of schools now" -Psychiatrist Dr. Marc McDonald
Serious food for thought about what is happening in the U.S.A.
<https://www.bitchute.com/video/a8HhQiryVlvb/>
- 9) Watch "Living Without the One You Cannot Live Without - Research on Aging"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlxYj8FEZ34>
- 10) Bulk Food Purchase
<https://wildernessreturn.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/grain-process-product-list-may-2011.pdf>
- 11) Mass of the Ages Episode 1
<https://latinmass.com/watch>

Fr. Michael's Farewell Message

Dear Parishioners of St. Mark's,

I have to pinch myself to realize that my 12 years with you here at St. Mark's is immanently coming to an end. It has been a great run and I leave with many happy memories and moreover, with deep gratitude, firstly to God and to our Blessed Mother Mary for her intercession in having me appointed to St. Mark's as your Pastor and secondly to you all for your support and friendship in my ministry as your Pastor.

And that gratitude extends also to the fantastic staff that I have been blessed to work with over the years particularly Mary Ann and Lad Mehes, supported by Emy Lomibao-De Asis on Fridays, joined a few years later by Lisa Baker. Also in those early years, we were blessed with the great launch to our Youth Ministry by Ben and Krystiana Tabucan. For a number of years, we had Sylvia Usling working as a gifted part-time pastoral worker. We now have two new staff members, Marcel Raes as our caretaker and Sara Moreno-Stober as our Office Administrator, who we believe will be worthy successors to those who have gone before.

As I reminisce, the outstanding contributions of an essential core team of volunteers come to mind. Amongst these key volunteers were Maureen Morrison, who for several years was of great assistance in the office, our Sacristans, Rose Cabrelli, Dot Gourley and Cellie Canaon, our Collection Counters and the Altar Society ladies, who took care to ensure that spotless mass linens were available week after week to guarantee that the rightful honour was always rendered to Our Lord present in the Eucharist.

It has been a very busy 12 years. We had the launch of our Church Expansion Committee, with Harry Renaud being the first to step forward and volunteer to help. He would go on to chair this committee over many long years up to construction. I recall the excitement of these first 2 years as we visited many churches to gather information and ideas for our church expansion. This large committee gave very generously of their time.

In amongst the mix was the Family of Faith Campaign lead and inspired by the wonderful leadership of our joint Chairpersons, Mary Benincasa and Bruce Orr, supported by an army of volunteers and carefully administered and accounted for by Maureen Morrison and Ann Marie Munro. And I thank you dear good people of St. Mark's for your generous support of this appeal.

Finally, the time arrived for us to go out to tender, and the response to my Hail Mary appeal by a key number of families who ensured that we did not have to drop the family room (Mary and Emilio Benincasa), the carpark entrance (Metauro Family) and front canopy (Anonymous Sponsor). This was a lifesaver in terms of maintaining the integrity of the project.

This was followed by the Ground-breaking Ceremony and the huge effort to pack up and move all our church contents into storage. The relief and gratitude I felt towards Gordon Lee and our staff and countless volunteers for their assistance, with what seemed to me then an unsurmountable task, was boundless.

Next, the sixteen months functioning out of our original St. Mark's School and the work of so many people, staff, and parishioners to make that work. And the warm welcome and hospitality afforded to us by the School Principal, Mireille Walter, and her staff and the school caretaker team.

Simultaneously, construction proceeded with the incredible contributions made by Stephen Blommesteyn and Frank Ignagni overseeing this task with our bi-weekly site meetings ensuring the successful completion of the project. The vital contribution made by J.P. Vancheri on the engineering side to ensure the structural integrity of the building was critical. I am also very grateful to Alfred Cadawas for his great support and assistance with the audio visual aspect of the project without which, I would have been lost.

Peter Gallagher and family very generously outfitted the sacristy with all the millwork components, while the Mauro and Ronco families did the same with providing us with a much needed Lula elevator.

I recall the excitement of the Reopening and Rededication and here the skills of Paul McGuire honing our communications plan and Connie Quadrini coordinating the tour logistics came to the fore. They were also supported by a totally dedicated committee who put forth a huge effort that guaranteed a wonderfully successful reopening celebration.

There were the years of Catholic Formation through our Adult Education and Alpha programs, lead by Connie Quadrini and Elena Medina. And there was the excitement generated within the Parish Council as we looked at various parish renewal initiatives which inspired the aforementioned evangelization outreach programs, and many other faith formation programs.

Throughout, there has been the amazing dedication of our First Communion Program Coordinators, Anna Privitera, Jaclyn Mansueto and Pamela Terrigno who have given so generously of their time, talent, and faith year after year to prepare our children for their First Holy Communion.

I also salute our parishioners and our Refugee Committee for their wonderful generosity of time, talent, and treasure in sponsoring our two Syrian refugees.

These last 2 years have brought constant challenges and here, I am so grateful to 3 ministries in particular – our Ushers, our Church Cleaning Volunteers under the leadership of Ann Marie Munro and Nelle Lombardo and our musicians, particularly Alfred and Liza Cadawas and the Medina family. During this time, we were reminded of the critical importance of the basics. If these are not in place, we don't function. Our musicians had to double up on top of their music ministries by launching the vitally important new livestreaming ministry. This enabled us to broadcast our Sunday Mass celebrations to our people during lockdown and thereafter while the restricted access remained in effect – truly an exhausting task!

I would also like to thank in particular a number of families for their hospitality over the years: Sig and Teresa Kusatz, Paul and Teresa Tomory, Bruce and Tania Orr, Charles and Glynnis Barnes, Connie and Gino Quadrini and Conny Hippmann, who was also our most outstanding ambassador for the Family of Faith Campaign.

Throughout all this Covid, I have been blessed with the tremendous support of our clergy, Deacon John especially for his support with the Sunday preaching and Deacon Wayne who assumed a truck load of responsibilities and lifted the greater part of the Baptism Ministry off my shoulders. He also has been a wonderful help with financial matters along with Mary Benincasa and Judy Nevins who spearheaded the successful negotiations with the Archdiocese regarding our loan repayment program. And finally, it was due to Deacon Wayne also that we have been blessed with the wonderful initiative of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) evangelization and faith formation program. And in the background, throughout all of this, has been the steady and constant prayerful support of Fr. Leslie who has always been there for me and all of us, thank God.

In recent years, we witnessed a Lazarus event with the Knights of Columbus, thanks to the incredible leadership of Nicholas Quadrini and a key band of brother Knights, who rescued our Knights from total collapse. The vitality we see today is evidenced by the leadership provided for our big celebration held last weekend on June 18 which was a tremendous success and which I thoroughly enjoyed. This was spearheaded by our new Grand Knight and Chair, John Sobrinho and executive committee, supported by Elena Medina, Ann Marie Munro, and many others. This committee did trojan work and provided us with a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate. The seeds for the aforementioned resurrection success lay with Bob Tabone and Francis Kelly and their investment of time and talent nurturing the Squires, the youth branch of the Knights of Columbus, from which came forth the likes of Nicholas Quadrini and Kyle Medina – key members in the resurrection of the adult arm of the Knights.

So, I leave with a vast set of great memories and, as I said, a deep appreciation to God, the good people of this parish, my friends, staff, parish and finance council and clergy.

I also need to say how completely bowled over I was with the stupendous generosity of your gift last weekend. I never expected it at all. It caught me completely by surprise. I was stunned! Thank you so much for this amazing generous gift. People will be wondering who this Pastor is cruising the world. I will blame you all if I take to a ministry travelling the world ministering to the peripheries!

God bless you – I will pray for you, and I know you are in great hands with our new Pastor, Fr. Tad, who will bring fresh energy and vitality to the parish.

I do believe there is a wisdom in the Church decision to shake things up every 10 to 12 years. Our hope and trust are in the name of the Lord not in any poor human instrument. Such detachments purify us and direct us to the only one that matters, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you all and thank you for everything,

Fr. Michael