

St. Mark's Church Announcements

March 23, 2022

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

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St. Mark's Parish to join Pope Francis in prayer for the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine – in a special Mass on March 25th at 1 pm

The Holy Father is encouraging dioceses around the world to join him in prayer for peace and for the entrustment and the consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord: Friday, March 25, 2022

Fr. Michael will also be offering a Mass at 1 pm on March 25 in order to join the Holy Father in the prayer of consecration, which will be read at the time of the homily (see wording of prayer at the end of this email).

For those who cannot attend the Mass at St. Mark's on March 25th in-person, you can watch the Mass celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins at 12:10 p.m. (noon) at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica and pray the consecratory prayer. To watch the livestream, please visit <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>.

Five First Saturdays Devotion

During this unprecedented time in world history, it is imperative that we do as Our Lord wills and as Our Lady requested at Fatima to not only have the Pope and the Bishops consecrate Russia, but also for the laity to do their part and offer the First Five Saturdays to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary, offering reparation for the blasphemies of sinners, the ingratitude of our unrepentant hearts, and for peace in the world.

Saturday, April 2nd is the next First Saturday and a perfect time to begin this devotion which consists of doing the following on the first Saturday of five consecutive months:

- **Go to Confession** (it's also acceptable to go to confession within a period of 8 days before or 8 days after the first Saturday)
- **Attend Mass and Receive Holy Communion**
- **Recite five decades of the Rosary**
- **Meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary**

On December 10, 1925 at Pontevedra, Spain, Our Lady said:

Our Lord is much offended by sin. She declared that “people must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins.” She also told them that She would return later to ask for a new devotion of reparation in order to save souls. True to Her word, on the evening of December 10, 1925, She and the Child Jesus appeared to Sister Lucy in her convent cell in Pontevedra, Spain. Showing the young nun a Heart encircled by thorns, Our Lady told her to announce to the world in Her Name that she would assist, at the moment of death, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months confessed, received Holy Communion, recited five decades of the Rosary and spent fifteen minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to Her. Arising from hope, this great devotion of the Five First Saturdays now unites millions of hearts in an unbroken chain of reparation for sin and atonement for offenses against the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

On June 13th 1929 at Tuy, Spain, Our Lady said:

“The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. There are so many souls whom the Justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me, that I have come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.”

She said if Her request was granted, Russia would convert and a period of peace would be granted to the world. If not, Russia “will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecution of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated. In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me”.

Are you doing what Our Lady of Fatima asked you to do while there is still time?

1. Have you confessed your sins and amended your life – leading a truly Catholic life?
2. Are you praying the Rosary every day?
3. Are you offering sacrifices for sinners, including offering up your daily tasks and duties as a sacrifice in reparation for sin?
4. Are you wearing the Brown Scapular as a sign of personal consecration – and making acts of consecration to the Immaculate Heart?
5. Have you fulfilled Our Lady’s request for the Five First Saturdays Communion of Reparation to Her Immaculate Heart? Flyers are available in the church foyer with further details about this devotion.

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

In response to the request of parishioners, the Archdiocese of Toronto has launched a humanitarian relief effort to help the Ukrainian people at this time.

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. Mark’s Parish – Ukrainian Relief – Humanitarian Relief

Lenten Parish Retreat – March 24th

Everyone is invited to attend our Lenten Parish Retreat which has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 24th from 7 pm to 9 pm**. We have a dynamic speaker coming to our parish to help us enrich our journey through Lent. We hope you can join us!

Speaker: Robert LeBlanc

Topic: *Lenten Sacrifice – Easter Habit* This talk will reflect upon the 3 pillars of Lent of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving; and how our Lenten promises in these areas can help us form life-changing habits.

Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – March 25th

There will be evening Mass on Friday, March 25th at 7:30 pm for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Stations of the Cross will begin at 7 pm. We invite everyone to attend Mass and take part in this Solemnity!

All Day Confession – March 26th

Before Easter, it's important we prepare our hearts and souls for the great celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ by going to confession. **There will be a Day of Lenten Confessions on Saturday, March 26th from 9:30 am to 4:45 pm with visiting priests assisting Fr. Michael on that day.** Fr. Michael also offers the Sacrament of Confession every Saturday from 4 pm to 4:45 pm.

ShareLife Sunday – March 27th

This weekend is ShareLife Sunday

“Vulnerable members of our community are relying on you and me to ensure ongoing access to the care they so desperately need. Your help is crucial in meeting the overall campaign goal of \$13.8 million. Our goal can be met, but only if we each do our part.” – Cardinal Thomas Collins

Amazingly, last year St. Mark's Parish raised \$79,447. This year our parish goal is \$77,000. Please give generously on ShareLife Sunday during the special collection or at sharelife.org.

Women's Ministry Easter Cross Craft Workshop – March 28th

Join us for a super-fun, no-pressure, EASY Easter Cross Craft Workshop in the St. Mark's Church Basement next Monday Night!

March 28th, 7:30-9pm

Craft Kits will be available for \$20/kit which includes a donation for Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Please RSVP to mmcconkey@rogers.com to ensure we have enough supplies for everyone.

Update to Worship Safe Protocols

St. Mark's Church will be gradually and steadily implementing the new Worship Safe Protocols.

- Social distance of 1 metre between distinct social bubbles/persons will be maintained up to and including April 3rd, at which time social distancing will not be required and all pews will be open.
- Eventbrite registration is still required for the weekend of April 2nd/3rd. After that weekend, registration will no longer be required for parishioners to attend weekend Masses.
- Livestreaming of the Sunday 9 am Mass will continue until April 3rd at which point it will end.
- Masks are now optional when attending mass.
- Reception of Holy Communion on the tongue has now resumed. Please come to Fr. Michael at the front centre aisle after all other parishioners have received the Eucharist.
- The kiss of peace is still discouraged at this time. A bow or wave should continue to be used as an alternative.
- Holy water fonts have now been refilled.
- Dispensation – For all Catholics, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place, as this is a command of our Lord to Keep Holy the Sabbath Day. If a person is ill, caring for someone who is ill or has serious health concerns if among a large group of people, then they are not required to attend in-person. However, they should make every effort to still watch the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on T.V. on Sundays.

New Church Office Hours

The Church Office will now be open each week Tuesday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm (closed for lunch between 12 noon and 1 pm).

Video Links and Quotes

- 1) **Great news: UK House of Lords rejects assisted suicide**
<https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2022/03/uk-house-of-lords-rejects-push-to.html>
- 2) **Prophecy about Russia by Blessed Elena Aiello**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=_xttK9j2Mds
- 3) **Yuval Harari – Will the future be human?**
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hL9uk4hKyq4>
- 4) **Stop racist Critical Race Theory - Ontario Bill 67**
<https://www.votervoice.net/LifesiteNewsCA/campaigns/93170/respond>

5) Hermann Goering – Nazi Military Commander – Nuremberg Trials

“Why of course the people don't want war. Why should some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally the common people don't want war: neither in Russia, nor in England, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But after all it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or fascist dictatorship, or a parliament or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peace makers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country.”

Full text of the March 25, 2022 Consecration Prayer:

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/marian-consecration-prayer-for-ukraine-russia-released-by-vatican>

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: “Am I not here, I who am your Mother?” You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: “They have no wine” (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those

words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26.) In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat," on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope," water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace.

Amen.