

St. Mark's Church Announcements and Updates

May 11, 2021

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

- Mary Ann and Lad Mehes Retirement – Best Wishes from the Parish
- Parish Council Nominations
- Eucharistic Adoration – Schedule Change on Friday, May 14
- Pope Francis Requests Us to Pray for an End to the Pandemic
- Chalice Sponsorship
- Coins for Life
- FORMED subscription for our Parishioners
- Links to stay connected to St. Mark's Parish

Mary Ann and Lad Mehes Retirement – Best Wishes from the Parish

We would like to sincerely thank our Office Administrator, Mary Ann Mehes and our Caretaker, Lad Mehes for their eleven years of wonderful, dedicated service to St. Mark's Community and to Fr. Michael. They will be greatly missed and we are sad to see them leave but we wish them all the best in their retirement and ask God to continue to bless and watch over them.

Their last official day as employees of the parish will be Friday, May 14. Fr. Michael will present them with gifts and his farewell message at the end of the livestream of the 9 am Mass that day. To view the Mass, please go to: <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

Unfortunately, we cannot all gather together for a large celebration to say farewell to them but we encourage you to please do one of the following to show your appreciation for all they have done for our community.

- On Friday, May 14, send an email of congratulations and best wishes to Mary Ann and Lad to stmarksbulletin@bellnet.ca (to surprise them, we ask that you wait until Friday to send your email message).
- Also on Friday, May 14, between 9:45 am and 10:15 am, Mary Ann and Lad will be outside the front doors of the church. If you are available that morning and would like to say goodbye to them in person, we will be organizing a drive by so you can stay in your car and drive around the circular driveway in front of the church to speak with them. There will also be a box where you can leave them a card if you so wish.

Parish Council Nominations

As the current parish year draws to a close at the end of June, we reach out to invite you to nominate a fellow parishioner or put your own name forward to become a new Parish Council member to serve for a 2 or 3 year term to replace those who are about to retire. Elections will take place in June.

The Parish Council advises Fr. Michael on strategic issues and works on special projects. They typically meet once every 4 to 6 weeks during the school year for a total of 6 to 7 meetings each year. If you feel called to share your talents with the church in this manner, please see the Parish website for the Parish Council Nomination Form located under the "Our Community" heading at the following link:

<https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/en/our-community/parish-council-constitution/>

Completed nomination forms can be emailed to stmarkspastoral@bellnet.ca or submitted to the office by May 31.

Eucharistic Adoration – Schedule Change on Friday, May 14

For this Friday only, Eucharistic Adoration will begin at **10:30 am** instead of 9:30 am. It will conclude at 12 noon. If you would like to register for a 30-minute time slot, please go to the link on our website on Wednesday at 7 pm to register. <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/>

Pope Francis Requests Us to Pray for an End to the Pandemic

Pope Francis is inviting Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year's dedication of May to pandemic-related prayer recalls a similar occurrence during the first wave in March 2020. Pope Francis led the world in prayer during that confusing and difficult time, celebrating a live-streamed, daily Mass in the Casa Santa Marta. After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, the Pope and the Church around the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear.

In line with Pope Francis' request, Fr. Michael would like to encourage everyone to pray the Rosary with your family each night for an end to the pandemic. As well, he would like to invite 9 people to register to come to the church to pray the Rosary on **Thursdays in May from 7 pm to 7:30 pm. This will begin on May 13.** The registration link will open on Wednesday at 7 pm on our website at <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/>.

Chalice Sponsorship

For just \$37 a month, you can help a precious child in need. During the homily on May 29 and 30, a speaker from Chalice will address parishioners virtually. We hope many of you will respond to this appeal from an organization that brings Christ to the poor and the poor to Christ. Please see our website for further details.

www.stmarksst.archtoronto.org.

Coins for Life

In previous years, many of our parishioners have donated money to Campaign Life Coalition through their Coins for Life fundraiser. If you would like to take part this year, please see the instructions on our website at

www.stmarksst.archtoronto.org.

FORMED – Catholic Media

We are excited to inform all our parishioners that St. Mark's Church has a one-year Parish subscription to Formed. This means there is no cost to you to take advantage of this extensive collection of Catholic resources including thousands of Catholic books, movies, and documentaries. We encourage everyone to click on the link below and register! Join Formed for free by registering at: <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/formed/>

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/>