

# Living the Gospel



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## **St. Paul the Apostle and Immaculate Conception Churches**

**St. Paul the Apostle:** P.O. Box 789, 190 King St. S., Alliston, ON L9R 1V9  
Office: 705-435-6325 Fax: 705-435-6859

**Immaculate Conception:** 4791 Conc Rd 5, Adjala, Alliston ON L9R 1V1  
email: [stpaultheapostleal@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaultheapostleal@archtoronto.org)

**Parish website: [stpaultheapostleal.archtoronto.org](http://stpaultheapostleal.archtoronto.org)**



### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent ~ 19 March 2023

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

John 9:13-15

**First Reading + 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13**  
**Second Reading + Ephesians 5:8-14**  
**Gospel + John 9:1-41**

### Mass for the Intentions Week

**Monday, March 20**  
NO MASS SCHEDULED

**Tuesday, March 21**  
5:30pm+Marian Cenacle  
6:00pm+HOLY HOUR

\*\*6:15pm – 6:45pm + CONFESSIONS\*\*

7:00pm+Kazimierz MADYDA-Damian's Co-workers

**Wednesday, March 22**

8:00am+Thelma EAKINS, RIP-D & H Wright

**Thursday, March 23**

8:00am+Anna & Guiseppe Novielli, RIP – T/N Novielli

**Friday, March 24**

**Multiple Intentions Mass, RIP**

(Fri. Daily Mass at Immaculate Conception)

12:10pm+Ron HORAN, Rosie SIMON

\*\*7:00pm+STATIONS of the CROSS @ St. Paul's

**Saturday, March 25+Annunciation**

(Sat. Daily Mass at Immaculate Conception)

9:00am+Tardif Grandchildren, Per.Int.-G/D Tardif

5:00pm+Ilidio MORAIS, RIP- R/M Morais

**Sunday, March 26**

9:00am+José Tiburcio, RIP- Tomini Family

10:30am+ FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

### The Holy Drama of Grace

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. [John 9:35–38](#)

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ([John 8:12](#)). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of [Exodus 20:5–6](#) in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

*Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: MyCatholicLife

### Saint of the Week:

The Church is that one wherein the true word of God is preached, which Christ left to His Apostles, which the same Church hath always observed, the doctors preached, and Martyrs and confessors witnessed. This is the Church I believe to be true. - *Saint Margaret Clitherow (1555-1586), Martyr, Feast Day March 26*



**Weekly Collections for**  
**March 12, 2023**  
**(This does not include PAG collection)**

Sunday offering (St Paul's)	\$ 2533.45
Other-St.Paul's(Confirmation,SVDP etc)	\$ 2275.30
Sun. offering (Imm. Concep)	\$ 596.25
Other- Imm Con (SVDP, ShareLife etc)	\$ 297.00
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<b>Total-</b>	<b>\$5702.00</b>
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**NORTHERN REGION SPRING SOCIAL**

When: Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Where: Fr. Bennett Hall, Time: 1-3 p.m.  
 Doors open at 12:30 p.m., Lunch is at 1:00 p.m.  
 Entertainment: Sean Derraugh, will talk about the history of his clarinets & perform for us.  
 R.S.V.P. before **March 22<sup>nd</sup> to:**  
 dwestcott@bell.net or 705-435-9914  
 Sponsored by the C.W.L.

**Mass of Celebration to Welcome Archbishop Francis**  
**(Frank) Leo**

The installation of Bishop Francis (Frank) Leo as Archbishop of Toronto will take place on **Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10 a.m.** Given capacity restrictions at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, this will be an **invitation-only** event. The Mass of Installation will be livestreamed through [www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live](http://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live) and broadcast on Salt & Light Catholic TV and through their website: [www.slmedia.org](http://www.slmedia.org). Parishioners are invited to attend a regional Mass of Welcome taking place in the **Northern Region on Monday, April 17, 2023 – St Mary's Parish, Barrie at 7:00pm.** A reception will follow Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome. Please continue to keep Archbishop Leo in your prayers as he begins his ministry as our shepherd.



**Grades 9 - 12**  
 6:45 - 9pm  
 Mondays. Bi-weekly.  
 Check schedule.

March 20 - Pursuit of Happiness  
 April 3 - Pursuit of Money  
 April 6/7 - Holy Thursday/Good Friday Retreat  
 April 22 - Pierogi Dinner Fundraiser  
 Supports 2 Summer Camps



**Grades 6 – 8**  
 645 - 830pm  
 Mondays. Bi-weekly.  
 Check schedule.

March 27 - Fun Night Social  
 April 6/7 - Holy Thursday/Good Friday Retreat  
 April 22 - Pierogi Dinner Fundraiser  
 Supports 5 days at Edge Camps

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

We had a successful World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a PHENOMENAL TEAM of helpers. Six other churches in Alliston attended the service. Our speakers were Deborah Donnelly and Dave McKendrick who shared their faith journey. Fellowship and refreshments concluded the day.

**Lent & Easter Schedule**

During Lent we have the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at **7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's Church

**CONFESSIONS** - Tuesdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 4 pm

**EASTER TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday – April 6**

*No Morning Mass*

7:30 p.m. + Mass of the Lord's Supper  
 Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00p.m

**Good Friday – April 7**

*No Noon Mass*

3:00 p.m.+ Commemoration of The Lord's Passion 7:00 pm  
 + Stations of the Cross

**Holy Saturday – April 8**

*No Morning Mass*

12:00 noon+ Blessing of the Easter Foods at  
 Immaculate Conception Church

**Easter Vigil + 8:30 pm – April 8**

*{The greatest celebration in the Church Year}*

**Easter Sunday – April 9**

9:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception Church  
 10:30 a.m.+ St. Paul's Church



Cardinal Collins says that "as part of our mandate to foster a safe and caring community, since 2001 the Archdiocese has had a policy of screening its volunteers to ensure the protection and safety of the most vulnerable."

We are seeking someone to assist our Volunteer Coordinator - Carla Beckett. Having access to a computer and Excel is necessary. The Excel sheet is already set up and just needs input as it arises. Meeting and interviewing volunteers is another aspect of the position and can be arranged in your own time. One does not have to be retired or have a lot of time to take on this job. On an average, it takes about one hour a month.

If you are interested, please contact Carla Beckett at [beckettcarla@gmail.com](mailto:beckettcarla@gmail.com). Training will be provided.

We are seeking new choir members to sing at the 10:30am mass. If you have the gift of music and would like to sing for the Lord, please reach out to Father Norberto.

We are in need of counters to assist with our weekly collect counting. This role entails working **ONLY once a month on Sundays.** Training will be provided. You may reach out to the Parish Office.

We are also looking for Lay Readers and Ushers for our weekend masses.

If anyone is interested in **Ushering**, please contact **Ed Rooney @ 416-579-0859** or [rooneye34@gmail.com](mailto:rooneye34@gmail.com)  
 For **Lay Readers**, please contact **Mike Crowley @ 705-220-1309** or [mikecrow@rogers.com](mailto:mikecrow@rogers.com).

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