

St. John the Evangelist Church

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Mr. Brendon Orian	Youth Ministry

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A Thanksgiving Prayer

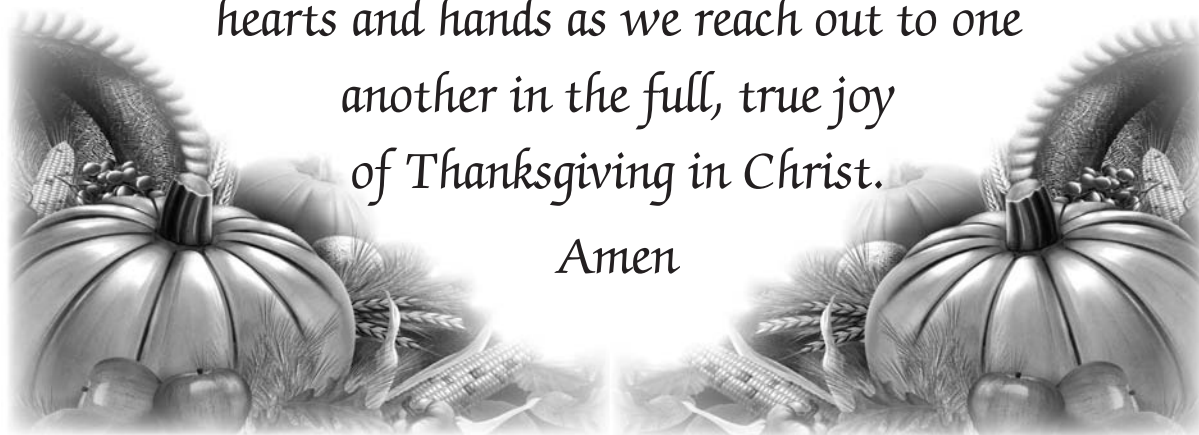
Heavenly Creator,

*In this season of gratitude and abundance,
we give You thanks for our many blessings
as we pray for all who struggle
with hunger and want.*

*Be with them in the dark of night,
when all hope seems lost.*

*Keep their faith strong as they await relief.
And let Your goodness flow through our
hearts and hands as we reach out to one
another in the full, true joy
of Thanksgiving in Christ.*

Amen



TWENTY-EIGHTTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we are celebrating Thanksgiving Sunday. It is a key aspect of our faith to be thankful. It is true that all of us find it easy to complain and to grumble because things do not happen our way. It makes our lives bitter and burdensome. On this important feast, we are invited and called to take the time to be thankful, which brings about peace and joy to our hearts. What do we need to be thankful for especially in this very difficult time? First of all, for the gift of life, for all the graces and love that God has showered on us, for our families, for our health, for the gift of each other, for having a roof over our heads, and food everyday. I would like to add another thing: for the gift of having a parish where we can go and attend and on which we receive everyday the most wonderful gift that has been given to us: Jesus Christ Himself. I encourage during this week to think of all the blessings that we receive every single day. It will make our days much brighter and full of peace. I wish to all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and may the Lord fill you with grateful and peaceful hearts!

Pope Francis Homily, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

The parable we have heard speaks to us of the Kingdom of God as a wedding feast (cf. Mt 22,1-14). The protagonist is the son of the king, the groom, in which it is easy to catch a glimpse of Jesus. In the parable, however, we never talk about the bride, but about the many guests, invited and expected: they are the ones who wear the bridal wear. Those guests are us, all of us, because with each of us the Lord wishes to "celebrate the wedding". Marriage ushers in the communion of all life: it is what God desires with each of us. Our relationship with him, then, cannot be only that of subjects devoted to the king, of faithful servants with the master or of diligent schoolchildren with the master, but is above all that of the beloved bride with the groom. In other words, the Lord desires us, seeks and invites us, and is not satisfied that we fulfil good duties and observe his laws, but he wants with us a true communion of life, a relationship made of dialogue, trust and forgiveness.

This is [Christian life](#), a love story with God, where the Lord takes the initiative for free and where none of us can boast the exclusive invitation: no one is privileged over others, but each one is privileged before God. From this free, tender and privileged love, Christian life is always born and reborn. We can ask ourselves whether, at least once a day, we confess our love for Him to the Lord; if we remember, among many words, to say to him every day: "I love you Lord. You are my life." Because, if love is lost, Christian life becomes sterile, it becomes a soulless body, an impossible morality, a set of principles and laws to make ends meet without a reason. Instead, the God of life awaits a response from life, the Lord of love waits for a response of love. Addressing a Church in the Book of Revelation, He makes a precise rebuke: "You have abandoned your first love" (2:4). Here is the danger: a routine Christian life, where we are content with "normality", without momentum, without enthusiasm, and with short memory. Instead, let us revive the memory of first love: we are the beloved, the wedding guests, and our life is a gift, because every day is the magnificent opportunity to respond to the invitation.

But the Gospel warns us: the invitation can be rejected. Many of the guests said no, because they were taken over by [their own interests](#): "they did not care and went away, one to his farm, and another to his business", says the text (Mt 22.5). One word comes back: "his"; is the key to understanding the reason for rejection. The guests, in fact, did not think that the wedding was sad or boring, but simply "did not care": they were distracted by "their" interests, they preferred to have something rather than get involved, as love requires. This is how one distances oneself from love, not out of malice, but because one prefers one's own: security, self-affirmation, comforts... Then you lie in the armchairs of profits, pleasures, some hobby that makes you feel a little cheerful, but so you get old early and badly, because you get old inside: when your heart does not expand, it closes, it gets old. And when everything depends on the self – what I want, what I need, what I want – you become rigid and evil, you react in a bad way for nothing, like the guests of the Gospel, who came to insult and even to kill (cf. v. 6) those who brought the invitation, just because they bothered them.

Then the Gospel asks us which side we are on: on the side of oneself or on God's side? Because God is the opposite of selfishness, of self-reference. He, the Gospel tells us, in the face of the constant rejections he receives, in the face of the refusals of his invitations, he goes on, he does not postpone the feast. He does not resign, but he continues to invite. In the face of the "no's", he does not slam the door, but includes even more people. God, in the face of the injustices suffered, responds with a greater love. We, when we are wounded by wrongs and waste, often harbour dissatisfaction and resentment. God, while suffering for our "no's", continues to take the initiative again and again, he goes on to prepare good even for those who do evil. Because that's how love is, it makes love; because that's the only way evil can be defeated. Today this God, who never loses hope, invites us to act like Him, to live according to true love, to overcome the resignation and whims of our touchy and lazy self.

There is one final aspect that the Gospel emphasizes: the dress of the guests, which is indispensable. It is not enough to answer once the invitation, to say "yes" and that's it, but you have to put on the clothe, you need the habit of living [love](#) every day. Because one cannot say "Lord, Lord" without living and applying God's will (cf. Mt 7,21). We need to clothe ourselves every day with his love, to renew God's choice every day. [The Saints](#) canonized today, the many Martyrs above all, point us to this path. They did not say "yes" to love in words and for a while, but with life and to the end. Their daily clothing was the love of Jesus, that mad love that loved us to the end, who left his forgiveness and his robe to those who crucified him. We too received in Baptism the white robe, the bridal garment for God. Let us ask Him, through the intercession of these holy brothers and sisters of ours, for the grace to choose and wear this dress every day and to keep it clean. How do I do it? Above all, by going to receive without fear the Lord's forgiveness: this is the decisive step to enter the wedding hall to celebrate the feast of love with Him. (October 15, 2017).

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Fr. Mike Holmes, Associate Pastor

CWL INITIATIVE TO FIGHT FOR OUR LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS

COVID-19 exposed the deficiencies that exist in our Long-Term Care homes. Your CWL asks you to bring your pen on October 17/18 to have your voices heard.

We need to work together to provide quality of care and quality of life for long-term care residents. Please sign and complete the letter to Minister Fullerton and bring it back next weekend. CWL members will be collecting your completed letters before and after masses on October 17/18. We hope to make an impact on the Minister with all the signed letters!

Youth Ministry

The return of youth ministry is fast approaching. Our first Life Night is Thursday, October 22nd 7pm-8pm in the Parish Centre. The first Edge Night is Friday, October 30th 7pm-8pm in the Parish Centre.

Due to currently pandemic regulations pre registration for both Life Teen and Edge is mandatory for attending the night so we can have proper numbers and contact tracing. Please contact Brendon Orian at sjewhitbyyouth@gmail.com for an electronic copy of this year's registration form. Masks will be mandatory for both Life Teen and Edge according to Durham Region bylaws. Proper sanitation and social distancing will be observed."

Life Chain

Thank you to all who participated in our Life Chain on October 4th at Dundas and Cochrane Streets, and Dundas and Jeffrey Streets. Hundreds of people saw our signs and many responded positively. We also thank those who prayed from at home, especially those who prayed the Rosary for Life. Know that we have done our part to bring healing to our nation. One of the purposes of Life Chain is to be more consistent in supporting life, so we would ask you to make a commitment every day to say a prayer such as The Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, etc. to ask the Lord to heal our land and end abortion until we meet again at our next Life Chain in 2021 on October 3rd. That way we all can participate in changing the culture of death to a Culture of Life in Canada on a daily basis."



ShareLife: Living the Gospel by putting faith into action

"ShareLife is the way the rubber hits the road. This is how we validate the legitimacy and integrity of our Christian life: not by the words we speak, but by the love we share, in practical ways. That's what we do with ShareLife." — *Cardinal Thomas Collins*

Today ShareLife Sunday. From now through November 8, you can double the impact of your donation. A generous donor is matching gifts up to \$500,000. Please give during the special collection or anytime using the ShareLife envelopes in the

pews. You can also give securely online at sharelife.org/donate.

Rescheduled Celebrations of the Sacraments

We have been given permission to reschedule First Eucharist and Confirmation celebrations (that were postponed in the spring) for children who were registered in our programs during the 2019-20 school year.

For more information please email Susan Douglas at sdouglas.lpa@gmail.com.

First Eucharist

These Masses will be taking place on selected Sundays over the next few months and we have notified all parents of this.

Confirmation

These Masses will be taking place on selected Thursday evenings (and one Sunday) over the next few months and we have notified all parents of this.



Masses For The Week

Sat. Oct 10 – 5:00pm

+Joseph McTeague
req. by Jim & Mary McTeague

Mon Oct 12 –9:00am *Thanksgiving Day*

+Alberto Moreno
req. by His Family

Tues Oct 13 – 8:20am

+Francis & +Herbert Doran
req. by Their Family

Wed. Oct 14 – 7:00pm

+Alicia Bowles
req. by Catherine Phillips
+Des Kelly
req. by The McEachen Family
+Brent Morin
req. by The McEachen Family

Thur. Oct 15 – 8:20am

+Ronald Demoe
req. by Kathy Webb

Fri. Oct 16 – 8:20am

+Debi Demoe
req. by Kathy Webb

Sat. Oct 17 – 5:00pm

+Giacomo Bellotto
req. by Elisa Bellotto & Family

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