

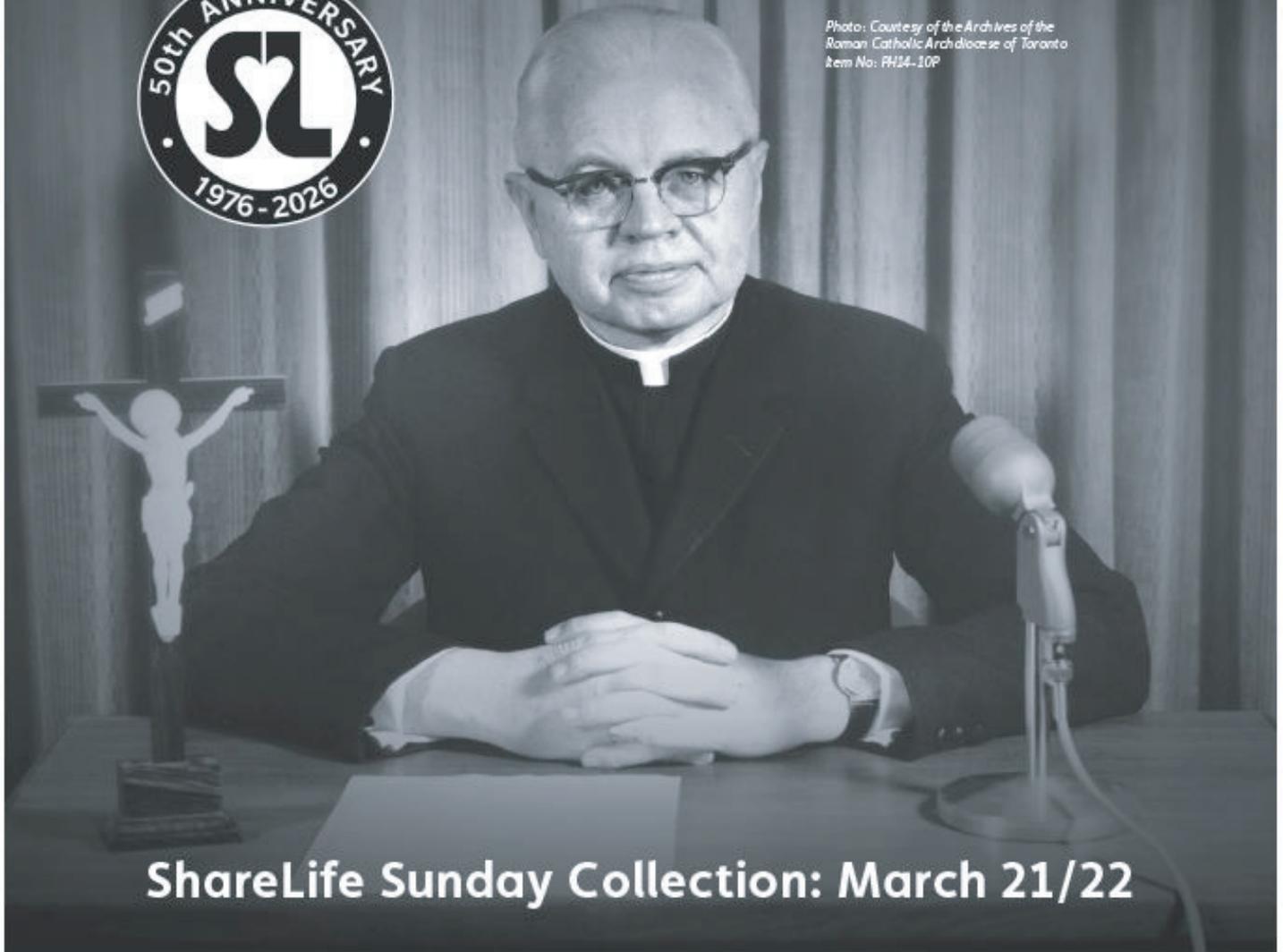
Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

– Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock,
A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel, presents the episode in which God promised the prophet that He will transform the hearts of the people of Israel who were in exile. When the Israelites were in the exile of Babylon, they experienced a period of despair, dryness and anxiety. However, God gave them hope assuring them that He will renew them and that He will put His Spirit within them to make them live at peace. We also have in our everyday lives periods in which we experience anxiety, anguish and distress. It is easy to give up. Even though we face trails and difficulties and everything around us seem to discourage us, the Lord is asking us to put our trust in Him since He will help us and give us endless peace. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, offers us a teaching on the sacrament of baptism in relationship with the Death and Resurrection of Christ. The Lord wants to share with us His Spirit, which allows us to live as resurrected people. We are approaching Easter and we are going to experience soon how the Lord is going to transform us and restore our hearts. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the raising of Lazarus. Christ manifested His power over death by raising Lazarus even though he was already dead for four days. He experienced the corruption of sin and death and there was nothing else to do for him. Yet, Christ raises Him from the dead assuring us that He has power over sin and death. This Gospel is very hopeful and pre-announces us what Christ wants to do for us in Easter. Even though we may feel dead and without any hope because of our sins, Christ is stronger than death and He has overcome it through His Death and Resurrection.

Let us open our hearts so that the Lord Jesus may renew our hearts and may share His Resurrection with us!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (April 10, 2011)

There are only two weeks to go until Easter and the Bible Readings of this Sunday all speak about resurrection. It is not yet that of Jesus, which bursts in as an absolute innovation, but our own resurrection, to which we aspire and which Christ himself gave to us, in rising from the dead. Indeed, death represents a wall as it were, which prevents us from seeing beyond it; yet our hearts reach out beyond this wall and even though we cannot understand what it conceals, we nevertheless think about it and imagine it, expressing with symbols our desire for eternity.

The Prophet Ezekiel proclaimed to the Jewish people, exiled far from the land of Israel, that God would open the graves of the dead and bring them home to rest in peace (cf. Ez 37:12-14). This ancestral aspiration of man to be buried together with his forefathers is the longing for a "homeland" which welcomes us at the end of our earthly toil. This

concept does not yet contain the idea of a personal resurrection from death, which only appears towards the end of the Old

Testament, and even in Jesus' time was not accepted by all Judeans. Among Christians too, faith in the resurrection and in life is often accompanied by many doubts and much confusion because it also always concerns a reality which goes beyond the limits of our reason and requires an act of faith.

In today's Gospel — the raising of Lazarus — we listen to the voice of faith from the lips of Martha, Lazarus' sister. Jesus said to her: "Your brother will rise again," and she replies: "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (Jn 11:23-24). But Jesus repeats: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (Jn 11:25-26). This is the true newness which abounds and exceeds every border! Christ pulls down the wall of death and in him dwells all the fullness of God, who is life, eternal life. Therefore death did not have power over him and the raising of Lazarus is a sign of his full dominion over physical death which, before God, resembles sleep (cf. Jn 11:11).

However there is another death, which cost Christ the hardest struggle, even the price of the Cross: it is spiritual death and sin which threaten to ruin the existence of every human being. To overcome this death, Christ died and his Resurrection is not a return to past life, but an opening to a new reality, a "new land" united at last with God's Heaven. Therefore St Paul writes: "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you" (Rom 8:11).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us turn to the Virgin Mary, who previously shared in this Resurrection, so that she may help us to say faithfully: "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God" (Jn 11:27), to truly discover that he is our salvation.

SAVE THE DATES

SENIORS' RETREAT

Thursday May 21, 2026 10:00-3:00

Father Charles Pottie, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch. \$55/person

- more details to come

Golf Scramble

Saturday, May 23rd at S. Ajax Golf Course.

Golfers of all abilities are welcome.

At this time, if there are any parishioners that could possibly donate prizes to our apres golf Silent Auction,

please contact Patrick Costello 905 626-6738.

Any new items and/or gift cards/certificates would be greatly appreciated.

**Help Not Harm: Take Action to Support
Bill C-218**
Write your Member of Parliament Today!
Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca

You're invited to visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca where you can e-mail your Member of Parliament (MP), asking for their support of **Bill C-218 (The Right to Recover Act)**, which would amend the Criminal Code to prevent Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) from being provided when mental illness is the sole underlying condition. Without this change, MAiD will be available for those suffering from mental illness alone beginning in March 2027.

Chances are you know someone struggling with mental illness — a family member, friend, or colleague. As Catholics and Canadians, we are called to offer care, hope, and protection — not death — to those who are suffering and most vulnerable. Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.

FAMILY MUSICAL EVENT

What moves your feet? What brings back memories??
Presenting : Songs from Hit Movies!!
le/Mission Impossible 🎬 and The Tango 🎭

The La Jeunesse Youth Orchestra will be here on
Saturday April 18, 2026 at 1:30pm
Please arrive early to be seated
Adults: \$25 Youth:(13-18yrs): \$10
Children:(6-12yrs): Free

Tickets available in the Church Foyer after masses
(excluding Easter) and online via e-transfer
to SJETickets2026@gmail.com



**Stations of the Cross Fridays
in Lent**

**Stations of the Cross start 6:30pm in English,
Followed by Mass at 7:00pm Stations of the Cross in
Spanish at 7:30pm**

Mar 27 Mary's Way of the Cross

Apr 3 Good Friday presented by Youth

Prayers for the Sick in our Parish

*Sylvie Forte; Andrew Dundas; Doreen Pereira ; Anna Lalla ;
Jack McCabe; Ian Hamilton; Gina Mancuso; John Morris;
Christiane Prior; Fritz Jansen; Jill Morris Jones; Shiva Dean,
Blanca Arias, Frank Verwey, Caroline Contreras, Mary
Patrick Eastman, Marianna Griffiths.*



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 21 – 5:00pm

**+Bill Rail
+Saja Das**

req. by The Hannon Family

Mon Mar 23 – 8:20am

+Margaret & John McAteer
req. by Maire Fitzpatrick

Tues Mar 24 – 8:20am

+Rosita Quintero
req. by Her Family

Wed Mar 25 – 7pm

+Harris Family
req. by Their Family
+Carole Sinclair
req. by Staff of St. John
+Salvatore Palazzolo
req. by Angelina & Family
+Tilda McCann
req. by Kathleen Murray & Family
+John Early
req. by Kathleen Murray & Family

Thur Mar 26 – 8:20am

+John Early
req. by The Fitzpatrick Family

Fri. Mar 27 – 7:00pm

+Pietro Mastrangioli
req. by Paul & Geni D'Aurelio

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

Monday nights, April 6, 2026 to May 11, 2026 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.

ATTENTION: NEW TEACHER APPLICANTS

Important Information for Pastoral References
If you are a teacher, or currently studying to be a teacher in our Catholic schools, part of the application process includes a Pastoral Letter of Reference from a priest. It is the policy to be an attending member of the parish and volunteer in a children's ministry.

(<https://bit.ly/PracticingCath>)

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