

Our parish weekly bulletin continues to be available digitally on our parish website: www.stbenedicts.ca

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Pastor's Page

Check out the Pastor's Page on our parish website: www.stbenedicts.ca/pastors-page



Deacons' Corner

Check out the Deacons' Corner on our parish website: www.stbenedicts.ca/deacons-corner



Weekend Prayer Service with Holy Communion

Individuals and families wishing to participate in a prayer service are invited to enter the church from the SIDE ENTRANCE, near the chapel.

Saturdays: 5 pm – 6 pm

Sundays: 8 am – 9 am, 12 pm – 1 pm

Pastor's Thanks and Notice of New Assignment

I want to thank the many parishioners who acknowledged my 35th anniversary of priesthood this past week. It was really thoughtful of you. Please continue to pray for me.

While I have been a priest for 35 years, I have been a Salesian even longer, that is, a member of the religious community called the Salesians of St. John Bosco.

I left my home in Chicago in 1977 to enter the Salesian seminary in New Jersey. In 1979, I professed my first vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a Salesian of Don Bosco. So, I have been a Salesian for 42 years!

During my first year in the seminary, a saintly, and extremely practical priest, Fr. Joseph Stella, pulled me aside, and said: "Sajdak, religious life is a beautiful life. It's not always easy, but it's beautiful. Stick with it." I must say, that looking back over 42 years of being a professed Salesian, Fr. Stella was absolutely right. I have been graced and blessed abundantly in my life as a Salesian. You heard me say it before: "Everyone is a child of God. But, I consider myself a spoiled brat of God." God is so good.

As a Salesian I lived in places, and visited even more places, that I never dreamed of experiencing. I taught schools in New Jersey, New Orleans, Tampa, and Toronto. I've been part of summer camps in New Jersey, New York, Toronto, Tampa, Louisiana, Vancouver, and Illinois. I have been to World Youth Days with the pope, and went to meetings in Mexico and England, and places in between.

Everywhere I was assigned, I met people that taught me about life. I have experienced different customs and cuisines. People from different parts of the world have different perspectives and ways of looking at life. Being open to a multitude of perspectives and ways of life have made me a more understanding person, and a better instrument of the Lord.



A real part of religious life is "moving on." In fact, a real part of religious life's witness is that we do not "set any roots" in one place. We are all on a journey here on earth, and we are taught by the Gospel that we are just passing through.

Religious obedience will have me "on the move" again this summer. God is full of surprises. I was surprised to be recycled to Toronto four years ago. And, surprised again when asked to be the pastor of St. Benedict. My recycled time here has made me glad. I interacted with past teenagers who are now grown up and have families of their own. I reconnected with others who have shared ministry with me in the past. I have had contact with individuals who know me from my teaching days at Don Bosco Secondary, or from a retreat I led, or from Summer Daze. These last four years have been great for me.

Now I have been asked to move again. Sorry to go, but I know the Lord has good things ahead for me. Actually, I have been recycled to Chicago! **I am going to the Salesian parish of St. John Bosco in Chicago, Illinois.** I was assigned there in 2001, 20 years ago: if this is a pattern, I should be back in Toronto in about 25 years!

Thank you for being so gracious to me, and accepting me with all my flaws. In my heart of hearts, all I ever wanted to be as a Salesian priest is to be a faithful minister of the Lord's grace. I hope I was that, at least sometime.

When the Salesians come into a parish, we come as a community. Thus, over the years you have seen a number of Salesians at St. Benedict—from Fr. Nino and Fr. Quenneville, to Br. Bernie and Br. Jerry, to Fr. Jim Jeffcoat, to Fr. Kelly, and beyond. No matter who was the pastor, a cast of Salesian characters were around.

Please do not ask me: "Why are you leaving us?" because I am not leaving, I am simply being faithful to my vow of obedience. The Salesian Provincial who reassigned me, sees a bigger picture than each locality does. He has to position his Salesians for the good of our whole Salesian reality. And, truth be told: there are less horses in the barn to do the Salesian work.

Officially, my role as pastor at St. Benedict continues until June 30.

Fr. Jim Berning takes over as pastor on July 1. You know him already. That's an advantage. Once we start having dinner dances again, he will be one of the first on the dance floor!

Remember, I am praying for you. Please pray for me.

Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Turin Italy, Guided Tour with Fr. Mike Pace

Interested in what Fr. Mike has been up to lately: join him as he guides you through the magnificent basilica built by John Bosco at the request of our Blessed Mother.

Well worth the one hour watch! <https://youtu.be/Y6dEQVF4E1k>





June 20 is
ShareLife Sunday

PARISH GOAL: \$65,000

Living the Gospel by providing for those in need

"Without you, ShareLife could not fulfill its mission to live the Gospel by providing for those in need. Together we are making a real difference! My prayer is that we may continue to respond to God's love by going forth from ourselves to seek the good of others.
Cardinal Thomas Collins

Rose of Sharon is an agency you support through ShareLife. It provides support and educational services to almost 300 young mothers each year.

Deanne Kukulewich is the Executive Director at Rose of Sharon. She says, "COVID-19 has forced many young single mothers into seclusion, not for themselves, but to protect their babies, or unborn infants. Through generous donors like you who support ShareLife, young mothers can receive weekly support. Your donations help the Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers to provide counselling services to help young women and their families cope through these uncertain times."

When you give to ShareLife, you support more than 40 agencies doing vital work that is truly living the Gospel message.

You can make your sacrificial gift through the parish office or sharelife.org. Please give generously.



St. Teresa of Avila Spiritual Life Series

**Mondays, May 31, June 14,
June 28, July 12, July 26 & August 9**

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm / Online

HOSTED BY NEWMAN CENTRE CATHOLIC MISSION

Virtual presentation based on the book,
The Interior Castle, by St. Teresa of Avila.
by Fr. Peter Turrone, pastor, Newman Centre

REGISTER: <https://stteresaofavila.eventbrite.ca>

CONTACT: lenita.lopes@newmantoronto.com

WEBSITE: www.newmantoronto.com

The Little Miracles Prayer Ministry



St. Benedict Parish is reviving The Little Miracles Prayer Ministry, an online prayer group that connects parishioners, through prayer, to expectant mothers throughout their pregnancy. Expectant moms or a family member can sign up to have the prayer team

pray for the mother and the safe delivery of her baby. Members of the prayer team receive an electronic copy of the **Novena to St. Gerard Majella** and from their homes, on their own time, will pray the novena for the expectant mothers. Once a mother has her baby, the group will be notified of the news, along with a picture.

If you are interested in being part of the prayer group
or if you would like an expectant mom to receive
prayers from the Little Miracles Ministry,
contact Rema: littlemiracles.sbp@gmail.com



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Parishioners wishing to participate in mass from home
are encouraged to view the mass of the day at home
on TV: (Salt & Light, EWTN or Vision TV) or online:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy8MWUNQLcQELmb9kFtRA>

TO REQUEST A MASS INTENTION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR

Contact Susan: speresso@stbenedicts.ca /416-743-3830 X0

Monday, May 31

Maria Aquino by Quaglietta family

Tuesday, June 1

Peter Tai by Thiep Nguyen; Living Intention for the Staff & Students at Humber College by Ivan Canjar

Wednesday, June 2

Tim Koz by Lou & Astrid McCoy

Thursday, June 3

Danilo & Vivian Partenio by Aldo & Marisa D'Andrea

First Friday, June 4

Riccardo Sala by family; Tomas Tio by Janet Huitema

Saturday June 5

Maria Fung by Clara; Deceased Berton Sisters by Gubert family

Sunday, June 6

Helen Fularczuk by Christine Cudnik; Mario Orlando by Eda & family;
Stefano Cancelli by Anna, Pasquale & Susy Cancelli; Jesuthasan Francis by Francis Joseph & family

On the Spectrum Support Group Meeting

For Families and Supporters of Children on the Autism Spectrum

Wednesday June 2 / 6 - 7 PM

This group is a place where we share information, stories, struggles and successes. We ask questions, learn from each other, gain resources, hold each other up in prayer and rest in the comfort of nonjudgmental support.

Online Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/ngv-fpww-gzx>

Questions? Contact Cathy:

647-832-2229 / contactonthespectrum@gmail.com

Pray for the Sick

Lidia Scaccia, Dan McKinnon, Cathy Hartmann,
Tom McGlynn, Cathy Proietti, Susan Almonte,
Vincent Sguassero, Alessio Firreira & Steve Cawthorne



Pray for the Dead

Juanita Fuerte Tolentino



Dispensation from Sunday Mass

The dispensation announced by Cardinal Collins on June 10, 2020, regarding the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and holydays Of obligation by parishioners in the Archdiocese of Toronto during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, is not a blanket dispensation, but one that applies when the faithful encounter certain life circumstances which physically or morally impede them from attending Mass.

**For the full text on Understanding The Dispensation from
the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days
During this time of Pandemic**

Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs, Archdiocese of Toronto go to:

https://48723d36-ab43-4ab1-a361-5cf0172a8714.filesusr.com/ugd/eb5354_46345b6dd3b54ab5bee63de560875f60.pdf



St. Benedict Debt to the Archdiocese: \$ 139,345

Thank you for your ongoing generous support!