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The Ascension of Our Lord

May 16th 2021



*He ascended into heaven and
 is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

Our mission at St. Francis de Sales is to joyfully welcome you to our parish family of faith, trusting that: if you are seeking Christ, you will find Him here. If grieving, you will receive comfort. If troubled in spirit, you will receive the blessing of peace without being judged. If discouraged, you will rejoice in hope. If alone, you will find companionship and Christian love. May our parish be a sanctuary of peace for you as we journey together to the Father's house.

Parish Hours

**Please see
 Bulletin Insert
 for current
 COVID-19
 Schedule**

Parish Contacts

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DEACON	DEACON ALBAN SOARES alban.soares@gmail.com	☎ ext 108
PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	DENISE FORD denise.ford@archtoronto.org	☎ ext 103
CONFIRMATION, & YOUTH MINISTRY	NOAH AQUINO noah.aquino@outlook.com	☎ ext 100
FIRST COMMUNION, RECONCILIATION	DAWN SELDA dawn.selda@archtoronto.org	☎ ext 102

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📍 📺 📺 St. Francis de Sales Parish

God put this power to work in Christ
when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his
right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and
authority and power and dominium, and above every name
that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to
come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made
him the head over all things for the Church, which is his
body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Eph. 20-23



The Ascension of the Lord

Join us this week at the church for:

- ❖ Private Prayer: Monday to Thursday from 10:30am to 12:30pm
- ❖ Sacrament of Confession: Saturday from 4:00pm to 4:45 pm
- ❖ Communion Service: Saturday and Sunday (Sign up on Eventbrite)
- ❖ On-line Weekend Reflection by Fr. Joe or Fr. David (see Home Page)

Space is limited to 10 people, including clergy, staff and parishioners. See Bulletin Insert for details.

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, 17 MAY

S.I. SAM & FILOMENA UIGILANTE
+ DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS,
RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE
GALAPIN FAMILY
+ ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY

TUESDAY, 18 MAY

S.I. IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED
MOTHER
+ SALAMATI

WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY

S.I. DULCE & MANUEL IBARGUCHIC
+ ANNA & TERENCE JOSEPH
+ PETRONILA GALAPIN

THURSDAY, 20 MAY

AVAILABLE

FRIDAY, 21 MAY

S.I. RITA JATOE

SATURDAY, 22 MAY

+ MARIO TEDESCO
+ CONSTANCE & GRACE VAZ

SUNDAY, 23 MAY

FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CWL



The Catholic Women's League of the Archdiocese of Toronto celebrates 100 years of faithful service within the many parishes of the Archdiocese this weekend. May God bless members both past and present for their years of dedicated service to the Church and grant them strength and guidance as they continue to serve God's people.

HUMANITARIAN AID TO INDIA

Those wishing to help India during this pandemic time may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. Francis de Sales Parish – India's COVID-19 Outbreak – Disaster Relief

COMMUNION SERVICES & PRIVATE PRAYER AT THE PARISH

St. Francis de Sales parish will be open for **private prayer from Monday to Thursday from 10:30am to 12:30pm**. We are only allowed to have **10 individuals at a time including clergy and staff/ volunteers in the Church**. Please be mindful of the time you give to private prayer in the parish as there are other people who would like the opportunity to do the same.

We will be having Communion Services. Only 8 people are allowed to attend each 5 minute Communion Service. Please note this is not the celebration of Mass. To attend this Communion Service, you will have to register on Eventbrite. To access Eventbrite, please visit our website at www.stfrancisdesales.ca This Communion Service is limited only to Saturday evening and Sunday at specific times. This does not extend to the other days of the week. For the times of the Communion Service, please see Eventbrite. **Please arrive early. If you are late for your Communion Service the entrance door to the parish will be locked and you will have to register for another date.**

The Sacrament of Confession will be offered on Saturdays from 4pm to 4:45pm in the North and/or South Rooms.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Dear parishioners,

If you are not able to attend, but still wish to donate, here are the ways in which you can continue to support our parish at this time:

- Mail your regular weekly offertory contribution to the parish or drop off to the parish locked mailbox by the office door, or drop off in the donations box at Mass.
- Online donations can be made at www.archtoronto.org. Simply click on the donate now icon, select St. Francis de Sales parish from the drop down menu and the fund you wish to donate to. This can be done as a onetime donation or as an ongoing monthly donation. It will give you a place to choose that option.
- Contribute through pre-authorized giving. You can obtain a form from the parish website. Mail the completed form and a voided cheque to the parish office. Or e-mail the form and a scanned copy or photo of a voided cheque to development@archtoronto.org for processing. Contributions are withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.

Thank you for your many contributions to our parish community.

Our ShareLife total to date is \$22,586
Our goal for 2021 is \$84, 800



Visit our website: www.stfrancisdesales.ca

QUESTION & ANSWER

I am sometimes confused by the Bible on the human body. We say in the Nicene Creed that I “..believe in the resurrection of the body and that 40 days later Jesus ascended into heaven..” yet at times, scripture speaks negatively about the body. Is the human body good or not?

One can go on and on about the human body, but this bulletin space demands brevity. God made the human body in His Image and likeness (even before becoming incarnate in the person of Jesus). The human body is good.

It is true that there are many times when Scripture uses the word “flesh” to refer to the physical body. However when the definite article “**the**” is placed before the word “**flesh**”, we are dealing with something other than the body. Only very rarely does the Biblical phrase “the flesh” [ἡ σὰρξ (he sarx), in Greek] refer only to the physical body (eg. John 6:53; Phil 3:2; 1 John 4:2), but almost always the phrase refers to something quite distinct from the physical body.

What then is meant by the term “the flesh” (ἡ σὰρξ)?

Perhaps most plainly it refers to that part of us that is alienated from God as an effect of Original Sin. It is the rebellious, unruly and obstinate part of our inner self that is operative all the time. It is that part of us that does not want to be told what to do. It is stubborn, refuses correction, and does not want to have a thing to do with God. It bristles at limits and rules. It recoils at anything that might cause me to be diminished or something less than the center of the universe. The flesh hates to be under authority or to have to yield to anything other than its own wishes and desires. The flesh often desires something simply because it is forbidden.

The Flesh does not grasp spiritual teachings.

Immediately after teaching the crowds that unless they eat His Flesh and drink His Blood, they will not have life within them, Jesus said, “*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*” (John 6:63)

Having taught on the Eucharist, most of Jesus’ listeners ridicule his teaching and will no longer take Jesus seriously. So Jesus indicates that their hostility to the teaching on the Eucharist is of the flesh. The flesh demands that everything be obvious to it on its own terms. The flesh demands to see physical proof for everything; demands that it be able to “see” using its own unregenerate power. And if it cannot see based on its own limited view, it simply rejects spiritual truth out of hand.

In effect the flesh refuses to believe at all since what it really demands is something that will “force” it to accept something. Inexorable proof which faith demands takes things out of the realm of faith and trust. Faith is no longer necessary when something is “absolutely” proven and plainly visible to the eyes of flesh. The flesh simply refuses to believe and demands proof.

The Flesh is focused on itself and its own desires only - *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the spirit have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the spirit have their minds set on what the spirit desires.*



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

During this month of May, I pray that all of our mom’s remain healthy and safe and that your families continue to celebrate wonderful you! I am constantly inspired by everything you have done for your families this year and pray that you are blessed with the courage and strength to keep going... We are getting closer. My mom would always say “you’ve got this”! The provincial lockdown still limits all in person religious services to 10 PEOPLE only. **With the Covid 19 numbers still being so high and the uncertainty of the lockdown end date, we unfortunately will be required to postpone all of our May sacraments to a later date. Our June 5th First Communions remain tentative.** We will update our Parish website/bulletin once the lockdown is over and we are informed on when we can safely celebrate First Communions again. We thank the Lord for your continued desire for your children to receive Jesus on their First Communion day. God bless!

CONFIRMATION

All Confirmation Masses are still postponed to a later date. Once we have an idea of when restrictions will ease, we will immediately let you know what the tentative dates will be for our Confirmation Masses. Please continue to monitor the parish website and bulletin for further updates on Confirmation and the parish. Let us continue to pray everyday and trust in the Lord that he will continue to get us through this, and when it is time, that we will be able to celebrate our Confirmation Masses safely. Take care, stay safe and God bless.

Question & Answer Cont’d...

The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace (Rom 8:5-6)

The flesh is intent on things of this world, upon gratifying its own passions and desires. On account of the flesh we are concerned primarily with ourselves and seek to be at the center. The flesh is turned primarily inward. St Augustine describes the human person in the flesh as turned in upon himself.

The Flesh is intrinsically hostile to God – *The mind of the flesh is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God.* (Rom 8:7-8)

The flesh is hostile to God because it is proudly hostile to any one more important than itself. Further the flesh does not like being told what to do. Hence it despises authority or anyone who tries to tell it what to do. It cannot please God because it does not want to.

The Flesh abuses freedom - *You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another in love.* (Gal 5:13)

The flesh turns God’s given freedom into licentiousness. Licentiousness is to demand freedom without limit. Since the flesh does not want to be told what to do, it demands to be able to do what ever it wants.

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