

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

3200 Thomas Street, Mississauga, ON L5M 0V6

Tel. (905) 826-1143 Fax (905) 826-0489 Email parishoffice@stjosephinebakhita.ca



SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass

5 PM

Sunday Mass

7:30 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM and 12:30 PM

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

7 PM

Tuesday, Thursday

7:30 AM

Saturday

9 AM

DEVOTIONS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Every Wednesday following the 7 PM

Mass

Daily Rosary before every Mass

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy every Friday
after the 7 PM Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every
First Saturday of the month from 9:30
AM to 12 Noon.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents who wish to have their children
baptized must fill out the online baptismal
request form available on our parish
website. The date of the baptism will be
arranged during the interview. A Baptism
Instruction for parents and sponsor will
also be required.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4 PM or any time by appointment

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Parish is to be a Catholic, multicultural community, called to witness and proclaim, to celebrate and share the Hope and Charity we have in Jesus Christ as exemplified by St. Josephine Bakhita, our “universal sister” and “model of hope for the Twenty-first century”. We are a people who weave together this neighbourhood as:

- ◆ A community of faith, committed to live the Greatest Love of Jesus Crucified, and Mary, Mother of Charity at the foot of the Cross.
- ◆ A community of prayer, nourished by the Word of God, the Eucharist, and the traditions of the Church, reflected in the way we live and celebrate.
- ◆ A community that welcomes every man and woman, child and youth, to equal discipleship.
- ◆ A community that is missionary, open to the needs of the world, committed to the promotion of justice, peace, and the stewardship of creation.
- ◆ A community that is not afraid to face its pain and yet deeply trust ‘in the hope that saves.’

We believe that each one is called to be the strand that God will use to weave a tapestry that is intricate and exquisite in this place.

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor

Rev. Mark Achilles Villanueva

Deacons

Deacon Gerry Steyn

Deacon Michael Ho

Deacon Roman Lim

Administrative Assistant

Cecilia Vaz

Assistants

Clifford Jumapit

Benjamin Alcantara

Volunteer Assisstants

Marina Taguicana

Agnes Lim

Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 9 AM to 9 PM

Saturday 9 AM to 7 PM

Sunday 9 AM to 3 PM

RECTORY

3600 Forest Bluff Crescent

Mississauga, ON L5N 7W2

(289) 997-2105

SCHOOLS

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

St. Faustina

St. Edith Stein

St. Simon Stock

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary
School

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples planning to be married must contact the pastor one year in advance. A Marriage course is required. For additional information, please contact the pastor

Mass Intentions

Saturday (September 19))
 4:00 PM +Effe Goveas, Rey & Rose Cottam, +Joan Fernandes, John Braganza
 6:00 PM Thanksgiving of Carolasan Family

Sunday (September 20)
 8:00 AM: +Anna Fernandes, +Protacio Fernandes, Special Intention of Kelly Family
 10:00 AM: +Marcelo Nida Dacalanio, Gregory Fernandes, +Dorothy Polito
 12:00 PM: Thanksgiving of Matthew Rosol, +Liu Cung Jing, +Judy Christian Widjaja, +Mariana Japer Halim, Liu On Chong, Liu Han Chong

Monday (September 21)
 7:00 PM: +Rev. Olivette Rojas

Tuesday (September 22)
 7:30 AM: +Fanny Tabboga

Wednesday (September 23)
 7:00 PM: +Selvina Morta

Thursday (September 24)
 7:30 AM: +Amador Barba

Friday (September 25)
 7:00 PM: +Kelly Villanueva

Saturday (September 26)
 9:00 AM: +Zenaida Illaz, +Gregorio Tolentino Sr.

Sanctuary Candle

If you wish to offer a candle for the sanctuary lamp, please contact the parish desk. Thank you for your generosity.

Join us for Holy Hour
 from 6 PM to 7 PM Monday to Friday



We think of God as the most honest person in the world, and we expect that the one who will determine our final destiny forever ought to be able to negotiate a simple labor dispute with fairness, but the parable today seems to strike at our basic sense of fairness.

A closer scrutiny of this parable reveals several layers of meaning. In its original setting, the parable represented Jesus' response to those who objected that he was overly attentive to those whom the self-righteous deemed as lost. Like the vineyard owner, i.e., God, Jesus continually reached out to invite all peoples to share the reign of God. Notice how many times the vineyard owner went to the marketplace in search of laborers. Five times!

On another level, Jesus' parable spoke to the tension that persisted concerning gentile converts to Christ. Some early Christians questioned whether those who had come "late" to Christ and who had not taken the same route (via Judaism) should have an equal share and equal footing in the Kingdom. The parable is quite clear in its assertion that whether one turns to Christ early or late, the generous blessings of the reign of God are to be shared equally by all.

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank everyone for supporting their corn sale last weekend. The knights sold 1000 corn and collected around \$400 worth of empty bottles of the various charities that the council supports.

Sunday Offering	
Offertory	\$ 2,805.75
Building Fund	\$ 1,375.00
Liturgical Fund	\$ 275.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 445.00
Masks	\$ 480.00
Baptism	\$ 100.00
Holy Land	\$ 390.00
Camdle Offering	\$ 219.25
ShareLife	\$ 757.00
Total	\$ 6,765.00

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, has announced the institution of Stewardship Sunday across the archdiocese on the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

One person I am always amazed with in history is Lorenzo Medici, the great Italian ruler of the Renaissance. He went down in history as Lorenzo il Magnifico, Lorenzo the Magnificent. Would not that be a nice nickname to have down through history? The Magnificent! He was called this because he was generous in everything he did. He never just simply went for the minimum; he always gave the very best. He did not just dip his toe in the sea of life, but dived right in. And so, he was known as the Magnificent.

Now an Italian ruler of the Renaissance is perhaps not so important to us in our own life but, I think, that spirit of absolute generosity, abundance and magnificence is something that we need to reflect upon in our life in Christ. In fact, that is basically a reflection of the Lord God himself because God does not measure out His mercy to us in little tiny amounts. God always acts with superabundant generosity, with magnificence, in the way in which He gives to us the grace in our lives, and the blessings with which we are surrounded. We see in that generosity of the Lord God himself a model for us, an invitation for us, and a command that we are to go and do likewise.

We see this in the Gospel of today's Mass (Mat 20:1-16a). There we have the landowner who hires people to work in his vineyard. The first who are hired, early in the morning, are given the fair amount for a day's work. Then he calls others to work at different times throughout the day, and finally at the eleventh hour, just before the working day ends, he calls still more. Those who are called last have only worked about an hour, but receive a full day's wage. Now if you look at things in a narrow-minded way you can sympathize with the people who were hired at the beginning of the day. What is going on here? Did we not work through the heat of the day? Should not we get more – and yet those who worked only an hour got the same amount as we did? But the master says, no, my friend, can I not be generous with that which is mine? In fact, what we need to do is to look at this not from the perspective of the angry first workers, but from the perspective of the generous master. If we do that, we can see that he has decided to show abundant generosity to those who have come last who did not deserve it. That is a message, partly I think, to the Gentiles who came to salvation history rather late and in God's generosity are going to receive just as much as those who have been at it for many, many centuries. Perhaps that is part of the message.

But this parable mainly highlights the super abundant generosity of God. It is very much parallel to what we see in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). When the younger son returns, the loving father overwhelms

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him with generosity and loads him with goods and things like that to celebrate, because he has returned. The angry elder brother says no, no, no – sort of like the first workers in today's Parable – how dare you do that? That is not fair. This, your son, does not deserve it. The older brother has measured it out and his brother does not deserve what he is receiving from their father. That, of course, is correct. And yet the father replies that this, your brother, was lost and is found. And so, we see that magnificence and generosity from the hand of the Heavenly Father. It is not deserved, by any of us.

We need to appreciate that in our own lives, and recognize, as Isaiah says in the First Reading today (55:6-9), “my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.” We need to go deep in the mystery of God's generosity and to reflect upon it. First of all, we are the receivers of it. We receive so much that we do not deserve, like the workers hired at the eleventh hour; we deserve nothing, not even life itself, and yet God gives us that in superabundance. He gives us the faith, He gives us grace, He gives us everything. He gives us time, the time that we live our life – He gives us that. He gives us everything. And so, we receive from the magnificent generosity of the Lord God.

But we are also called, as His servants, as His creatures, as the disciples of the Lord, to show to others that same spirit of magnificence, that same spirit of generosity in the use of the gifts that we have received. We are not the Master. If we were the master we would not be as generous as the master in today's Gospel. No, we are servants. We must imitate the generosity of our Master. We are stewards. That means we are servants who have been entrusted with the gifts received from the Master and we are called to use them well, to use them fruitfully, as in the Parable near the end of the Gospel of Matthew (25:14-30): we see that the master hands out various gifts, talents, to his servants. Some use them fruitfully, with generosity and creativity. Another one just goes and buries it in the ground. Sterile. Useless. He does not catch the spirit of the master, the creative spirit. But we are called to be “stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Cor 4:1), stewards of the gifts of God. They are entrusted to us by our generous Master and He calls us to use them well. Generously, creatively and fruitfully.

We should think about that especially on this Sunday which in our archdiocese is called Stewardship Sunday. It is a time when we are called to reflect upon that fundamental disposition of the disciple of Jesus – to be a grateful steward of the many gifts received from the Lord. We are all very different – some receive this gift, some another talent – we are very different in that, but we are all the same in the way we receive from the hands of the generous Master, the magnificently generous Master, so many gifts; if only we would only recognize them in ourselves and in the people

around us.

Our whole community is richly blessed with gifts and often they go uncelebrated and unrecognized. So, through spiritual Stewardship we are called to recognize in others the gifts they have and to invite them to bring them forth generously, fruitfully and creatively.

We ourselves are asked to thank God for the gifts that we have received from His hand more generous even than those of the eleventh hour who received a full day's wage for working almost nothing. We receive even more generously from our gracious Lord. And we are called then, having received these gifts, whatever they may be, to use them fruitfully and to help and invite others to do the same. So as a whole community, we are people who recognize that we are stewards of the generous, abundant, magnificent goodness of the Lord.

As we do so, here are a few things that we should think about. First of all, this disposition of stewardship is not some kind of a program we get into; it is not a thing that we do. It is a profound attitude where we are grateful for what we have received, and are profoundly committed to use these gifts fruitfully, generously and in a magnificence which mirrors that of our gracious Lord.

Secondly, I think what we need to do as we think about this, as we reflect upon our parish community, is to ask: what are the different gifts that we can see around us? If we all begin to fruitfully use these gifts, not burying them in the ground or forgetting them and not recognizing them, but drawing them forth from one and all, then our whole community will flourish and grow and reach out to the people around us who will say “see how these Christians love one another.” Look at that community, so filled with the gifts of God!

We do so also when we are conscious, as we reflect upon the Parables of the Lord, that we need to be creative, not burying the gifts but letting them flourish. And we need to help others to make their gifts flourish.

We also need to be faithful; these gifts are

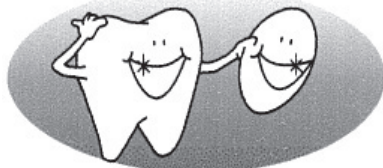
from God. They are not ours. We need to recognize faithfully that we are not the Master. We simply, for a brief time in this world, are given these gifts and we are called to use them well.

And we are accountable as well – the Master returns. At the end of the Parable of the Talents he returns and says, what have you done with the gifts I entrusted to you? Some used them well and one did not, but buried it away. So there comes a time at the end of our life when we come before the Lord and He will ask us: how have you made use of whatever gifts I gave you – and they are different for each one of us.

So, let us think about that on this Sunday as we reflect upon the theme of stewardship which is profoundly biblical, profoundly spiritual, deeply rooted in our faith and at the heart of the Gospel. How can we as disciples generously share with a hint of that magnificence of the Lord God Himself? How can we generously share the gifts that He has given to us? How can we make fruitful use of the time which we have in our life, of the particular talents we have received, and of the material goods that we can share with others, not clinging to them but being generous? In that way, we can be faithful and fruitful stewards of the mysteries of God. And we will, in our own life as God calls us to, reflect the glorious, generous magnificence of the love of God in this world. That is our mission and if we do that we will be faithful to Him.

May the Lord bless us all in this sacred mission: to be faithful, creative stewards of the many gifts that we have received from our good and graciously magnificent Lord God!

WE wish to thank all our volunteers in the parish especially those who regularly clean and disinfect the church after every Mass. May the Good Lord reward all of you for your kindness and generosity!



Dr. Cecille Rubic-Pangilinan
Dentist

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