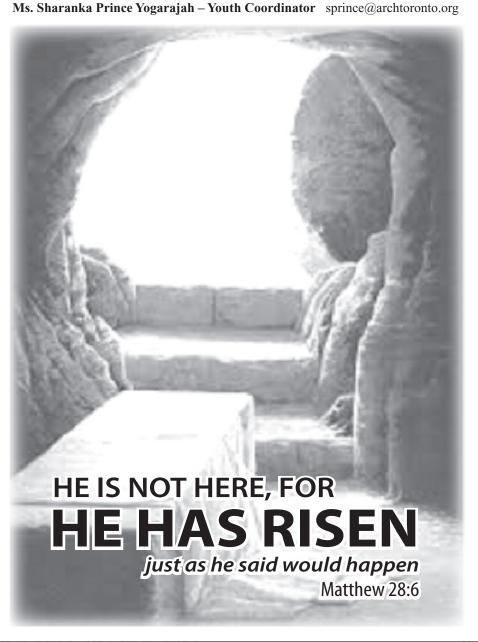
### ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

### THE CONSOLATA MISSIONARIES HAS BEEN SERVING THE ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY SINCE 2003

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#### **PARISH TEAM**

Fr. George Kibura Njuguna, IMC – Pastor StAndrewsET@archtoronto.org
Fr. Timothy Kinyua Gatitu, IMC – Associate Pastor
Rev. Mr. Joseph Owusu-Afriyie – Permanent Deacon
Fr. Alex Osei CSSp – Ghanaian Community
Mr. Martins Igbinoba – Parish Council
Mr. Joseph Fragomeni – Finance Council
Ms. Carolina Chavez – Parish Office standrewparish.office@gmail.com



#### Welcome home to St. Andrew

#### **Glory Beyond Imagination!**

"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Matthew 28:5–7

The Lord has truly risen! Alleluia! Sin and death have been destroyed, and new life has been offered to all who cling to the Savior in faith. What a glorious day we celebrate today!

Matthew's Gospel, quoted above, is read at the Easter Vigil Mass. Prior to the reading of this Gospel are seven Old Testament readings, each followed by a psalm, as well as a New Testament reading, another psalm and the Gospel. There are seventeen readings in all at the Easter Vigil! For that reason, the Easter Vigil is called "the mother of all vigils." Though many people have not had the opportunity to participate in the Easter Vigil, it is helpful to understand it, because its structure and length reflect the awe and wonder we must have at the Resurrection of Christ.

The Vigil Mass begins in darkness, after the sun sets, with all the lights out in the Church. Outside, a new "blazing fire" is lit and blessed that symbolizes the Light of Christ that dispels all darkness. From that fire, the Easter candle and other candles held by the faithful in the church are lit, and the new light illuminates the church. The procession into the church with the candles is followed by the singing of the ancient hymn the Exaultat. That hymn is the Church's announcement of the Resurrection of Christ and is filled with profound theology, presented with youthful excitement and amazement. The tabernacle remains empty as a way of inviting the faithful to anticipate the celebration of the Eucharist once again. The lengthy Liturgy of the Word follows, as it recounts the history of God's plan of salvation. Finally, the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated within the Mass that culminates with the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist.

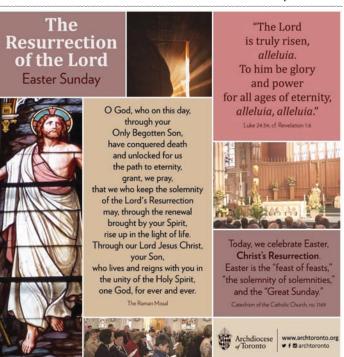
Why is so much solemnity given to this celebration? Because Easter is worth it! Nothing ever has been and nothing ever will be more glorious than the triumph of the Son of God over sin and death. Easter must fill us with awe and wonder. Because of His death and Resurrection, our lives are changed forever. Therefore even if you are not able to participate in the "mother of all vigils," try to learn the lessons this vigil teaches.

Among the many lessons we can learn from the Easter Vigil is that God's glorious plan of salvation unfolds over time and then culminates with glory beyond imagination. This is especially depicted through the many readings in the Liturgy of the Word. The first reading for that Mass comes from Genesis and recounts the six days of creation. We then read the story of Abraham, our father in faith, and how his trust in God was tested when he was told to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, in a prefiguration of the Father in Heaven offering His only Son for us all. We then read the story of Moses leading the people out of Egypt from slavery through the Red Sea. The waters of the Red Sea are a symbol of Baptism that crushes sin and leads us to freedom. Readings from the prophets Isaiah, Baruch and Ezekiel follow, revealing the unfolding of God's promise of the gift of salvation to come.

At times in life, we can become impatient. We tend to want what we want when we want it. But the lesson of the Holy Scriptures is that God's plan is not only perfect but is also fulfilled only in accord with God's timing. This is His perfect wisdom. It's a wisdom that we cannot always comprehend. In the end, if we embrace the perfect plan of God in our lives, we will share in the Resurrection of Christ. Nothing could ever be better than this. There is nothing that this world can offer us that even comes close to the glorious reward of sharing in the Resurrection of Christ.

As we celebrate the great Solemnity of Easter, reflect, today, upon the fact that God's plan for your life is perfect. It's a plan that God wants to unfold for you one step at a time. The end result is the glory of the Resurrection! It's a life of perfection with Him in Heaven when every tear will be wiped away. It's a plan that removes every sin, sorrow and suffering, and leads you to the fullness of joy. The way to embrace that plan is to take one step at a time as God leads. Little by little, God wants to change you, free you, forgive you, strengthen you and set you on the path to glory. Believe in the most awe-inspiring glory that you could ever share in. Believe in the promise of the Resurrection. Make sharing in it your one and only goal in life, and let God lead you down that path, one step at a time.

"mycatholic.life"



#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To all who have been baptized, confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist on Easter Vigil. Let us pray that they may always be faithful followers of Christ and of the Church.

Thank you to the Catechists and sponsors for their support and dedication.

Blessings of peace and joy as you begin your faith journey.



#### WEEKLY LITURGY ~ MASS INTENTIONS

 $\dagger$  = For the soul of  $\forall$  = Special Intention

#### Saturday, Mar 30 - HOLY SATURDAY - EASTER VIGIL

9 am - Morning Prayers - Liturgy of the hours (No personal intentions)

9:30 am - Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows

9 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

#### Sunday, Mar 31 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8 am - Thanksgiving Apilan family, by Marilyn

9:30 am - (Ital. Mass) † Eugenio Coccimiglio, by sorela Anna

11 am - For the people of the Parish

12:30pm - † Josephine and Robert Rosario, by Anta and Ivan

2 pm - (Twi Ghana)

5:30 pm - (Spanish Mass)

#### Monday, April 1

8 am – Family Intentions, by Janet and family

7 pm - (No Mass)

#### Tuesday, April 2

8 am - (No Intention)

7 pm - †Silvana and Claudio DePellegrin, by Busnello family

#### Wednesday, April 3

8 am - (No Intention)

7 pm - † Lu Yun Hsiang, by family

#### Thursday, April 4

8 am - † Constantino, Esterina & Rosario Furgiuele, Cecilia & Giovanni Settino, by family

7 pm - † Michele Corvinelli, by family

#### Friday, April 5

8 am - Thanksgiving for Fidelia Ikokide on her birthday, by family

7 pm - (No Intention)

#### Saturday, April 6

8:30 am -† Maria Incoronata Corvinelli, by family

5:30 pm - † Michel and Anne Ah-Fat, by Chan family

#### 2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 7 SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

8 am - † Gennaro Sestini death anniversary, by family

9:30 am - (Ital. Mass) † Pietro, Giulo, Sandra and Giacinto Dimassimo, by family

11 am - For the people of the Parish

12:30pm - Thanksgiving for Harry, by Eveline and family

2 pm - (Twi Ghana)

5:30 pm - (Spanish Mass) † Lucy y Aleyda Villada Gutierrez, by Margarita Villada y familia

#### **INCOME TAX RECEIPTS - 2023**

Income Tax Receipts are ready for pick up. Please pick it up at the Parish Office or, if you wish, please place a stamped self-addressed envelope in the collection basket on Sunday, and it will be mailed to you. Thank you.

#### **Archbishop Francis Leo's** First Year in the **Archdiocese of Toronto**

On March 25, 2023, Most Rev. Francis Leo was installed as Archbishop of Toronto. We look back at our past 12 months with His Grace, and give thanks to him for being our spiritual guide father, and dedicated shepherd. Happy anniversary!



## **SL ShareLife**

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Jesus' love and example inspire us to extend a helping hand to others, especially those facing the greatest challenges. ShareLife agencies continue to reach out to the most vulnerable members of our community, offering essential services made possible by your compassion and generous contributions.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, or at sharelife.org/donate.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 12:00 pm. (All schools)

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY will be on Saturday, June 15, **2024 at 10:00 am**. (All schools)

More details are to follow in the coming weeks. If you have any questions - please do not hesitate to reach out to us by email on Flocknote.

**CONFESSIONS AT ST. ANDREW'S** Will recommence following the Octave of Easter (after April 7<sup>th</sup>)

> St. Andrew's Parish Stewardship Collection for Mar 24th, 2024 Sunday Offertory \$ 10,899.35

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