



St. Theresese Catholic Church

3800 COURTICE ROAD NORTH, COURTICE, ONT. L1E 2L5

📞 905-436-2126

✉ office@sttheresescourtice.ca

🌐 www.sttheresescourtice.ca

FEBRUARY 22ND 2026 • FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



**THE MISSIONARY
OBLATES OF MARY
IMMACULATE**

Pastor: Fr. John Bosco Gali OMI
Associate Pastor: Fr. Daniel Janulewicz OMI
Bookkeeper: Pilar Ponce De Leon
Administrative Assistant: Michelle Holy

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Saturday to Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 4:30PM
Sunday: 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 7:00PM

DAILY MASSES

Monday to Thursday: 7:00PM
Friday: 9:30AM and 7:00PM
Saturday: 8:30AM

CONFESSION

30 minutes before every weekday & weekend Mass

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, FUNERAL,
FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION AND
SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office for details

CONVENT & DAY CARE CENTRE

Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca
Superior: Mother Aurelia (905) 436-2308

CHERUBS CUPBOARD

(Religious Store) (905) 432-2882

SCHOOLS

Monsignor Leo Cleary (905) 433-0331
St. Mother Teresa (905) 433-5512
Good Shepherd (905) 404-9868
Holy Trinity (905) 404-9349

Knights of Columbus (647) 223-3614
Society of St. Vincent de Paul (289) 927-0093
Alcohol and Drug Addiction (905) 728-1020



• FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT •

“Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil”

Today, brothers and sisters, the Gospel takes us into the desert: “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil” (Mt 4:1). It is not a spiritual stroll; it is the place where our dependencies are unmasked. The tempter begins with what is basic: “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread” (Mt 4:3). The proposal seems reasonable: solve the need right now. But Jesus responds with a freedom born of trust: “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Mt 4:4).

The second temptation is more subtle: to seek God as a spectacle, forcing Him to prove Himself. We too are tempted by a “faith of proofs”: if You answer me, I will believe; if not, I close myself off. Jesus does not negotiate with the Father or manipulate what is sacred.

And when the third temptation arrives (power, control, success...), the Lord cuts it off at the root: “Get away, Satan!” (Mt 4:10), and He fixes the center of life: “The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.” This phrase is medicine for a culture that pushes us to live for applause, consumption, and self-sufficiency.

This Lent is not about enduring forty days, but about learning the freedom of Jesus. Fast so that your heart no longer obeys what is immediate. Pray in order to hear the Word that sustains you. And if you find yourself restless, remember Saint Augustine: “Our heart is restless until it rests in You.” As Pope Leo XIV has said: “God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail!”

The Gospel ends with a promise: “Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him” (Mt 4:11). Let us walk without fear: the desert is not the last word; it is the path toward a purer worship that makes us free.

By Fr. Byron CADMEN (Santo Domingo, Ecuador)



Baptism Preparation Class

Please note that the next Baptism preparation class will be held in the Church on: **Saturday March 7th at 11:00am.**

If you are interested in having your child baptised at St. Therese Parish, please visit the parish website for more information.

TAX RECEIPTS

Your 2026 Tax receipts are ready for pick up at the back of the church. This weekend a member of the finance committee will be distributing receipts before and after each Mass. We ask you to kindly help us keep mailing costs down by picking your receipts while you are here. **Thank you very much for your generosity and kind support of our parish!**



MAMI

Sweet Sundays

FEBRUARY 22

Samosas • \$5.00/bag

MARCH 22

Spring Rolls • \$5.00/bag

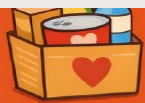
APRIL 2 - HOLY THURSDAY

Hot Cross Buns • \$5.00/bag

APRIL 26

Krispy Kreme Donuts • \$15.00/dozen

••••• Thank you for your support! (cash sales) •••••



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DONATIONS NEEDED

Help Support Families in Our Community

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

CANNED GOODS

- ✓ Tuna
- ✓ Canned Chicken
- ✓ Canned Vegetables
- ✓ Beans
- ✓ Soup
- ✓ Soup

DRY & PACKAGED FOODS

- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Pasta Sauce
- ✓ Kraft Dinner
- ✓ Mr. Noodle
- ✓ Crackers

HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS

- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Personal Hygiene Items
- Soap • Shampoo,
Toothpaste • Deodorant

Drop-Off Location

Items can be placed in the donation bins at the back of the church.



Every donation helps support individuals and families in our community.
Thank you for your generosity and kindness.



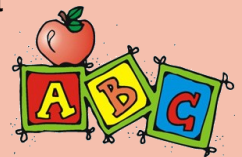
“MAY CHRIST BE HEARD IN OUR LANGUAGE,
MAY CHRIST BE SEEN IN OUR LIFE,
MAY HE BE PERCEIVED IN OUR HEARTS”

- ST. PETER DAMIAN -

BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Patron Saint of: *Insomnia, Faenza and Font-Avellano, Italy*

JK Registration has started at Monsignor Leo Cleary CES. Please call the school at **905-433-0331** to start the registration process.



DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM

fall 2026

With the current Deacon Formation Program in the Diocese of Peterborough entering its final year, a new program will be starting up in **September 2026**. This is a 4 year program open to men aged **35-62** who are discerning a call to become a deacon. Program only runs every 4 years so now is the time if you think you are interested! Direct any inquiries to Dcn. Bill Radigan at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre:
billradigan@peterboroughdiocese.org

• DIOCESAN •

Sacrament of Marriage Preparation Program (online)

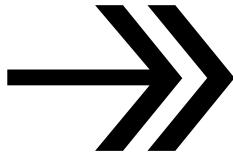
Congratulations! You've made the decision to get married. As you prepare for your wedding day, the Church desires to accompany you in preparing for your life-long marriage.



The next date for Marriage Preparation is **Saturday April 25, 2026** and program resources, activities, and work will be sent to you ahead of that date.

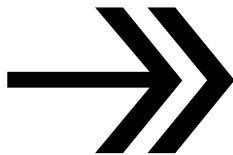
<https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/life-and-faith/sacrament-of-marriage-preparation-online.aspx>

teens



march Break Retreats

young
adults



FEAR FACTOR

**MARCH
BREAK
OVERNIGHT
RETREAT**



**MARCH 16-20
AGES 13-18
\$200**

www.oblateyouthcanada.ca
oblateyouthcanada@gmail.com



RETURNING TO
EDEN

Young Adult Retreat (18-30)
Friday March 20 to
Sunday March 22
\$100
Oshawa, ON

oblateyouthcanada@gmail.com
www.oblateyouthcanada.ca



LENT RESOURCES:

FORMED.org LENT

Reminder that there is a free streaming platform, FORMED.org has many great Lent resources! Did you know that the platform also has a Spanish section? A family section? Documentaries? A Saint section and more!!! Sign-up today its FREE in our Diocese!

Sign-up for FREE streaming:

www.Signup.Formed.org

Enter your email (input your city to locate your Parish, click your parish and join).

<https://daily.formed.org/lent>

AMEN APP:

<https://amenapp.org/ref/lent2024>

Saint Carlo Acutis:

<https://app.formed.org/app/collections/1145232>

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH BISHOP MIEHM

As we journey through Lent 2026, we are pleased to inform you that the First Sunday of Lent video of the series titled "Journey through Lent" is now available on the CCCB website:

English: <https://www.cccb.ca/lent/>

French: <https://www.cecc.ca/careme/>

BILL C-218:

Second Reading Early March

The CCCB Permanent Council will issue a public statement in support of Private Member's Bill C-218, which seeks to prevent persons whose sole condition is mental illness from accessing euthanasia ("MAiD"). **Bill C-218 is expected to proceed to second reading in the House of Commons in early March 2026. Continue to contact your local MP and support this bill.**

English: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide/>

French: <https://www.cecc.ca/foi-et-questions-morales/souffrance-et-fin-de-vie/euthanasie-et-suicide-assiste/>

*Hurting as a
result of an
abortion?*



*Healing
is possible.*

Project Rachel — a journey of hope and inner peace

- ~ Invites all whose lives have been affected by abortion to a journey of healing and reconciliation with God, their church community and themselves.
- ~ Is a sensitive, private and confidential experience.
- ~ Lets you speak with someone who understands and cares.
- ~ Is for women who have been hurt by an abortion.

**You are not alone. We can help.
Together, we can make a new beginning.
Take the first step — call us at 613-473-2679,
or e-mail ProjectRachel@StMarysRefuge.org
and visit stmarysrefuge.org/rachel**

*Private and confidential
Next retreat for women April 24-26, 2026*



CCCB Statement on Bill C-218: No “MAiD” for Mental Illness

4 February 2026

(Ottawa) – The Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued a [statement strongly supporting Private Member’s Bill C-218](#), which seeks to prevent persons whose sole medical condition is mental illness from accessing euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide (“MAiD”).

[The CCCB has a strong record of opposing “MAiD”](#) and seeking to limit its scope in Canadian society. This statement has been approved by 14 Bishops from across Canada, who together form the Permanent Council, CCCB’s most authoritative voice between Plenary Assembly meetings.

The statement’s position aligns with the [Permanent Council’s 2023 Open Letter to the Government of Canada on Permitting Persons Living with Mental Illness to Access Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide](#): “To enable or assist in the suicide for these patients directly contradicts national suicide prevention strategies and reneges on our collective social responsibility to provide persons living with mental health challenges with treatment, support, and hope through therapeutic interventions.”

Referencing empirical research and the professional judgment of many mental health professionals, today’s statement notes that mental illness is not necessarily irremediable. This implies that access to treatment for mental illness, including palliative care, must be improved.

The Permanent Council concludes with an exhortation to allow parliamentary voting on Bill C-218 to proceed according to their conscience rather than following party line.

Read the full statement:

In English: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-02-04-Statement-by-CCCB-PC-Support-of-Bill-C-218.pdf>

In French: <https://www.cecc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-02-04-Declaration-du-CP-de-la-CECC-Appui-du-Projet-de-loi-C-218.pdf>

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Pomeline Martinoski
Director of Communications
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)
Email: communications@ccb.ca
Telephone: 613-241-9461, ext. 225



STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

In Support of Bill C-218:

“An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)”

On 20 June 2025, Private Member’s Bill C-218 was introduced in the House of Commons. It proposes to repeal the planned 2027 expansion of the eligibility criteria for “Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD),” which would allow mental illness alone to qualify for euthanasia and assisted suicide.

On numerous occasions, the CCCB has stated its opposition to “MAiD” and explained its reasons, while encouraging and promoting humane and compassionate alternatives that address chronic pain, suffering, and terminal illness. These alternatives include comprehensive and accessible palliative care,¹ as well as better support for persons living with mental illness.²

However, as long as Canadian legislation regrettably continues to permit euthanasia, the CCCB will also advocate for measures that prevent even wider and more vulnerable segments of the population from gaining access to it. If passed, Bill C-218 would be a constructive step in this regard, limiting euthanasia and protecting persons with mental illness. Such progress would be consistent with the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to rescind Track 2 MAiD by repealing Bill C-7 and to permanently exclude MAiD for persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.³

The CCCB supports Bill C-218, which seeks to stop “MAiD” for mental illness alone, and encourages the Catholic faithful, in communion with their local Bishop, and all people of goodwill, to express their support for the same. We further call on the government to allow free conscience voting on this matter, given its profound moral and social implications.

Human life is a gift that must be protected and valued at every stage and in every circumstance. As Canada’s Bishops have consistently affirmed, euthanasia and assisted suicide – whether for the sick, the dying, persons with disabilities, or those with mental illness – are always morally unacceptable.⁴ These actions disregard the inviolable dignity of every person, fracture family and relational bonds, and weaken our shared social responsibility to protect human life and provide care for the vulnerable and marginalized.

Empirical research, together with the expert judgment of many mental health professionals and suicide prevention organizations, affirms that *it is not possible to determine whether a mental illness is irremediable.*⁵ Peer-reviewed studies show that most patients with mental illness have positive long-term outcomes and experience “significant improvement over time,” offering them a horizon for hope and healing.⁶

As Christians, our response to persons living with mental illness should be modelled after the powerful witness of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), who, rather than abandoning his neighbour in need, responded personally with charity, compassion, care, and self-sacrifice, acting as a bearer of God’s love and as a sign of hope.

4 February 2026

¹ Joint *Ad Hoc* Committee on Palliative Care, [Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care](#), Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2021.

² Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, [Open Letter to the Government of Canada on Permitting Persons Living with Mental Illness to Access Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide](#), 9 May 2023, accessed 8 December 2025.

³ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, [“Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada.”](#) CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, 15 April 2025.

⁴ Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, “Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide”, accessed 8 December 2025.

⁵ Ontario Psychiatric Association, [“Brief to the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAiD\): Preliminary Results of OPA National Survey on Psychiatrists’ and Psychiatry Residents’ Perspectives on MAiD for Mental Disorders as a Sole Underlying Medical Condition \(MD-SUMC\),”](#) 29 January 2024; Society of Canadian Psychiatry, [“Brief on MAiD and Mental Illness Expansion,”](#) 13 October 2023; Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention, [“Statement About MAiD for Mental Illness,”](#) 14 December 2022.

⁶ M. Nicolini, et al., [“Irremediability in psychiatric euthanasia: examining the objective standard.”](#) *Psychological Medicine*, 2023 Sep;53(12):5729-5747.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER 2026 NO GREATER NO GREATER LOVE

WHEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
9 AM - 5:30 PM

WHO

YOUTH
AGES 13-18

WHERE

METRO TORONTO
CONVENTION CENTRE

WHY

Come to encounter the **LOVE OF JESUS** through **inspiring talks, testimonies, and powerful worship.**

VISIT LJHR.CA
TO REGISTER!



LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY
Saturday, March 14, 2026 • 9am - 5:30pm

NO GREATER LOVE

Bishop Christian
Riesbeck, CC

Ralph
Martin

Sr. Mary
Gabriel, SV

Pete
Burak

Peter
Herbeck

Katey & Steve
Norman

Come experience why thousands return each year...

- Compelling Speakers
- Powerful Praise & Worship
- Inspiring Testimonies
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Prayer Ministry for Healing & Empowerment

\$39*
Adult Rally
**Early Bird Special*
\$49 after Feb. 1

Metro Toronto Convention Centre • North Building 255 Front Street W

For tickets and information, visit www.LJHR.ca. For sponsorship and advertisement opportunities, contact us at ljhr@renewalministries.net.

\$25 Youth Rally
simultaneous event
for youth ages 13-18

SAVE THE DATE!



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE

VERITAS SUMMER PROGRAM

Registration for our Veritas Summer Program is now open. The summer program is a great, low commitment way for high school students to experience all that Our Lady Seat of Wisdom has to offer. Throughout the program, attendees will attend faculty-led lectures and seminars, explore the beautiful Madawaska Valley, and live in our student residences which will be chaperoned by current students who are serving as counselors. There are daily opportunities for Mass, Adoration, and communal Compline, as well. Those who attend the summer program and later come to the College as a full-time student will receive a tuition benefit of equal value to the registration fee.

For those interested, more information can be found at:
<https://www.seatofwisdom.ca/veritas-summer-program/>

Don't miss this SPECIAL event! April Smith is flying in from St. Nicholas parish in North Pole, Alaska to speak!



Catholic Women's Conference
SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026

LOCATION: Le Treport Banquet Hall, Mississauga
REGISTRATION: 8:00am TIME: 9:00am - 4:00pm
REGISTER: dwf2026.eventbrite.ca



JOHNETTE BENKOVIC WILLIAMS
Internationally Acclaimed Catholic speaker, author, television and radio personality. EWTN Executive Producer - Host of Women of Grace

Special Guest Speaker: Sister John Mary, SV
Mass celebrated by Bishop Ivan Camilleri



Johnnette Benkovic - Williams | What Does It Mean to Be a Woman?
Sister John Mary SV | Learning to Listen in a Distracted World
April Smith | Live Adventurously, Live Virtuously
Dorothy Pilarski | One Mother's Heart - One Mother's Fiat
Natalie Regnier | Brick by Brick: Building a Strong Family That Won't Lose Their Faith

SPECIAL FEATURE: A LIVE interview PLUS Q & A with Johnnette Williams at the EWTN segment of the conference!

Get Inspired, Meet Like-Minded Women, Discover Your Mission!

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$79 (before Feb. 14) Register at www.dynamicwomenfaith.com

Light Lunch • Free Parking • Door Prizes! TICKETS on eventbrite dwf2026.eventbrite.ca



WYD
SEOUL
2027



**“Take courage!
I have overcome
the world!”
Jn 16:39**



Diocese of Peterborough WORLD YOUTH DAY Pilgrimage July 27 - August 9, 2027

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure!

Join hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world in a celebration of our Catholic faith!



For more information contact
Fr Stephen DeCarlo



Email

FrStephenDecarlo@peterboroughdiocese.org



Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain & France

Under spiritual leadership of Fr. Tomasz Jarosz, OMI

Tour Coordinator: Annette Chang, chineewoman8@gmail.com, Ph: 905-903-4888

Sep. 27 – Oct. 10, 2026 - 14 days – 5,990.00 (Toronto Dep. incl. all taxes and tips)



Sep. 27 Evening departure from Toronto to Lisbon.

Sep. 28 Late morning arrival in Lisbon. Upon arrival we are transferred to Fatima. Some free time for rest, Mass, our hotel for some rest, Mass, dinner and overnight.

Sep. 29 Full day in Fatima. Mass, visit the site of apparitions, the old and the new basilica. We also visit the houses of the children, have some free time for individual prayers, dinner, rosary procession with candles and overnight.

Sep. 30 This morning we move to Santiago de Compostela, the burial place of St. James and major pilgrimage destination since Middle Ages. We visit the Cathedral dedicated to St. James and the Old City. Mass, dinner and overnight.



Oct. 01 After breakfast we travel to Burgos. Upon arrival we tour the spectacular Gothic cathedral declared UNESCO World heritage site. Dinner and overnight.

Oct. 02 Today we travel to Lourdes in France. En route we stop in Loyola, the birthplace of St. Ignatius Loyola and visit the Jesuit Basilica. Upon arrival in Lourdes Mass, dinner, rosary procession with candles and overnight.

Oct. 03 Full day in Lourdes. Time to visit the Grotto and the Basilicas. We have Mass and The Way of The Cross, time for individual prayer and bath, dinner and overnight.

Oct. 04 This morning we travel to Aix-en-Provence. En route we visit Carcassonne (time permitting) to visit its beautifully preserved medieval fortified town with its massive defences encircling the castle. Continue to Aix for dinner and overnight.

Oct. 05 Full day in Aix and Marseille We start the day with a visit to Chapelle des Oblats, where St. Eugène de Mazenod founded the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816. Continue to Marseille where we visit the Sainte-Marie-Majeure cathedral, the seat of St. Eugène's episcopacy and Oblate Motherhouse & Tomb of St. Eugène. We also visit the Basilique Notre-Dame de la Garde and Abbaye Saint-Victor, one of the oldest Christian sites in France (5th century) before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Oct. 06 After breakfast we are transferred to the airport in Marseille and fly to Paris. Continue to Lisieux where we visit St. Therese basilica, celebrate Mass there and visit her convent. Dinner and overnight.

Oct. 07 After breakfast we travel to Mont St. Michel. We tour the ancient strategic fortifications of this island-town, the monastery and medieval buildings. Mass before returning to Lisieux for dinner and overnight.

Oct. 08 In the morning, we are transferred to Paris. We visit the Basilica of Sacré Coeur de Montmartre where we celebrate Mass. In the afternoon, some free time, dinner and overnight.

Oct. 09 Full day in Paris. We embark on a tour of the city to include views of Eiffel Tower, Place de La Concorde and Champs-Élysées. We visit Notre Dame Cathedral Miraculous Medal chapel where we celebrate Mass. Afternoon a cruise on river Saine, dinner and overnight.

Oct. 10 After breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our flight back to Toronto. Evening arrival.



Travel arrangements by:

877-999-8868

416-444-6666

For information and registrations call:

Stan – ext. 339 or 647-463-9057 stan@ihtours.com

Alex – ext. 317 alex@ihtours.com

INTERNATIONAL
HERITAGE TOURS



www.ihtour.com



2026 JUBILEE YEAR PROGRAMMING 2027

Indulgence Tuesdays ~ First Tuesday of every month; February 2026 - January 2027 from 11am ~ 7pm (or by appointment, small groups welcome).

Franciscan At-Home Retreat (FAHR) ~ Introducing a private 18 week retreat in the comfort of your home, rediscover St Francis again! Call or email La Verna for an Information - Registration package, (spaces limited).

Capuchin Franciscan Holy Relics ~ Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ Villa St Joseph
445 Monk Street, Cobourg ON, 10 am~ 7 pm
Relics of St Francis of Assisi, St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, St Ignatius of Laconi,
St Konrad of Parzham, Bl Solanus Casey and St Pio of Pietrelcina

CREATION through Franciscan Eyes ~ May 2-3, 2026, an exploration of our Brother-Sisterhood where Creation and Faith intersect. This is a two day commuter retreat, call or email La Verna for an Information - Registration package.

FRANCIS the Peacemaker (War Resistor?) ~ September 12-13, 2026, a study of the Saint's encounter with Sultan Malik al-Kamil of Egypt (1219), during the 5th crusade. This is a two day commuter retreat, call or email La Verna for an Information - Registration package.

OCTOBER 2nd, 2026 ~ "Francis and Clare" (2008) The definitive feature length video on the Saints of Assisi. At La Verna from 6:00pm - 9:00pm, please RSVP space is limited.

OCTOBER 3rd, 2026 ~ A Saturday evening para-liturgy celebrating the TRANSITUS (death) of St Francis of Assisi This will be celebrated at St Alphonsus Parish, 1066 Western Avenue, Peterborough ON @ 5:15pm (following the parish 4:00pm Mass.)

OCTOBER 4th, 2026 ~ Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi - A celebration of the Mass of St Francis of Assisi and Blessing of "Stuffed Animals" will be offered on Sunday October 4th, 2026 at St Alphonsus Parish, 1066 Western Avenue, Peterborough ON at both the 9:00am and 11:00am celebrations of Mass.

OCTOBER 4th, 2026 ~ Blessing of the Animals @ La Verna 1:30pm - 4:30 pm

JANUARY 5, 2027 ~ The closing Mass of this Jubilee Year will be offered on Monday, October 5th, 2026 @ 6:00pm at St Alphonsus Parish, 1066 Western Avenue, Peterborough ON

SPEAK LORD, your servant is listening! Is God calling YOU to discern your Lay Vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order? This Lay Franciscan movement traces its origins to the early 13th century! St Francis provided them a rule, creating the "Brothers and Sisters of Penance," later known as the Third Order, to live gospel values (simplicity, charity, humility) in their secular lives. Today we are known as the Secular Franciscan Order.



Will YOU respond to God's call during this special Jubilee year?
"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9)
Secular Franciscan Order ~ discover the Joy of Gospel living!

For further information contact La Verna
705.243.9131

Among our Secular Franciscan Saints we include; Pope St John XXIII, Paul VI, Pope, St John Vianney, St John Bosco, St Louis IX (King of France), St Elizabeth (Queen of Hungary), St Thomas More, Dante Alighieri, Michaelangelo, St Joan of Arc, Matt Talbot and many others.

SPEAK LORD, your servant is listening! Is God calling YOU to discern your Lay Vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order?

This Lay Franciscan movement traces its origins to the early 13th century! St Francis provided them a rule, creating the "Brothers and Sisters of Penance," later known as the Third Order, to live gospel values (simplicity, charity, humility) in their secular lives.

Today we call ourselves the Secular Franciscan Order.



Lay Vocational discernment is a process of prayerful self-reflection and exploration to discover one's own personal calling, deepening your primary relationship with God and the Church and a particular "way of being" in our world.

Place your unique gifts at the service of God's Church as a consecrated Lay person (married or single, 18+) and as a professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order. (S.F.O.)



820 Frank Street ... a Capuchin place of Franciscan Spirituality
Peterborough ON K9J 4N4 (1) 705.243.9131 laverna@capuchins.ca

JOIN US AT *LA VERNA*

SATURDAY, 21 February 2026
&
Saturday, 28 March 2026
from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Come and meet others currently discerning a LAY VOCATION to the Secular Franciscan Order and already professed Secular Franciscans.

Short presentations followed by discussions, Light Snacks and Beverages, please RSVP to La Verna Ministries.



THE FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY



The Franciscan Crown Rosary, also called the Seraphic Rosary or the Rosary of the Seven Joys of Mary, is a Catholic devotion consisting of seven decades of Hail Mary's, with each decade honoring a specific joy in Mary's life. It features seven joys: the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Adoration of the Magi, Finding in the Temple, Resurrection, and the Assumption/Coronation. The devotion, which originated in 1422 within the Franciscan Order, is prayed to honor Mary and is distinguished by its seven-decade structure.



820 Frank Street Peterborough ON K9J 4N4 ... a Capuchin place of Franciscan Spirituality (1) 705.243.9131 laverna@capuchins.ca

WINTER PROGRAMMING

Join us from 7:00pm—7:45pm
As we pray the Franciscan Crown rosary
During this time together we will share the origin story and pray this Franciscan devotion together.

FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2026

FRIDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2026

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2026

FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2026

Franciscan Crown Rosaries are available from La Verna Ministries including a booklet containing the meditations for a suggested donation of \$10.00 - RSVP's appreciated

FEBRUARY 2026

Mon. Feb. 09, 2026 Meditatio - Mediation Techniques - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Tue. Feb. 10, 2026 Secular Franciscan Formation #22 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Wed. Feb. 11, 2026 Meditatio - Meditation Practice - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Fri, Feb. 13, 2026 Franciscan Crown Rosary - 7:00pm - 7:45pm
Sat. Feb. 21, 2026 Lay Franciscan Vocation Discernment - 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Mon. Feb. 23, 2026 Meditatio - Mediation Techniques - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Tue. Feb. 24, 2026 Secular Franciscan Formation #23 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Wed. Feb. 25, 2026 Meditatio - Meditation Practice - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Fri, Feb. 27, 2026 Franciscan Crown Rosary - 7:00pm - 7:45pm

MARCH 2026

Tue. Mar. 03, 2026 **Franciscan Jubilee Indulgence Tuesday 11:00am - 7:00pm**
Mon. Mar. 09, 2026 Meditatio - Mediation Techniques - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Tue. Mar. 10, 2026 Secular Franciscan Formation #24 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Wed. Mar. 11, 2025 Meditatio - Meditation Practice - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Fri, Mar. 13, 2026 Franciscan Crown Rosary - 7:00pm - 7:45pm
Fri. Mar 20 - Sun. Mar.22 - **SDPP Weekend - Laverna Closed**
Mon. Mar. 23, 2026 Meditatio - Mediation Techniques - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Mon. Mar. 25, 2025 Meditatio - Meditation Practice - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Fri, Mar. 27, 2026 Franciscan Crown Rosary - 7:00pm - 7:45pm
Sat. Mar. 28, 2026 Lay Franciscan Vocation Discernment - 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Tue. Mar. 31, 2026 Secular Franciscan Formation #25 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm



820 Frank Street, Peterborough ON K9J 4N4
705-243-9131 laverna@capuchins.ca



WINTER PROGRAMMING





Villa St. Joseph Ecology and Spirituality Centre

445 Monk Street, Cobourg, Ontario, K9A 2S9

905-372-2741 – villa@csjcanada.org

<http://www.villastjoseph.ca>

LENTEN RETREATS – FEBRUARY 2026

Pre-registration required.



“Stillness Day”

Wednesday, February 4, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Facilitated by Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ and Sr. Linda Gregg, CSJ

An invitation to move into quietness in the busyness of everyday life and in the frenetic pace of the world in which we live today. **Suggested donation is \$40.00 – incl. single room, a home-made meal and refreshments**



“Re-Imagining the Fall”

Friday, February 6, 7:00pm – Sunday, February 8, 1:00pm

Facilitated by Dr. Bridget Campbell

In this retreat we will consider passages from Genesis that may lead us to a fuller understanding of the tragedy of Adam and Eve as well as a deeper appreciation of God’s love and mercy for them – and for us. **Suggested donation: \$265 – A deposit of \$125 is required at the time of registration. E-transfers can be made to villa@csjcanada.org.**



“A Lenten Retreat: Meditation of a Leafless Tree”

Wednesday, February 18, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Facilitated by Rev. Max Woolaver

Lent is an opportunity to see the beauty of the ‘leafless tree’ which is our soul before God – awaiting our blossoming into the fullness of life. Our day will consist of two addresses, alone time and a time for sharing at the close. Max will offer an original song or two along the way. **Suggested donation: \$50 – incl. single room, a home-made meal and refreshments.**



“Life Transfigured: A Lenten Day Retreat”

Saturday, February 21, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Facilitated by Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ

Lent is a time when we are called anew into the journey of lifelong transformation. All welcome to this retreat to reflect again on the transformative message of this beautiful and compelling Gospel in Lent. **Suggested donation: \$50 – incl. single room, a home-made meal and refreshments**



“Lenten Sabbath Retreat”

Friday, February 27, 7:00pm – Sunday, March 1, 1:00pm

Facilitated by Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ and Sr. Linda Gregg, CSJ

Through our Lenten Sabbath Weekend, Villa St. Joseph, Ecology and Spirituality Centre would like to help you to learn more about yourself during this blessed time, as well as to learn about your relationship with God through the gift of silence. **Suggested donation: \$265 A deposit of \$125 is required at the time of registration. E-transfers can be made to villa@csjcanada.org.**

To register, visit <http://www.villastjoseph.ca> or contact us at 905-372-2741 or villa@csjcanada.ca

The Kids' Bulletin

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT • FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

What Happens in Lent?

In today's Gospel story, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In the forty days of Lent, the Church asks us to fast, give alms, and pray.



In Lent we don't eat meat on Fridays. Many people give up things like candy or dessert for all of Lent. When we give up food that we like, it reminds us that food isn't the only thing we need- we need God too!



Giving alms means giving money or things to the poor or the Church. God lets there be people who need our help so that we can become better by helping them!

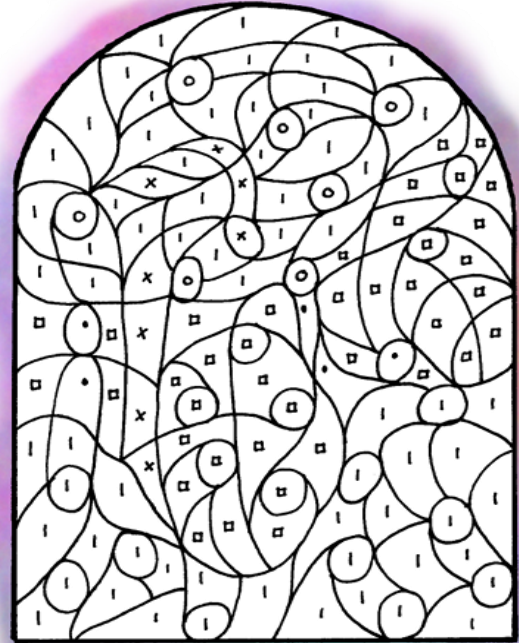
The third thing that we should do in Lent is praying. You could say an extra prayer every day- maybe an "Our Father" or a "Hail Mary" when you wake up or before you go to bed. Another good idea is reading a bit from the Bible, because when we read the Bible we let God speak to us.

What are some little things you could do for Lent? Try to do things that will help you think a bit more about God every day.



Answers to picture puzzle inside: top: 4, 6, middle: 5, 1, bottom: 2, 3.

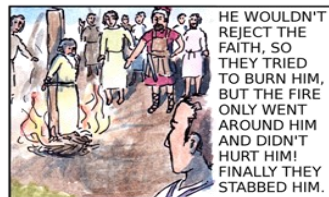
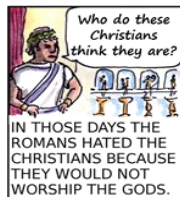
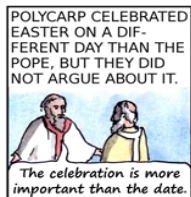
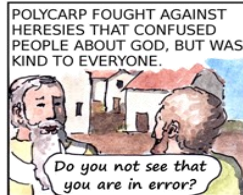
Today's first reading tells us about sin. Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces and find out what the story was.



■ blue | green x brown
○ red • skin colour

Saint Polycarp

February 23



SAINT POLYCARP HELD ONTO HIS FAITH EVEN WHEN HE WAS VERY OLD. HE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE UP ON JESUS WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH TORTURE. MOST OF US WON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN KEEPING OUR FAITH AND GETTING KILLED, BUT WE STILL HAVE TO BE BRAVE TO STAY TRUE TO JESUS IN THE WORLD.

Sort the Story!

What happened when Jesus had prayed and fasted for forty days in the desert? See if you can sort out the order of these pictures. Write 1 on the first, 2 on the second, and so on.



CONVALIDATION *of* MARRIAGE

† *Bringing your Marriage into the Church* †

“It is the presence of the Lord, who reveals Himself and the gift of His grace, that will render your marriage full and profoundly true.” (POPE FRANCIS)

Convalidation ceremonies are specifically for married couples whose unions are not recognized by the Catholic Church and wish to have their marriage validated. This means that at least one partner must be Catholic and their marriage must meet the Church’s requirements for convalidation.

There are various reasons and circumstances that might lead Catholics to marry outside the Church. Regardless of these reasons and past circumstances, the Catholic Church invites couples to bring new meaning to their lives by embracing the vocation of marriage and serving as ambassadors of God’s love through the celebration of convalidation of marriage. Convalidation comes from a Latin word meaning “to firm up” or “to strengthen.” It is not a blessing of an existing union or a renewal of promises – it requires a new act of consent by each spouse and it is a celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, sanctifying the union within the Church. The Church is committed to supporting couples who wish to enter into a valid Catholic marriage, offering them pastoral



and spiritual support as needed. Convalidation of marriage may be celebrated within Mass or outside of Mass, depending on each couple’s particular situation.

When couples seek to validate their marriage in the Church after having attempted marriage outside the Church, they are demonstrating that God is present and actively working in their lives. God wants to lead couples closer to Him and to each other, and sanctifying their union within the Church allows them to fully participate in its sacramental life.



Couples wishing to plan a convalidation ceremony are required to contact the Parish Office at 905-436-2126 to schedule an appointment with a Priest to begin the process.

PRAYER WITH MARY

MOTHER OF JESUS THE PRINCE OF PEACE, FOR THE END OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE.



St. Therese would like our parish families to begin continual prayers for the end of the war in Ukraine.

The statue of Mary will accompany one family for a period of one week.

After one week another family will be able to pick up the statue at the end of Mass on Sunday.

To schedule the pickup of the statue, please contact the parish office.

Families who take the statue of Mary home are asked to say the following prayers
and one decade of rosary for peace in Ukraine.



God of peace, God of mercy
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
We lament the violence that has come to their country.
We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those
who despair and compassion for all who suffer.
We plead for an end to violence and aggression in their land
We pray for the people of Russia,
We give thanks for those who protest for peace and pray for ongoing courage
We ask for a change of heart in those who commit acts of
aggression and war against their fellow citizens and neighbours
We pray for Russians who will suffer because of sanctions and war
We pray for leaders around the world
We pray that world leaders might work for an end to war and for establishing of peace
We seek wisdom for those who are making life and death decisions
about how to respond to violence and threats of violence
We ask for courage for those who campaign for peace.
We pray for aid workers and journalists
We give thanks for the willingness of aid workers to work in situations
of war and unrest in order to meet the needs of others
We ask for safety, wisdom and compassion for all working
to alleviate suffering and heal the wounded
We pray for journalist and media organisations reporting the situation in
Ukraine and Russia, may they report truthfully and compassionately.
We pray for peace
We lament violence around the world
We plead for the ceasing of violence and the establishment of peace
We pray that you might give us a desire for peace and a
willingness to work and hope and pray for peace each day. Amen



OLDEST UKRAINIAN PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER (1037 A.D.)

We fly to Your patronage, O Virgin Mother of God.

Despise not our prayers in our needs,
but deliver us from all dangers, since you alone are pure and blessed.
O most glorious Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ our God,
accept our prayers and present them to Your Son and our God,
that for the sake of You, He enlighten and save our souls.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY February 21st, 2026

8:30AM Intentions of the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca

4:30PM † Repose of the soul of Antonio Scanga • Req. by Family

SUNDAY February 22nd, 2026

9:00AM † Repose of the soul of Julian Carvalho • Req. by Sharon Aldsworth

11:00AM † Repose of the soul of Anthony Daly • Req. by his son Frank Daly

7:00PM Members of our Parish

MONDAY February 23rd, 2026

7:00PM God's blessings on Anthony Geofroy on his birthday • Req. by Family

TUESDAY February 24th, 2026

7:00PM † Repose of the soul of Alex Latimer • Req. by Family

WEDNESDAY February 25th, 2026

7:00PM † Repose of the soul of Marianna Corvinelli • Req. by Teresa Costanzo

THURSDAY February 26th, 2026

7:00PM God's blessings on Anne Chang on her birthday

FRIDAY February 27th, 2026

9:30AM † Repose of the soul of Francisco Casas-Delario • Req. by his Sister Lily Morais & family

7:00PM † Repose of the soul of John Ryszkowski • Req. by the Joachim Family

SATURDAY February 28th, 2026

8:30AM Intentions of the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca

4:30PM † Repose of the souls of Wes Cowx & Nathan Reid • Req. by Judy

SUNDAY March 1st, 2026

9:00AM God's blessing for Marie Andrews • Req. by the Herbacz Family

11:00AM In thanksgiving for Sophia Dias on her 1st Birthday • Req. by her Mom & Dad

7:00PM Members of our Parish

• PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS •

*Please pray for those who are sick,
and those who love and minister to them:*



Alex Extross
Angela Extross
Bernice Parker
Beverly Laird
Bob Bonnell
Brian Doucette
Brig Madhok
Carol Hutchinson
Cindy Oldford
Clifford Nelson
Cynthia Graham
Denise Walker
Donato d'costa

Edel Dias
Elena Russo
Elizabeth Colbear
Gene Bouvior
Gerald Correia
Giuseppe
Grant Bennie
Gwen Traynor
Jane Lynde
Jean Joyce
Jennifer Finney
Joanne Martinez
Kathleen Corkum
Kazai Campbell

Luk Wong
Lyn Carson
Margaret Lingard
Michel Cascon
Nathan Costa
Nina Tobias
Rene Vautour
Rochelle Keever
Salvatore Palazzolo
Shashi
Tommy
Wallhout Family
William Bonnick



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1. Here is the donation link from our parish website to donate directly to the parish:

<https://sttheresescourtice.ca/support.html>

2. Consider setting up pre-authorized offering (POP). The form is available on our website:

<https://sttheresescourtice.ca/images/StTheresePOPForm.pdf>

Please email your completed form with a void cheque to:

bookkeeper@sttheresescourtice.ca

3. You can send a donation to the parish by regular mail:

St. Therese Parish, 3800 Courtice Road North, Courtice, Ontario L1E 2L5

ALTAR SERVERS: Fr. Daniel

ALTAR LINEN CARE: Veronica Larkin / 289-240-8083

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TEAM: Fr. Bosco / 905-436-2126

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Teresa Costanzo / 905-436-0719

CHURCH CLEANING: Kathleen Martens / 905 244-1030

DECORATING COMMITTEE: Lee McDonald / 905-409-0833

COMMUNION MINISTERS: Zita Rodrigues / 647-980-6055

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Kevin MacKenzie / 289-356-7838

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: biblestudystherese@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Trevine Joachim / 647-223-3614

LECTORS & COMMENTATORS: Yvonne Majoor / 905-697-9470

MARY'S APOSTOLATE: Peter Pacione / 289-240-6762

PARISH COUNCIL: John Vandersanden / 905-718-0943

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE: Trevine Joachim / 647-223-3614

SILVER NEEDLES: Kim Anderson / 905-259-5979

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

ssvpsttheresecourtice@gmail.com

USHERS MINISTRY: Susan Mussakowski / 905-441-1081

YOUTH MINISTRY: Please contact Fr. Daniel

R.C.I.A.: Karen Schillings / 613-242-9365

Stephen Lane / 416-319-9356

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“HE WHO HAS CHARITY IS FAR FROM ALL SIN.”

ST. POLYCARP
FEAST DAY: FEBRUARY 23RD