

# ST. DENIS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

230 LAKE STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2R 5Z3

PHONE: 905-685-5911 + FAX: 289-434-5269

WWW.STDENISCHURCH.CA

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of St. Denis Parish is to create a warm and welcoming, Christ-centred, Catholic community that answers the call to know, love, and serve God by spreading the Gospel through words and actions.*

## PASTORAL TEAM

### PASTOR

Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Joseph Bruzzese, V.F.  
pastor@stdenischurch.ca

### PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

Rev. Fr. Aji Varghese  
ajivargheseoic@gmail.com

### SECRETARY & BOOKKEEPER

Mrs. Nancy Chmay  
secretary@stdenischurch.ca

### DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

Mr. Ryan Hermack  
evangelization@stdenischurch.ca

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Closed everyday for lunch: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## PARISH SCHOOLS

### ST. DENIS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mrs. Victoria Wegelin  
175 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 1S1  
905-682-4156

### ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mr. Ken Lococo  
615 Geneva Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 2J3  
905-934-3112

### ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SECONDARY

Principal: Mr. Tony Della Ventura  
541 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4H7  
905-646-2002

## SACRAMENTAL SERVICES

### MASSES OF THE LORD'S DAY

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

(IN CHURCH)

Tuesday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.  
Saturday: 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

(IN MEETING ROOM)

Monday to Friday: 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### BAPTISM

Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.  
*Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest!*

### WEDDINGS

*Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest!*

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

(IN MEETING ROOM)

Sunday to Saturday: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### MONTHLY HOLY HOUR

(1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY & 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY)

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

### DEVOTION TO MARY

(DAILY RECITATION OF THE ROSARY)

30 minutes before all Masses

**Would you like to become a parishioner?**

Please call or email the parish office.

**Thank you for your continued generosity towards our parish!**

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday, February 20 – Private Mass**

Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Tuesday, February 21 – 8:00 a.m.**

*St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

Ron Ryan

**Wednesday, February 22 – 8:00 a.m.**

*Ash Wednesday*

Sp. Int. Marcin & Ashlej Wojnowski

**\*\*Day of fast & abstinence from meat\*\***

**Thursday, February 23 – 8:00 a.m.**

*St. Polycarp*

Sp. Int. Miketic Family

**Friday, February 24 – 8:00 a.m.**

Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### MASSES OF THE LORD'S DAY

*1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT*

**Saturday, February 25 – 4:00 p.m.**

Palma, Giuseppe, & Donato Caramia & Family

Stephan Cain | Sp. Int. Audina

**Sunday, February 26 – 8:00 a.m.**

Pro Populo – For the People

**Sunday, February 26 – 10:00 a.m.**

Ralph Monteleone | Marcin Sokalski

Sp. Int. Doug McCormick | Sp. Int. Dolores Schmidt



#### COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 5

Offertory	\$ 2,595.00
E-Transfers	\$ 65.00
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2,660.00</b>

**Thank you for your faithful stewardship!**

~ Please remember the parish in your will ~

### THE PASTOR'S PORTICO

It is absolutely mind blowing to think that we will be beginning the Season of Lent this week with Ash Wednesday (February 22<sup>nd</sup>). This year, ashes will be distributed according to the usual custom, which is on the forehead; please do join us if you are able. If you prefer (or require) an evening Mass, there will be one at the Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. There will be no evening Mass here as to not disturb the evening confessions.

During Lent, the liturgy prepares catechumens and candidates to celebrate the Paschal Mystery by various stages of Christian Initiation. This year, we will be receiving one person into the Church at the Easter vigil, which is very exciting for us as a parish family! In addition, Lent has two major purposes for those already in the Church: it recalls our baptism and emphasizes a spirit of penance. I would encourage everyone to make at least one good confession during the Season of Lent (Please see the front of the bulletin for confession times).

Also, during the Season of Lent, each Friday we recall our Blessed Lord's final days through the Stations of the Cross. These will be held each Friday morning at 7:30 a.m. This will allow those who would like to come to stations but cannot come in the evening, a chance to participate. If you would prefer the evening, please visit the Cathedral.

A reminder that we will be running two great programs from *The Augustine Institute*:

1. *"Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well"*
  - Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>
2. *"Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist"*
  - Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>

Each study will be limited to 30 participants, each session is 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall, and each workbook costs \$20.00. Sign up quickly as spots are already starting to be reserved.

Also, a reminder that if you are interested in joining my upcoming Marian Shrines Pilgrimage (October 9-20), there will be an information session on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Fr. Stephen Joseph Bruzzese**

## PRAYER OF REPARATION

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

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## PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Are you interested in using our new monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Program? Our deadline for the March withdrawal is Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. As of today, we have 25 parishioners/families registered, which generates \$3,255.00 per month. This truly is easiest way to give. Thank you for your faithful stewardship!



## MASS INTENTIONS

Our next available single Mass intention is: Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our next available multiple Mass intention is: Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Remember, you are welcome to book up to 1 year in advance, please get your dates soon, as to not be disappointed.

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Let me begin by saying that we are doing well financially, so again, thank you for your faithful stewardship to our parish. However, recently we have received some large bills:

- Church Heat (January): \$3,953.02
- Clergy Aid Society: \$6,796.00\*\*
- Diocesan Health Insurance: \$3,546.24
- Hospital Chaplain Salary: \$3,900.00\*\*
- Internim City Tax: \$1,146.59

**\*\*Outstanding payment\*\***

Now thankfully, other than the heat, these are once a year payments and I feel confident that they will be paid in the coming months. Also, as we receive some warmer weather, it should help to reduce our heating costs in the coming months. We will continue to find areas where we can reduce costs, in order to focus our attention and effort on the most important matters.

## MARIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE

Are you interested in joining an exclusive and cultural journey of a lifetime? If so, then this pilgrimage is for you! Join us for our 12 day pilgrimage which includes: Fatima with the celebration of the sixth and last visit of Our Lady (The Miracle of the Sun), Avila, Madrid, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Barcelona & much more.

**Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**\$4,940.00 per person (based on 2 per room)**

If you are interested in coming or would like more information, please let Fr. Stephen know as soon as possible...spots are already starting to be filled.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mothers' Group

- Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### Choose Life Niagara Annual Dinner at Club Italia

- Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### Knights of Columbus Meeting

- Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### Marian Shrine Pilgrimage Information Session

- Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
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## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful half-day vigil in front of abortion clinics. *As a parish, we will be responsible for Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.* This will take place in front of the Greater Niagara General Hospital (5546 Portage Road, Niagara Falls). To sign up or for more information, please contact Cathy Havard at cathyhavard9@gmail.com or 365-880-4336. Please consider spending an hour in silent, prayerful, peaceful witness in defending the unborn, truly an extension of our Lenten disciples of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

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## ANNULMENT FACT & FICTION

Margaret Jong and Fr. Ben Weber, canon lawyers from the St. Catharines Marriage Tribunal, will discuss marriage annulments in a presentation offered on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cathedral from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The presentation is for anyone interested in applying for an annulment or for anyone wanting to learn about the annulment process. For more information, please call 905-687-8817.



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2023

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On December 28, 2022, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, issued an Apostolic Letter marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Francis de Sales. The document, entitled *Totum Amoris Est*, is a beautiful reflection on this wonderful saint.

St. Francis de Sales was the Bishop of Geneva during the Reformation. The city had embraced the schismatic teachings of John Calvin. St. Francis de Sales' approach was not typical of the time. Rather than use words that condemned, he struck a conciliatory tone by teaching the truth with gentleness and love to these people. He once said 'you can attract more flies with a spoonful of honey rather than a barrel full of vinegar'. Many people returned to the faith because he offered the sweet honey of God's love, rather than the sour vinegar of harsh condemnation. At the time of his death, many had returned to the Catholic Faith.

In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis refers to one of St. Francis de Sales' great spiritual works entitled "Introduction to the Devout Life". A significant theme found in this book is what the Second Vatican Council has called, 'the universal call to holiness'. St. Francis understood that we are called to a life of true devotion wherever we may find ourselves in the world. He states, "Devotion must be practiced differently by the gentleman, the craftsman, the chamberlain, the prince, the widow, the young woman, the wife" (Introduction to the Devout Life). Commenting on this quote, Pope Francis states, "To live in the midst of the secular city while nurturing the interior life, to combine the desire for perfection with every state of life, and to discover an interior peace that does not separate us from the world but teaches us how to live in it and to appreciate it, but also to maintain proper detachment from it. That was the aim of Francis de Sales, and it remains a valuable lesson for men and women in our own time" (*Totum Amoris Est*).

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It provides us with an opportunity, as Pope Francis states, "to live in the midst of the secular city while nurturing the interior life". We have an opportunity to grow in holiness by embracing the three traditional pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as a means of spiritual transformation during Lent. We can also attend daily Mass and make the effort to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, especially if it has been a long time. On Saturday, March 25, this sacrament will be offered in all our parishes throughout the diocese from ten o'clock in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon.

I also recommend that you do some spiritual reading this Lent. Perhaps you could read Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Totum Amoris Est* (twelve pages) or one of the books of St. Francis de Sales such as "Introduction to the Devout Life" or another beautiful book "Treatise on the Love of God". They are timeless treasures that help us respond to God's call to holiness.

It is my hope and prayer that all our Lenten efforts will move us to have a greater love for God and neighbour for "the measurement of love is to love without measure" (Treatise on Divine Love).

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

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905-684-0154 • Fax: 905-684-7551  
Email: [bishop@saintcd.com](mailto:bishop@saintcd.com)



# THE MARIAN SHRINES OF PORTUGAL, FRANCE & SPAIN

With the spiritual leadership of **Fr. Stephen Bruzzese, Pastor of St. Denis, St. Catharines**

**October 9 to 20, 2023**



**We invite you on an Exclusive spiritual and cultural journey of a lifetime! Our 12-day pilgrimage includes Fatima with the celebration of the sixth and last visit of Our Lady and Miracle of the Sun, Avila, Madrid, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Barcelona & much, much, more... see breathtaking landscapes with palaces and historical sights. Experience local treats and indulge in delicious meals. Pray at beautiful shrines dedicated to Our Lady and Saints, enrich your Catholic faith and open your heart to receive Blessings and Graces along the way that will encourage you throughout your lifelong pilgrimage.**

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 MONDAY OCT 9

#### FLIGHT TO LISBON

We will fly from Toronto to Lisbon aboard Air Canada. Relax and enjoy your flight with complimentary meals and entertainment on board. Group seating for our flight will be assigned by the airline.

### DAY 2 TUESDAY OCT 10

#### FATIMA

Welcome to Portugal! Upon arrival and clearing customs and immigration, we meet our professional English-speaking Tour Manager and board our bus to drive to Fátima, where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917 to three simple shepherd children and exhorted mankind to pray for world peace. On the way, we will enjoy a panoramic sightseeing of Lisbon with a stop for pictures at the Belem Tower. We arrive in Fatima, check-in in our hotel and get settled in our rooms. After dinner we will join the Candlelight Procession.

**Overnight: Fatima**

**Dinner**

### DAY 3 WEDNESDAY OCT 11

#### FATIMA

This morning we follow the Stations of the Cross and visit Aljustrel, where the children's hamlet is still preserved in its original state, and Valinhos where Our Lady appeared after the children's return from prison. We pray at the Little Chapel of Apparitions and visit the tombs of Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia at the Basilica of the Rosary. Free time for private prayers. After dinner you may join the Candlelight Procession.

**Overnight: Fatima**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 4 THURSDAY OCT 12

#### FATIMA-OBIDOS-NAZARE-FATIMA

A day of touring... Journey to the medieval town of Óbidos and the coastal village of Nazaré where we will have free time to explore and if you wish taste the local seafood in one of the many restaurants along the beach. Back in Fatima, enjoy some free time on your own. Dinner and optional Candlelight Procession.

**Overnight: Fatima**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 5 FRIDAY OCT 13

#### FATIMA-SALAMANCA

Six times, from May 13 to October 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared here to three shepherd children. Join us today to celebrate Holy Mass and commemorate the sixth and last visit of Our Lady and *Miracle of the Sun*. In the afternoon we travel to charming Salamanca, Spain.

**Overnight: Salamanca**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 6 SATURDAY OCT 14

#### SALAMANCA-ALBA DE TORMES-AVILA-MADRID

We enjoy a panoramic sightseeing of Salamanca and see the most important sites in the city: the Plaza Mayor, St. Stephen's Convent and the famous University before getting off to Alba de Tormes and the Carmelite convent to see two of St. Teresa's most sacred relics, her left arm and her heart along with relics of Saint John of the Cross. Next to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century city of Ávila, where St. Teresa founded the Order of Carmelites. Visit the Monastery of the Incarnation and the convent of St. Teresa, where the saint experienced her remarkable vision of the angel. We continue to Madrid, the largest city in Spain and one of the most elegant capitals in Europe.

**Overnight: Madrid**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 7 SUNDAY OCT 15

#### MADRID

We enjoy a sightseeing tour of Madrid's historic centre and see the Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor, where events have been held since the 17<sup>th</sup>-century! The afternoon is free to explore on your own, visit a museum or join an optional tour. Tapas in Spain is a food lover's dream and tonight we'll "go out for Tapas" and eat like the locals, hopping from bar to bar discovering the best eateries in town.

**Overnight: Madrid**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 8 MONDAY OCT 16

#### MADRID-ZARAGOZA-LOURDES

We depart by High-Speed train for Zaragoza and pray at one of Spain's most important Marian Shrines dedicated to Our Lady of the Pilar. The shrine is built on the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. James the apostle on his way to northwestern Spain. Accompanied by celestial music, angels and a brilliant light, Our Lady encouraged St. James and his disciples on their journeys. This apparition was unlike any other, because when Our Lady appeared to St. James, she was still living on earth in Jerusalem. During the vision, St. James was given a wooden statue which is now in the center of the Basilica. In the afternoon we journey into France and arrive in Lourdes. Tonight join in the Candlelight Procession and pray the Rosary.

**Overnight: Lourdes**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 9 TUESDAY OCT 17

#### LOURDES

During our stay in Lourdes we will have an opportunity to attend Mass at the Grotto and walk in the footsteps of St. Bernadette. We will see the Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born and the Cachot, an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived. We join with pilgrims from around the world to pray for the sick, drink water from the miraculous spring and/or submerge in the healing baths. Experience Christ's love as you walk the life-sized Stations of the Cross overlooking the holy Grotto. Kneel in the chapel built on the very rock of the Grotto in obedience to the request of the Immaculate Conception. After dinner join the Candlelight Procession.

**Overnight: Lourdes**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 10 WEDNESDAY OCT 18

#### LOURDES-CARCASSONE-BARCELONA

Depart Lourdes towards the French-Spanish border en-route to Barcelona, Spain. We stop in Carcassonne and enjoy free time for lunch and a walk around the medieval town. Continue to Barcelona for the last leg of our trip.

**Overnight: Barcelona**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 11 THURSDAY OCT 19

#### BARCELONA

Get introduced to this fascinating city including Plaza Catalunya and Paseo de Gracia to admire the eccentricity of Gaudi's architectural masterpieces in Houses Batlló and Milà and the Basilica of the Sagrada Família, Gaudi's masterpiece. Once completed, will have 18 towers: 12 dedicated to the apostles, 4 to the evangelists, one to Jesus and another to Mary. Free afternoon and evening to explore on your own. Tonight we share our thoughts and enjoy a Farewell Dinner.

**Overnight: Barcelona**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

### DAY 12 FRIDAY OCT 20

#### FLIGHT HOME

At the agreed time, transfer to the airport for our return flight. **CONCLUSION OF OUR PILGRIMAGE.**

**Breakfast**

#### PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

## \$ 4,940.00 CAD

Price includes Fuel Surcharge & Airport Taxes (\$ 762,61 CAD) and are subject to change without notice until time of ticketing. Supplement for individual room \$ 780.00 CAD.

\*\*\*See next page for complete list of inclusions\*\*\*

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage (Psalm 84)*

**To register and for more information please contact:**



30 Wertheim Court # 20, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B9  
(905) 889-1681 Toll-Free 1-800-268-0900 Ext. 233  
[edgar@gateways-international.com](mailto:edgar@gateways-international.com)  
TICO Reg. #2171876

**THE TOUR INCLUDES**

- ✓ Roundtrip airfare from Toronto
- ✓ 10-night accommodation in First Class hotels, std room
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✓ Mineral water and a glass of local wine with all Dinners
- ✓ Transportation by private motorcoach throughout
- ✓ All entrance fees, tours and visit to holy sites as per the itinerary with English speaking guide
- ✓ High Speed train Ticket in 2<sup>nd</sup> class Madrid-Zaragoza
- ✓ Daily Mass and/or Spiritual activities
- ✓ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ✓ Fuel surcharge & Airport taxes (at time of printing is CAD\$762.61 and may change at any time without notice until time of ticketing)
- ✓ Gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff

**NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE**

- ✓ Meals and drinks not mentioned above
- ✓ Passports: Canadian citizens require a valid passport for more than 6 months after the return date
- ✓ Gratuities to guides and drivers and other local staff: **€ 140.00** per participant collected in cash ahead for your convenience
- ✓ Costs of personal nature, optional excursions, excess baggage charges
- ✓ Insurance for medical, Cancellation and Interruption, baggage

**BOOKING**

A deposit of \$ 500.00 CAD per person is required at time of booking. If you opt to purchase Non-Medical or All-Inclusive insurance, it must be purchased at time of first deposit. See payment schedule below. *Bookings after June 9, 2023 are subject to availability.*

**PLEASE NOTE ALL PAYMENTS ARE 100% NON- REFUNDABLE.**

**CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES**

If you must cancel, Gateways International must be informed in writing immediately. **All payments are 100% Non-Refundable.** A \$75 CAD fee will be applied for any changes you wish to make to the group's itinerary. Changes after full payment is received will be treated as cancellations.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Participants on this tour take full responsibility for being fully able to participate in the daily scheduled activities of the group, noting that tours organized by Gateways International require physical fitness. There is daily walking, sometimes up or down slopes, and at times sidewalks and uneven terrain. One may choose not to participate in parts of the sightseeing; however, there is no refund for missed sightseeing.

**OPTIONAL TRAVEL HEALTH & CANCELLATION INSURANCE**

CAD \$Premium per person	All-Inclusive	Non-Medical	Staying in single room add
<b>up to 59 years</b>	334.00	294.00	36.00
<b>60-64 years</b>	405.00	334.00	43.00
<b>65-69 years</b>	488.00	370.00	50.00
<b>70-74 years</b>	647.00	423.00	56.00
<b>75-79 years</b>	978.00	602.00	86.00

- ✓ **All-Inclusive Worldwide Plan** provides coverage for *cancellation and interruption* up to sum insured, trip delay, baggage & personal effects, baggage delay, personal money loss, passport loss, airflight accident and travel accident.
- ✓ **Non-Medical Plan** provides coverage for *cancellation and interruption* up to sum insured, trip delay, baggage & personal effects, baggage delay, personal money loss, passport loss, airflight accident and travel accident. There is no coverage for Emergency Medical.
- ✓ See the [Policy Brochure](#) for the full description and eligibility.
- ✓ For people living outside the province of Ontario, insurance will be processed by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.
- ✓ Premium per person is subject to change without prior notice

Travel insurance is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances. Please contact us to get a copy of the policy. It is important that you read and understand the policy before you purchase as the coverage is subject to certain limitations, conditions or exclusions.

**\*\*All participants must hold Trip Cancellation/Interruption + Emergency Medical Insurance to travel with us. Proof of coverage if purchased elsewhere must be provided at time of booking.**

COVID-19 is known event and is excluded from cancellation coverage. However, if you contract COVID-19 prior to departure, you may be covered for trip cancellation.

All participants must comply with the travel regulations and guidelines of Public Health and the Ministry of Health of each country we visit. Proof of vaccination and further testing may be required at time of travelling.

**Please contact us if you live outside the Province of Ontario and for other types of coverage.**

## FR. STEPHEN BRUZZESE, MARIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE, OCT. 9 TO 20, 2023

Deposit Registration Form – copy of passport required

Name (as per passport): First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any Dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any Medical problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Enclosed is a photocopy of my passport (page showing name and photo)

☐ I am departing from Toronto ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (fare supplement to be informed accordingly)

☐ I have a Roommate ☐ I need a Roommate (subject to availability) ☐ I would like to travel Single, Pay **\$ 780 CAD** Supplement

☐ Enclosed is my **deposit of \$ 500 CAD – by e-transfer or Cheques payable to Gateways International, for credit card complete below**

☐ I authorize Gateways International to charge the deposit of **\$500 CAD** now, and/or balance of **\$4,440 CAD** (plus or minus changes in Airport taxes if applicable) by **June 9, 2023**, on my credit card listed below

Credit Card Type: VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**INSURANCE:** Please add the following Travel Insurance to my package (Payment will be collected separately)

☐ All-Inclusive Worldwide Policy ☐ Non-Medical Policy ☐ I decline insurance. Proof of my own Emergency Medical & Cancellation/ Interruption policy attached.

My signature below indicates that I have read and agreed to the Terms and Conditions outlined by Gateways International in this brochure. I also understand that is now mandatory that all participants on a Gateways International tour, must have Emergency Medical and Trip Cancellation/Interruption insurance, which is not included in the trip price, and that Gateways International's cancellation policy cannot be waived for any reason. In order to participate in the aforementioned group, I confirm I will have such insurance, and I will not hold Gateways International liable in any matter that is or is not covered by this added insurance.

**Signature of participant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and mail with payment to: GATEWAYS INTERNATIONAL, 30 WERTHEIM COURT # 20, RICHMOND HILL, ONT L4B 1B9**

**Frenemies**  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“Love your enemies.”*

**Opening Prayer**

God, you are love. Everything you are contains an unfathomable amount of love. You are love in its purest way. You are selfless and humble. I, as your child, am called to love as you love — not only my friends, but my enemies. Lord, give me the grace to love those who are hard to love. Help others see you in me as I love them like you. Amen.

**FIRST READING** Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

**GOSPEL** Matthew 5:38-48

**Beyond Words**

In this week's Gospel we hear Jesus speaking as simply and plainly as He possibly can. It's as though He's saying, "Look, it's not impressive to love people who are nice to you and whom you like back. I mean even an atheist can do that. No, what sets you apart is how you love those people who can't stand you or who you cannot stand."

Think about that.

That's the measure of your love ... how well you love the person who is rude to you online or in line. How kind you are to the person who rolls their eyes at you, who gets frustrated with you, or who flips you off in traffic. The law put forth in Leviticus (first reading) warned the people not only against the dangers of hatred but even stipulates for them never to hold a grudge.

Think about that.

The psalm reminds us how God pardons us. Would you like the Lord to only offer you the same amount of mercy you offer to others? Psalm 103 takes the whole "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" to an even deeper level. Forgiveness is not a one-time thing, it's a daily thing.

Think about that.

If you belong to Christ and you are a walking tabernacle (second reading), you need to consider who you are in light of Whose you are. Holiness is simple but not easy. Step one, don't think too highly of yourself. Loving God, first, helps with that. Step two, don't think too little of others. Loving your enemies helps with that.

**Random Fact**

Jesus tells His followers that if someone "presses you into service for one mile, go two miles." At that time Palestine was under Roman occupation and rule. By law, a Roman soldier could force anyone to have to carry his equipment (if he wanted a break or needed a rest) for up to one mile. Jews could be pressed into service against their will. Here, Jesus is telling them not only not to resist but, if pressed, to offer to go "the extra mile" for the other ... even an enemy.

**Behind the Scenes**

In this week's Gospel passage, Jesus is giving new context to old laws. Borrowing heavily from the Old Testament, Jesus is calling His followers to get above and beyond what they

were accustomed to doing. “An eye for an eye” was seen as legal retribution in the time of Moses. Jews were allowed to ask for and seek restitution from someone who had wronged them. Jesus, instead, challenges people to forgive wrongdoing.

Likewise, when you’ve been struck on your right cheek and you offer your left, the person striking you would be forced to use the back of their right hand. The Mishnah (the written out version of the Jewish oral law/traditions), however, explained that a back-handed slap was far more egregious and insulting a practice and the victim was entitled to twice the compensation. Jesus encourages His followers to seek neither the normal nor the inflated restitution.

The tunic example also demonstrates the willingness to forego legal rights by refusing to make a claim against someone else and, instead, offering them even more. This is not God encouraging us to be victimized or abused but, instead, for us to look toward the care for others more than ourselves.

### **Word Play**

***Perfect?*** How can Jesus expect us to be “perfect”? When Jesus says, “be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect” He is not saying He expects us never to sin or fall in our humanity. The Lord is calling us to imitate God the Father in how we love. Jesus is challenging us to become more loving, more merciful, and more other-centered just as God is, always has been, and forever will be.

### **Journal**

1. Think about the person in your life that is really hard to love (who may have come to mind while reading Beyond Words). How is God calling you to love that person? Is it by engaging them in conversation? Is it by forgiving them for something they did in the past? Is it by praying a special intention for them every day?
2. In Isaiah, God calls us not to just give what is needed but to go above and beyond what is asked of us. How can you go above and beyond in service?
3. In the last line of Matthew, we hear, “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” What does it mean to be perfect, not in a worldly sense, but a spiritual sense? How is God calling you to perfection?

### **Challenge for the Week**

It takes a lot of self-discipline in order to love those who are hard to love. If we let ourselves and our emotions go, we can lose what we are aiming for which is love. In the spirit of Lent right around the corner, work on self-discipline by fasting from something. It can be social media, sweets, you name it. It must be something that will take work though. Do not give up video games if you do not play video games!



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