

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THOUGHTS FOR SOWING

HIDDEN POTENTIAL

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Psalm 118:22

It is not easy to judge potential. In the NFL draft, for example, sometimes a prospect many teams pass on turns out to be a great player. One notable example is star quarterback Tom Brady – the 199th pick in 2000! Perceiving hidden potential is one of the great themes in Scripture too. The Hebrews appeared to be a small and insignificant tribe, but God selected them to be the Chosen people. David was a mere shepherd boy when Samuel anointed him king of Israel. Mary, a lowly maiden from Galilee, became the mother of the Messiah. And Jesus, the carpenter's son from Nazareth, became the savior of the world.

Is there anything in my life that has potential that I am overlooking? Perhaps it is a family member, a co-worker, a student, a plan, a difficult situation – or even me. What might I do to help nourish and release that potential?

All-perceiving God, give me the eyes to see the hidden potential in someone or something today.

Sr. Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.

From: **Living Faith**

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON PANDEMIC RESTRICTION

Due to the **Enhanced "Stay At Home Order" restrictions**, announced by the Ontario Government, we offer the following information:

- As of **Monday, April 19th**, there will be **NO PUBLIC MASSES** celebrated, at St. Margaret's or St. Eugene's, and **both churches, will not** be open to the public, until further notice.
- Please know that the elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions should be strongly encouraged to remain home. Livestreaming of services should continue where this practice is underway and the dispensation from the Sunday Eucharist remains. A full list of livestream services can be accessed at:

www.archtoronto.org

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. May 2 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Beginning of Catholic Education Week

- (May 2-7) Theme: "Nurturing Hope"**

Sat. May 8 ANNUAL "SOCK IT 2 ME DRIVE"

- Drop donations in hall 8:00am – 3:00pm

Sun. May 9 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- ANNUAL "SOCK IT 2 ME DRIVE"** Drop donations in hall 8:00am – 3:00pm
- HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

Wed. May 12 3rd Anniversary of our Associate Pastor, Fr. Alexander MacDonald's Ordination to the Priesthood

Sun. May 16 FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- Congratulations today, Fr. Michael Lehman, CSB on your **34th Anniversary** of your Ordination to the Priesthood

Sun. May 23 FEAST OF PENTECOST

Mon. May 24 VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY

- Parish Office Closed for holiday

Thur. May 27 7:00pm Finance Council meets via Zoom

Sun. May 30 FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

- Bundle Up Sunday** for SVDP at St. Margaret's

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

MAY 2 – 7, 2021

Catholic Education Week 2021 begins on Sunday, May 2, 2021. The Catholic schools in our parish will engage in a series of events to celebrate the ongoing gift of publicly-funded Catholic education. You are invited to learn about the various celebrations that are happening in your children's school, and are welcome to attend, if possible. Publicly funded Catholic education has existed in Ontario since 1841 and its graduates have served Ontario and Canada very well. The current generation of students in our publicly funded Catholic schools will serve with the same spirit and generosity as their previous generations.

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, *"Nurturing Hope."*

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2021 was inspired by the following considerations:

- Recognition of the special Year of Laudato Si' which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, "On Caring for Our Common Home."
- In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020, *Igniting Hope*, which has served so well during the spring recess from in-

school instruction.

- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality to the spirit of Laudato Si.

The CEW biblical quote is, *“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.”* (Isaiah 40:31)

SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN 2021

Thank you very much for supporting the campaign. Thus far we have raised **\$13,174** toward our goal of **\$150,000**.

The pandemic has significantly impacted the needs of those suffering within our community, creating an increased demand for the work of our agencies, and more funding is required from the annual ShareLife appeal. It is greatest need we have ever witnessed, and we are being called to rise to challenge to support them. We know that you care about those in need and that every day you bear witness to the pain and suffering of those within your community. We thank you in advance for all that you currently do and all that you will do to promote the work of ShareLife-funded agencies this year.

Previous Results	Amount	Donors
2020	138,138	395
2019	148,555	821
2018	140,836	814
2017	146,628	802

WORDS TO WALK BY LOCK THE DOOR

"So, if the son frees, then you will be truly free."
John 8:36

Remember when you did *that*? It was awful and there are plenty of people to remind you of it. But the past is history. It can't be changed. It's your choice to either *live in it* or *leave it*. There are three ways to keep from getting stuck in the mud and mire of the past: *Face it. Replace it. Erase it.*

Face it. The past, though once real, is an illusion. Over and done. You have to stop carrying it around, talking about it, and allowing others to bring it up. Release its power. Say, "Yeah, I did that. But it doesn't define who I am now."

Replace it. Allow the wounds from the past to heal. Letting them fester only encourages more anger, resentment, bitterness, and hatred. Work toward peace with those who've hurt you. Replacing it means you no longer let the past infect the present.

Erase it. Read Philippians 3:13-14. Saint Paul demonstrates a healthy way to deal with the past. "Forget what lies behind you, but move forward to what lies ahead." It's called spiritual amnesia.

We are more than our yesterday; embrace this moment by giving it your full attention. Persevere, and resist being dragged back into your past.

Homework: Share these words with someone bogged down by the past: Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift – that's why they call it a present.

BY: **JOSEPH F. SICA**

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

Evening Prayers

Lord, Jesus, I dim my room and pray at my bedside as I did during childhood. The varied sounds of the closing day are now quiet, and silence invites me to prayer. Jesus, I offer thanks for your blessings of love and mercy. May this night's sleep be peaceful and may I be rested for another tomorrow on our journey to the heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Fr. James McKarns

Gracious God, my mind swirls with thoughts of everything left undone today. I am only one person, and a sinful one at that. Yet I long to serve you and those you put before me. Forgive my failure. Help me to rest in your loving care tonight. Renew and enliven me so that I may wake strengthened for your service and eager to try again. Amen

Karla Manternach

Lord of the mystery of time, as the moon rises I offer you thanks for every moment of this day. As I review my experiences, I notice what I am grateful for, what I'm sorry for and when I felt you close. I give you my tired body and ask for a peaceful rest, hoping to wake ready for a new beginning with you. Amen.

Sr. Julia Walsh, F.S.P.A.

From: **LIVING FAITH**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER FROM STEWARDSHIP

1st Reading: Acts 9.26-31

2nd Reading: 1 John 3.18-24

Gospel: John 15.1-8 – *Jesus the True Vine*

Abiding in Christ

In today's Gospel we are invited to reflect on the image of Jesus, the true vine. Jesus says "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." As stewards, there is much to be gleaned through reflecting on this passage.

Firstly, Jesus desires to abide in us. He does this whenever we receive Him in the Eucharist. In the same way, we are called to abide in Him by prayerfully placing our very selves in His presence, whether it's through praying in our rooms or before the Blessed Sacrament. This close relationship with

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Jesus is where our stewardship originates and is sustained. Jesus bluntly proclaims that we can do nothing without abiding in Him first.

As stewards, more than the actual works we perform, we are giving other people Christ through our time and talents. We can only give what we have first received. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that we focus on our prayer life above all. For example, before we plan on giving our time to a fellow parishioner and journeying with them, let us say a prayer asking God for the strength to work through us. Similarly, before we offer up our talents through various ministries in the parish, we should try to say a prayer asking that our works may point others to Christ, not to ourselves. Therefore, through abiding in Christ we may share His love and presence with others.

Summary

In today's Gospel Jesus says "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." We can abide in Jesus by placing ourselves in His presence whenever we pray and He likewise abides in us, especially through receiving Him in the Eucharist. This close relationship with Jesus is where our stewardship originates and is sustained so let us never fail to go to Him before we offer up our time and talents to the parish.

ONGOING DIRECTIVES

1. The **parish office is closed to the public**. Please contact us by phone only on: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:00am – 12noon, 1:00pm – 4:00pm or any day by e-mail at st.marg@sympatico.ca
2. **UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**
Obviously due to the present restrictions, it becomes even more important to have the e-mail addresses of as many parishioners as possible. If you or you know anyone who may not have already informed the parish office of your e-mail address, we strongly encourage you to contact the parish office during the above scheduled times!
3. **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) by appointment only**
4. **The Church dispensation** from attending Sunday Eucharist, for all the faithful, who are unable to attend Sunday Mass, continues throughout the covid-19 pandemic.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

We will continue to update you as the situation evolves, via our website and parish blast. We pray that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. May God continue to bless you now and always!

ANNUAL SOCK IT ME DRIVE

St. Margaret's is once again holding a drive in support of the Good Shepherd's ministry to Toronto's homeless men. This year most desperately needed items are **socks (white jogging socks) and underwear (size M-L)**. We are asking parishioners to bring donations of **NEW** socks and underwear on **Sat. May 8th & Sun. May 9th between 8:00am – 3:00pm** and just leave them in the parish hall.

The poor will be with us always but there's no reason they can't be with us with warm feet and clean undies!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A GIFT TO YOUR PARISH

Our Parish is where we are married and bring our children to be baptized. It is where we come to be fed in the Holy Eucharist, be reconciled with God and the world, and hope to leave this world on our final journey to meet the God that we love.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 25, 2021

Offertory	\$3,300	PAG	\$925
Budget	\$8,300		(\$4,075)

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO'S ONLINE SESSIONS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online quick access single sessions. The single-session consultation is a quick and effective way for individuals, couples or families to address a mental health or relationship concern. To arrange for a session, please contact: info@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 or 416-222-0048. Leave us a message with your name, email and phone number, and a staff person will contact you.

Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs. Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees.

IT'S HERE – OUR NEW WEBSITE

Take a peek! We encourage you to visit and explore our new website.

Our new website, aside from being aesthetically pleasing, is more interactive, AODA compliant and is easier to navigate. We are excited of the new experience, but we know there's still work to do. In the coming months, we hope to continue improving the site that it best serves how we communicate with you.

REQUEST FOR MASS INTENTIONS

When requesting Mass Intentions at the parish office, there are two types:

Announced Mass – a date is chosen due to availability and the name of the individual for whom the Mass is being said,

along with the name of the person/family requesting the Mass is posted in the bulletin during the week of requested Mass. (Donation \$20)

Unannounced Mass – there is no specific date given for when this Mass would be celebrated and the intention does not appear in the bulletin. (Donation \$10)

It is important to note that when requesting any **Announced Mass**, it is recommended that you contact the parish office as early as possible, as sometimes we have Masses scheduled two months in advance. For both kinds of requests, Mass cards are provided at the office for those making arrangements for these special Masses.

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in May 2021 & supports the bulletin service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-64-4422

BORN AGAIN BY PAT MARRIN

“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:6).

John 3:1-8

The design of Luke’s Gospel and Acts of the Apostles was once described as an hourglass on its side, with the narrative of Jesus life narrowing in focus to his death and then expanding again as the Apostles take the mystery of the resurrection and Pentecost into the world. Acts also

parallels the story of Jesus with the ministry of his disciples. What he did, they do. He healed the sick; the Apostles heal a cripple. He escaped from the tomb; they walk free from prison to proclaim the Gospel. Jesus is the beginning of a transformation meant to reach the ends of the earth. His death and resurrection offer the pattern for every Christian disciple.

The Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection is an event that reveals the promised passage from life through death to new life. Baptism ritualizes this life-long process of dying to self to live for others, the secret of how we reclaim our original state and the image and likeness of God. Jesus revealed what a human being is meant to be. Discipleship is about becoming our true selves. But this transformation is possible only by God’s gift. Grace perfects nature. We must be recreated by the Holy Spirit. It is like being reborn.

The fourth Gospel presents the brilliant scholar Nicodemus as someone who is still in darkness. He comes at night to encounter Jesus but cannot grasp how rebirth in the Spirit is



necessary to transcend his human limits. He cannot imagine an adult re-entering the womb to be born again. Yet this image describes the radical difference between material existence and new life in the Spirit. The scene described may well be a post-resurrection encounter as the faithful Pharisee stands at the threshold of transformation, struggling to grasp the new life Jesus is offering him. He represents the rabbinic Judaism being invited to faith in Christ. Christians are already living the resurrection even as they live in this world. They have passed from death to new life, now free to preach as the Apostles can, unafraid of any attempt to contain or intimidate them from proclaiming peace, justice and compassion.

Easter People are supposed to be daring, fearless and free. They have seen the end of the story in the middle, and they know that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus. What Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection is the Good News they now live and take to the ends of the earth.

FROM: **NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER**

TORONTO CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

One of our goals is to get our young people – Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike – involved in their community by realizing their God-given gifts and how they can use them to serve others. Thus, we invite you to share with your parishioners our series of forthcoming virtual talks by Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocations of the Archdiocese of Toronto, as part of our continuing diocesan celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Feel free to use the following materials:

- **Social media graphic:** <http://bit.ly/URGiftedtoGive-graphic>
- **Poster:** <http://bit.ly/URGiftedtoGive-poster>

Kindly consider including the following announcement in your parish bulletin:

“U R Gifted to Give!” Virtual Short Talks by Fr. Matthew “Matt” McCarthy

For the youth, young adults and young at hearts!
Every Saturday in May at 12 p.m., join Fr. Matt as he shares how YOU can discover your gifts and use them for God’s greater glory!

May 1: Discovering Your Gifts

May 8: The Purpose of Giving

May 15: Woundedness Is No Obstacle to Giving

May 22: Listening to the Spirit

View online at our website (www.ph500toronto.com), Facebook (www.facebook.com/500yocTO) or YouTube (<http://bit.ly/GiftedToGive>).

Kindly share. Please email questions to:

ph500@archtoronto.org. Thank you for your support!

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PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

FROM: FR. MATT McCARTHY, Director

On Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m., His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, will ordain our two transitional deacons, Rev. Mr. Arthur Lee and Rev. Mr. Andrew Taylor, with the Sacrament of Holy Orders as they become priests to the Archdiocese of Toronto. This wonderful event will take place at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica and the faithful are all encouraged to join us via the cathedral's livestream.

Rev. Mr. Arthur Lee was born in Quebec, moved to Oakville where he grew up. He attended Queen's University to study Mathematics and Engineering. Upon returning home from university, he became more involved in his church, St. Andrew Kim Parish, through the Choice Weekend, choir, Legion of Mary and bible study groups. He was asked by the associate priest if he ever thought about becoming a priest. Arthur entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2014.

Rev. Mr. Andrew Taylor, the fourth of eight children, was born in Barrie and grew up in Aurora in a home where the importance of faith, prayer and the sacraments were strongly emphasized. He attended Brebeuf College School. While in grade 10, Andrew encountered Christ through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist and began to hear a call to the priesthood. He began his formation at Serra House in 2011 and then joined St. Augustine's Seminary in 2015.

As a community of faith, let us offer our prayers for Arthur and Andrew as they are ordained to the priesthood. Let us also continue to pray for all those who are currently in formation to the priesthood at St. Augustine's Seminary and at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

LIVESTREAM: www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live

PRAYER VOCATIONS

O God, Who will not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

CHUCKLES FROM THE PEWS

True Story: "What do we really see?"

One weekend in Atlantic city, a woman won a bucketful of quarters at a slot machine. She wanted to stash the quarters in her room and carried the coin-laden bucket to the elevator. As she was about to walk into the elevator, she noticed two men already aboard. Both were black and one of them was big... very big. The woman froze. Her first thought was going

to rob me. Her next thought was... Don't be a bigot, they look like perfectly nice gentlemen. But racial stereotypes are powerful and fear immobilized her. She stood and stared at the two men.

She felt anxious, flustered and shamed. She hoped they couldn't read her mind – but gee – they had to know what she was thinking! Her hesitation about joining them in the elevator was all too obvious now. Her face was flushed. She just couldn't stand there, so with a mighty effort of will she picked up one foot and stepped forward and followed with the other foot and was on the elevator.

Avoiding any eye contact she turned around and faced the elevator doors as they closed. A second passed, then another. Her fear increased! The elevator didn't move! Panic consumed her. She thought "I'm trapped and about to be robbed!" Her heart plummeted. Perspiration poured from every pore.

Then one of the men said "hit the floor". Instinct told her to do what they told her. The bucket of quarters flew upward as she threw out her arms and collapsed on the elevator floor. A shower of coins rained down on her. Take my money and spare me, she prayed. More seconds passed. She heard one of the men say politely "Ma'am if you'll just tell us what floor you're going to, we'll push the button." The one who said it had a little trouble getting the words out. He was trying mightily to hold a belly laugh. The woman lifted her head and looked up at the two men. They reached down to help her up. Confused she struggled to her feet. "When I told my friend here to hit the floor" said the average sized one, I meant that he should hit the elevator button for our floor. I didn't mean for you to hit the floor ma'am." He bit his lip. It was obvious he was having a hard time not laughing. The woman thought, what a spectacle I have made of myself. She was too humiliated to speak. She wanted to blurt out an apology, but words failed her. How do you apologize to two perfectly respectable gentlemen for behaving as though they were going to rob you? The three of them gathered up the quarters and refilled the bucket. When the elevator arrived at her floor, they insisted on walking her to her room.

She seemed a little unsteady on her feet, and they were afraid she might not make it down the corridor.

At her door they bid her a good evening. As she slipped into her room, she could hear them roaring with laughter as they walked back to the elevator.

The next morning, flowers were delivered to her room – a dozen roses. Attached to each rose was a crisp one hundred dollar bill. The card said "Thanks for the best laugh we've had in years."

It was assigned,
Eddie Murphy
Michael Jordan

Stay Safe & God Bless