



“Together we are walking with our Lord and celebrating the spirit of St. Francis on a journey of worship, service, fellowship and peace”

May 2019

05/2019 ~ Issue 2



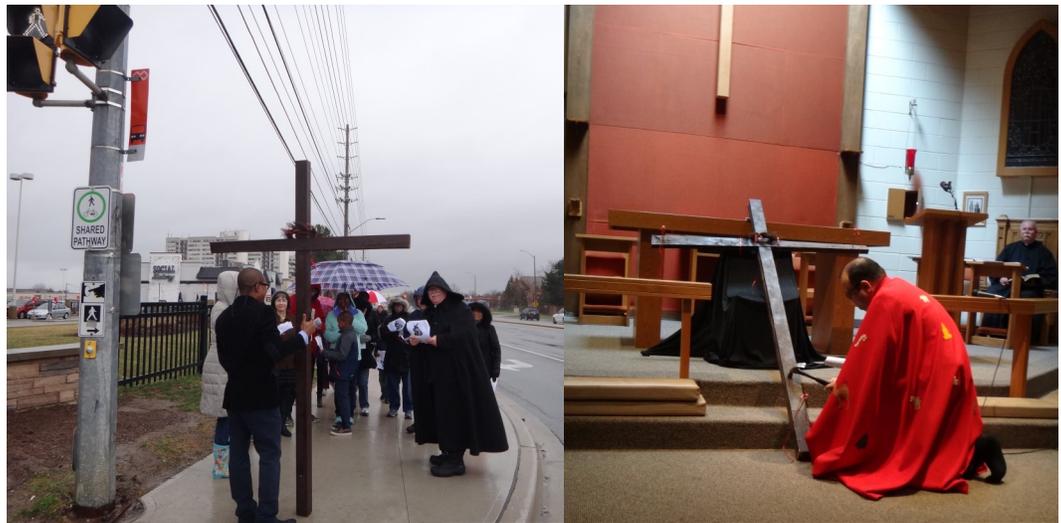
**St. Francis of Assisi
Anglican Church**
Meadowvale

The Franciscan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Father Jeff's Message	2
ACW	3
Lenten Study	4
Tea Party	6
Parking Lot	6
Pentecost	7
Calendar	8

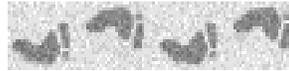
“The Lord is Risen Indeed!”



Weekly Programs

- Sundays**
8:30am Said Eucharist
- 10am Holy Eucharist with Sunday School, & Choir
- Mondays**
11am-12 Line Dancing with Sunny ~ \$5
- Wednesdays**
10am Communion and Prayers
- 10-11:30 Yoga with Margaret ~ \$5
- Thursdays**
7:30-9pm Choir Practice

Holy Week held many special moments We hope you got to experience many of our services remembering the death and resurrection of our Lord! Pictures clockwise from top left: Rainy Good Friday Walk; Solemn Service on Good Friday afternoon; Foot Washing, Sunrise Service Easter Morning, The EMPTY TOMB, Father Jeff and the children talking on Easter morning



And What Shall We Speak?

Father Jeff

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the time has come for each of us to assess who we are as human beings, as people of Faith, as citizens of Canada and as Christians who follow our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. I believe it is no longer an option for us to be silent when we hear a conversation at home, in the office, among our friends, in the Church, at the grocery store or at the clubs we belong to that even in the slightest way are racist or filled with hate because of judgments made concerning another's Faith or Culture.



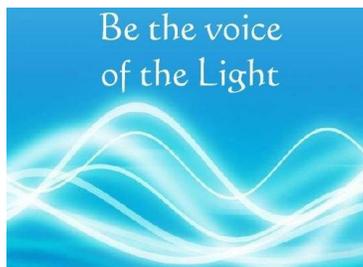
Too much has taken place over the past year that has revealed the deep rooted Hate and Racism that has reared its' ugly head in violent attacks on vulnerable, innocent people, many of whom have been at prayer during the time of a violent attack. The attack on the Jews during Sabbath Prayers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, the attack on the Muslims during Friday Prayers in the Mosques in New Zealand and now the attack on the Christians during Easter Services in the Churches and Restaurants in Sri Lanka, not to mention the attack on the Mosque in Quebec City in 2017. It is clear that these acts of terror do not represent anyone of Faith, but as my friend Imam Suliman of the Meadowvale Islamic Center spoke at a recent gathering: "acts of terror are perpetrated by people with an Ideology." An ideology of racism and hate that does not want Unity but wants to undermine any semblance that we as human beings can and desire to be at Peace with one another, allowing and accepting as valid and genuine each ones expression of Faith and Culture. It is difficult for us to comprehend why an atrocious act of violence like these ones are ever perpetrated. So, how do we respond?

It is said that we cannot change anyone else but that we can only change ourselves.

I remember back in the days when I was a young leader of a Youth Group in Woodbridge. One of the main concerns of the youth who were all in High School was when they felt discounted by others or put down by others even by their own peers. They felt like they didn't matter. Unfortunately that kind of behaviour toward another can spread like wildfire and totally destroy a person's feeling of self-worth. And I have seen this kind of behaviour in adults as well. There is nothing more destructive than a snide remark made about someone in the presence of others. That is how resentment grows, that is how mistrust begins, that is how hatred and racism develops and it gets worse if it goes unchecked. I used to advise the members of the Youth Group to speak up and say that they didn't agree with what was said about a particular person or group. I told them that I knew it was a hard thing to do, to stand up for something and against someone else by speaking out against a perceived wrong. But, it needs to happen. It needed to happen back then and it needs to happen now, today.

And what shall we speak?

Well, I don't think that we should be speaking words that will start a fight. I think that the words we speak should reflect our different perspective as people who follow Jesus. We are called to speak words that will teach and not judge, that will build people up and not knock them down. We speak words of Love, of Inclusion, of Respect, of Peace, of Understanding. We speak words that are thoughtful, kind, gentle but firm, hopeful and filled with compassion. We speak words that invite people in to the conversation, that are welcoming to the discussion. We look to Jesus who is our model of behaviour. Jesus cared for the outcast, engaged the participation of the lowly and lifted them up. Jesus loved those who were seen by others as unlovable. Jesus respected the dignity of every human being. Jesus healed the sick, ate and drank with outcasts and sinners, opened the eyes of the blind and preached Good News to the poor and all those who were in need. This is what we are called to speak! This is who we are called to become!



It all starts with us. As the light of God's Love continues to transform and change our lives and our perspectives then maybe, just maybe others might be influenced by the Light that is within us that shines bright enough for others to notice the difference in our lives. Then, maybe then, the Light of God's Love will change the world and we will all enjoy Peace.

May God continue to bring Blessings to us and our world this Eastertide.

Father Jeff



ACW ~ Corporate Communion

Roxana Simmons

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our Corporate Communion that was held on Wednesday May 1st. Special thanks to the men of the parish that joined in celebrating this awesome sisterhood at St. Francis. We shared a beautiful evening of worship. Thanks also to Doreen Thompson for sharing her impressions of her year spent abroad teaching in Egypt ~ a year filled with a call from God, acclimatizing to new surroundings, and different customs, walking through the Bible and missing home.

We also paid tribute to the women of St Francis who have passed. There was a memory table with photos and we lit candles and prayed in thanksgiving for their time here with us.

Looking forward - don't forget our Drum Circle on Tuesday May 28 (there is a cost of \$15—call Diane, Roxana or Vanna). And any ladies looking for an afternoon of fellowship please join the Knitting Circle on Thursdays at 1 pm. Location is always posted on the Facebook page or call any of the executive.



Left: Thanks to all who planned and participated

Below: Doreen at the Pyramids



Messy Church

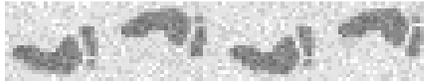
It's always a lot of fun to experience Worship in a very different way. It is fun to put stories and themes into a perspective that young people can understand. How about Jesus as a Super Hero? That's something that a lot of us can relate to. Kids and parents had great fun at Messy Church ~ singing, hearing stories, making crafts and helping repair our tomb in advance of Holy Week. Thanks to all who helped make this possible and for the cool super hero pictures that were posted on Facebook. Nobody ever said church can't be fun!



Campus Clean Up Day



April 27, 2019 ~ Many Hands Make Light Work



Lenten Study Reflections

Mabel Law

We explored the main theological expressions of our faith: the Human Condition, God's Action in Biblical History, Incarnation, Who is Jesus? Salvation, Grace and Mercy, Free Will, Sacrifice, Atonement and Resurrection. We learned about the salvation history through Father Jeff's mentorship.

*The human condition is the characteristics, key events, and situations which compose the essentials of human existence, including birth, growth, emotionality, goals and aspirations, conflicts and mortality. It is in this dynamic human journey of the "good and evil" in our make-up – that we are created in the image of God, but yet we possess vulnerabilities and we experience suffering when we fall into brokenness, which can give us special meaning in life as we are raised up again.

*Through incarnation, Jesus took on a human body and became both truly man and truly God, so we are apt to pray: "God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life".

*With salvation, we receive deliverance from sin and its consequences by faith in Christ through penitence, and therefore we are cleansed and renewed.

*In His grace and mercy, God doesn't only not punish us as our sins deserve, but He also delivers us from judgment. He blesses us despite the fact we don't deserve it, while extending kindness to us who are unworthy. The grace of God comes in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

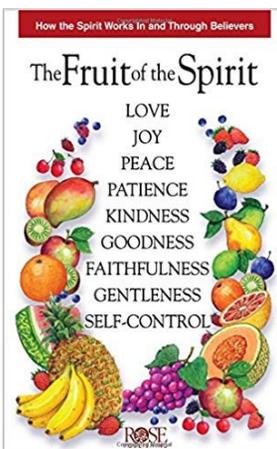
*Free will means self determination. True freedom of faith allows us to let God change our nature and free us from sin, in order to help us gain righteousness.

*God's ultimate gift or perfect sacrifice to us has shown His willingness to give up His only begotten son in the death of Jesus Christ for the redemption of our sins.

*There is reconciliation of God and humanity through Jesus Christ in atonement.

*With resurrection, Jesus rose up to heaven in confirmation that our sins have been forgiven and we are born to new life.

In studying the Nine Fruits of the Spirit by Robert Strand this year, I'm beginning to have a deeper understanding of what being "in Christ" means through Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self control. Throughout Lent and in our lives, it behooves us to demonstrate self control and make sacrifices to help others in carrying out God's work on earth. Self control involves the proper use of freedoms. This translates into personal struggles to follow life principles and make the best possible decisions. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." (Titus 2: 11-12) "I have fought a good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day." (2 Timothy 4:7-8) Patience requires us to be long enduring with focus and fortitude. "The Lord longs to be gracious to you, He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" (Isaiah 30:18) By living life in a hurried frenzy out of control, we live the opposite of the life example Jesus Christ set before us.



There is a kind of distinction we, as Christians, must draw in a dark world. Jesus said we are to be the "light of the world" in contrast to the darkness of this worldly system. The measuring rod and standards have been instituted by God and not by humans. God is the measure of all things, including goodness and what it means – a harvest of the spirit working in our daily living. Faith is the virtue by which clinging to the faithfulness of God, we lean upon Him, so that we may obtain what He gives to us. (William Ames, English philosopher) The person who has been really "gentled" by God, who is in the image of God in meekness, is the person who is directed by God. The goal is to allow the spirit of God to work on us, conforming us to His image. "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul." (Matthew 11:28-29) "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and anyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)



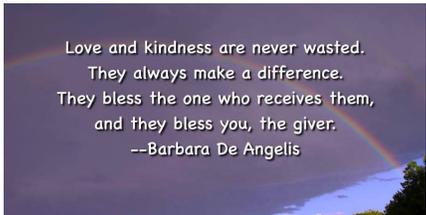
Reflections continued

One of the characteristics of a Christian is inward joy, even under difficult circumstances. There will be a joyful heart and a radiant face. The joy of Jesus consisted in doing His Father’s will and work. When His work took Him in contact with the lost, there was joy in finding them, bringing them back. This was carried through in at least 3 parables which Jesus told – the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son. The guilty soul and conscience can only find peace by being made right with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God’s beloved son. The fruit of the spirit is peace – to be one with oneself again. According to American writer Barbara de Angelis, love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless the giver. Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns. “There is one word which may serve as a rule of practice for one’s life – reciprocity”. (Confucius, Chinese philosopher) Small gestures can reap huge blessings. This is reciprocity at its best! We can do so much through stewardship in providing time, money, talents and prayers.

In St. Francis News, during the season of Lent which extends to our daily lives, we are called to be more reflective, more prayerful, more penitent and more generous. At Vestry, we pledged to work for social justice by engaging with Eden Food For Change. We asked parishioners, each Sunday in Lent, to fill our Food Basket with “most needed” items on the food bank’s list. On Sunday March 10th Lent 1, we were able to fill our food basket with breakfast items – donations of cereal, oatmeal and juice etc. The food was prayed over as part of our offering and was donated to Eden Food for Change to help feed those in need in our own neighbourhood. Other essential items would be identified on a weekly basis. “For it is in the giving that we receive”. (St. Francis of Assisi) This is the time to embrace the Nine Fruits of the Spirit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In Beliefnet.com, it highlights how the Holy Spirit is working hard in our lives. Its power is an active force, a guide, a comfort, a counsel and a lead. This gift is a privilege given to those who place their faith in God. “May the Holy Spirit of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him”. (Roman 15:13)

At the service on March 3, 2019, God’s grace, mercy and glory were reinforced in a hymn, a bible reading and the sermon. Thank you Lord for blessing us with seeing Your Glory every day. “Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy, send forth Your word Lord and let there be light”. (Hymn #460 Shine, Jesus, Shine) In April’s Anglican Journal, Bishop Mark McDonald talked about “sacrificial love as found in all things, all elements of Creation, and at the heart of all that is life giving.....from birth to death, all creatures find their purpose, meaning and hope.....” What Jesus means most to me is I feel protected by His love, grace and mercy, and blessed with overwhelming thankfulness and joy!

Many blessings for a season of gratitude and sharing.....Blessed Easter Season to all!



Pancake Supper



Shrove Tuesday (or FAT Tuesday) was a great night to eat pancakes at St. Francis at our annual Pancake Supper. This year it was hosted by our youth who were out in force. They donated the proceeds to the Parking Lot Fund. It is awesome to continue a parish tradition in sweet style!





Afternoon Tea Fundraiser



May 4 saw St Francis parishioners host an afternoon tea. It was a super fund raiser which included a delicious tea (provided by table hosts), music by Ardeleana and comedy by Patrick Hays. Table hosts outdid themselves! Guests got into the spirit with hats and fascinators. Rounding out the afternoon were 10 tables of vendors and door prize give aways!

Parking Lot News



Believe it or not, the contract for our new parking lot is being signed! The hope is to have the work completed in the summer. Thanks to everyone who raised funds or made donations specifically for this much needed repair. To date, we have raised almost all the money required for our share (\$23,000 out of the \$27,000 needed) and (at publishing time) the financial results of the Tea Fundraiser were not yet in.

Dreams are really coming true at St Francis!



Happy Birthday *(Acts Chapter 2)*



Pentecost is known as “the birthday of the church” and as with many other significant Christian holidays, it’s beginnings are on a Jewish holiday. There was a Festival of the Harvest (mentioned several times in the first books of the Old Testament) that occurred fifty days after Passover. It more closely resembled our Thanksgiving as people came from all around to Jerusalem to give thanks for the early wheat harvest.

The disciples were there and while they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was promised by God through the prophet Joel (*“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”* ~ Joel 2:28-29) The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation! People were amazed and listened to their accounts and at the end of the day about 3,000 had been converted. Jesus had previously told his disciples that this day would come and that, through the Spirit they would be confident and would remember all he had said (*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”* ~ John 14:6.)

The symbols of Pentecost are therefore the dove descending, wind, flames and the fiery colour red. When you observe our hangings in church at Pentecost, or sing a hymn like Breathe on me Breath of God, think about that day and remember that the spirit works in each of us. The spirit is our fire, our passion, our understanding of the faith we embrace, our ability to share that faith story. May the fire burn in you. Happy Pentecost! Happy Birthday!



Food Basket



At Vestry in February, we voted to support social justice in our local area by continuing our relationship with Eden Food for Change (our local Food Bank). We currently provide space for Eden to distribute their weekly Fresh Produce Boxes and have a basket at the foot of our altar for donations which are picked up weekly.

During Lent, we took up a challenge to FILL that basket and help people in our own neighbourhood. Each week we selected an item from the “most needed” list and focused our giving in that area. The generosity and caring of our parishioners was visible each week as the basket overflowed.

Although our weekly Lenten Challenge is finished, our commitment to outreach in our community has not. Please remember those in need and contribute to the basket regularly.

Stewardship Campaign

June 2, 2019

Following a fantastic Stewardship Kick off presentation, please remember that the Wardens are looking for your returned commitment card no later than Sunday June 2, 2019. Whether you are on PAG, use envelopes or free offering, please complete a card!



Pentecost Prayer Breakfast

June 8, 2019



You’re invited to our annual Pentecost Prayer breakfast to be held Saturday June 8 at the

church. It starts at 10 am and tickets are \$10 a person. Our guest speaker will be the new minister at Eden United Church ~ Rev. Jeff Smith. Tickets are available now.

Church Picnic

June 16, 2019

Join us for outdoor worship and our annual Church Picnic on Sunday June 16 at Meadowvale Conservation Area (Area C ~ down by the river). Worship will start at 10:30 and there will be a regular 8:30 service at the church that day as well. Link to a map is on our website.



VBS

August 19 ~ 23

Once again we will be holding Vacation Bible School for kids 4 ~ 12 the week of Aug 19 ~ 23. This year’s theme is ROAR! VBS runs each weekday from 9 ~ 12. Invite your grandkids, cousins and neighbours to come and have fun while praising God! Registration later in the Spring





Together we Stand

There is an amazing sense of acceptance, respect and solidarity among faith groups in Mississauga and specifically in our own Meadowvale/Erin Mills areas. A group called Voice of Canadian Citizens has helped pull people of all religious backgrounds together to promote peace and inclusivity and reject violence.

In March, St Francis opened it's doors for a gathering "United in Love" meant to honor Muslim victims of religious violence in New Zealand and to continue a positive dialogue centered on acceptance. In April there was an event at Celebration Square by City Hall in support of Christians in Sri Lanka which Father Jeff attended.

In a continuing effort to cement a strong alliance, members of the Meadowvale Islamic Centre joined us at St Francis for Worship the following Sunday. May God keep our hearts and minds open to His message of love and may we celebrate the things that make us different and know the solidarity and support of the things that keep us the same.



Celebration Square, Mississauga

Let Your Light So Shine



In baptism, we are received into the Household of God and given the light of Christ to show that we have passed from darkness into light.

On April 28, we welcomed four new young people into God's household.

Let Your Light So Shine!

Above is sweet baby Benjamin Lyndel Luciuk Tubbs (grandson of Lorraine Palmer)

~ ~ ~

To the right one of our newest families with three awesome children baptised
Emmanuel Oluebube Konyeha
David Cinedum Konyeha
Glory Chimzaram Konyeha



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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"Make me a channel of your peace."

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.STFRANCISAOFM.ORG

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Mark Your Calendar!



May 28, 2019	ACW Drum Circle (tickets required)	6:30 pm
June 2, 2019	Stewardship Pledge Cards Due	~ ~
June 8, 2019	Pentecost Prayer Breakfast (tickets available ~ \$10)	10 am ~ 12 noon
June 9, 2019	Celebration of Pentecost: Wear red!	Services at 8:30 am 10 am
June 16, 2019	Picnic Meadowvale Conservation Area C In Church Service	8:30 (in church) 10:30 (at picnic site)
June 30 ~ July 31	Father Jeff+ on vacation Rev Vernal Savage July 14, 21 @ 10 am	10 am Morning Prayer June 30, July 7, 28
August 19 ~23	Vacation Bible School daily	9 am ~ 12 noon
August 24	Annual Walk A Thon	10 am

