



# St. Joan of Arc

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## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Anish Alex  
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Mrs. Joanna Harshman  
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Mr. Arturo Gonzalez  
Religious Education  
Contact (Ext 1003)  
[religioused@joanofarc.ca](mailto:religioused@joanofarc.ca)

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers  
Call the office

Eucharistic Ministers  
Catrina Bova

Lectors:  
Genia Vanderkruk  
10:00AM Choir  
Susan McElcheran  
Rehearsal: Thursday 7:30 PM  
12:00 Noon Choir

Greeters/Ushers: Call the office

## CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Monday - Saturday

5:30 PM

Sunday

10:00 AM

12:00 PM

## CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
or by appointment.

## BAPTISMS

Arrangements are made through the  
Religious Education office. Couples  
expecting a child are encouraged to  
contact the office before the child is  
born. Please contact Ext 1003, for  
more information.

## MARRIAGE

Please contact Fr. Anish at least one  
year prior to the planned wedding date.

## Pastoral Visitation of the Sick:

To arrange for a visit  
Call the office Ext 1007

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
10:00am to 3:30pm  
Wednesdays - Closed

## ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League  
4th Monday of the Month

Children's Liturgy  
10:00 AM Mass

Creation Care Ministry  
2nd Tuesday of each month 7pm.

Development and Peace  
[www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)  
3rd Monday of the month 7:00 PM

Merrymakers  
3rd Thursday of the month 12:00 PM

Knights of Columbus  
1st Thursday of the Month

Parish Council  
Every two months

St. Vincent de Paul Society  
2nd Saturday of the Month 4:00 PM



## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Monday, September 15**

5:30pm Int. of Maria de Lourdes

### **Tuesday, September 16**

5:30pm Fernando Trillo †

### **Wednesday, September 17**

5:30pm For the Parish Community

### **Thursday, September 18**

5:30pm For the Sick of our Parish  
Community

### **Friday, September 19**

5:30pm For the Deceased of our  
Parish Community

### **Saturday, September 20**

5:30pm Rose Di Tommaso †

### **Sunday, September 21**

10am Int. of Arturo Gonzalez

12pm For the Parish Community

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### **WE PRAY FOR:**

#### **The Sick**

Maryann Chard, Mary Kelly  
Mark Szuba, Anne Szuba  
Ted Daniel, Laura Gill,  
Sylvia Casper, Cecilia Salazar

#### **The Deceased**

Beverly Johnson  
Genoveffa Farenga  
Aldo Canino  
Rose Di Tommaso  
Lena Duffy



## *The Pastor's Nook*

### **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Our Sign of Victory**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a day that reminds us of the mystery of God's love revealed in the most unexpected of ways. Once a symbol of curse, shame, and humiliation, the Cross has now become the supreme sign of salvation, victory, and hope. As St. Paul tells us: "By becoming a curse for us, Christ has redeemed us from the curse" (Gal 3:13). What once meant death now means eternal life, for "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

The Cross teaches us that love transforms suffering. Jesus did not flee from the cross; He embraced it in humility, patience, and love. St. Andrew of Crete beautifully said: "We are celebrating the feast of the Cross, through which darkness was banished and light returned."

### **The Sign of the Cross – A Daily Profession of Faith**

When we trace the sign of the cross on ourselves at the beginning and end of prayer, we are not performing a mere ritual. We are sealing ourselves with Christ's victory. Tertullian, one of the early Church Fathers, wrote: "At every step, when we come in and go out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, sit at table, light the lamps, on couch, on seat, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign." The Cross sanctifies our lives and reminds us that we belong to Christ.

### **Wearing and Placing the Cross – A Witness of Faith**

When we wear the cross, hang it in our homes, place it in our cars, or lift it high in our Churches, it is not simply decoration. The Cross is a proclamation that Christ is Lord of that place. It is a silent yet powerful witness that "we are not ashamed of the Gospel" (Rom 1:16). The Cross protects, blesses, and calls to mind that our daily lives must reflect Christ's sacrifice. St. John Vianney said: "The cross is the ladder to heaven." Every time we look at it, we are reminded to lift our hearts upward.

### **Carrying Our Daily Cross – Following Jesus**

Jesus tells us: "If anyone wants to be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Lk 9:23). This daily cross is not simply suffering for the sake of suffering—it is the sacrifice of love, the offering of our hardships, inconveniences, and trials united with Christ's own suffering for the salvation of the world. St. Rose of Lima reminds us: "Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven."

### **The Cross as Victory, Not Defeat**

The world often sees suffering as failure, but the Cross tells another story. The Cross is the throne where Jesus reigned, conquering sin and death. As St. John Chrysostom proclaimed: "The Cross is the hope of Christians, the staff of the lame, the comfort of the poor, the destruction of the proud, and the victory over demons."

## Ordinary Time Sunday

So let us not be ashamed of the Cross, but exalt it in our homes, our families, and in our hearts. Let us begin and end our days with the sign of the cross, wear it with reverence, and carry it daily with courage. For in the Cross we discover the deepest truth of our faith: **"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world."**

**JESUS I TRUST IN YOU**

Fr. Anish Alex



### Prayer Walk in High Park on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>

On Sunday September 21st after the 10 AM mass and coffee ministry join Creation Care Ministry on a prayer walk of gratitude and care for creation through High Park. All are welcome to the opening prayer outside the main Church doors. The park trail afterwards is not accessible for people with mobility challenges. Please see Creation Care Ministry's bulletin board in the hall for details including a map. If you would like to participate, drop by our table in the hall next Sunday to check in with us and ask any questions. Visit Creation Care Ministry's website at [www.bit.ly/sjaccm](http://www.bit.ly/sjaccm) to find suggested ways to pray, learn and take action during this Season of Creation.

"Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually"... Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

Pope Francis' letter *On Care for Our Common Home*, *Laudato Si'* #92.

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

We will hold our next Bundle Weekend will be October 4/5, 2025. We will accept gently used clothes and household items. Truck will be in the corner of the parking lot for that weekend.

### Attention Vincentians

We will hold our first Fall meeting on September 13th at 4:00 pm.

### Merrymakers's Lunch

There will be no Merrymakers's Lunch for September due to unforeseen circumstances. The lunches will resume on Wednesday, October 16. We apologize for the inconvenience.

We will continue the lunches on October 16. Sorry for the inconvenience.

### **Your Gifts to God (\$)**

...for September 6/7

<b>Expenses</b>	7,288
Envelopes	1,760
Loose	866
PAG (wk)	1,814
Online	38
TipTap	155
<b>**Received</b>	<b>4,633</b>
Short	2655

\*\* We require \$7288 a week (\$31,500 a month) to cover our basic parish expenses.

Your generosity helps us to make our community alive through various liturgies and many outreach initiatives.

**Thank you** for your support.

### **SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE**

September 15 -  
Development & Peace  
Caritas Canada meeting  
(7pm /Meeting Room)

September 21 – Prayer  
Walk in High Park –  
Creation Care

September 28 – Climate  
Change Solidarity with  
Global South Bishops

September 28 – Fair Trade  
Weekend

More info at [joanofarc.ca](http://joanofarc.ca).

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