



**Looking at the
Text of the Roman Missal
The Sign of Peace**

Why don't we have the Sign of Peace at the beginning of Mass to show that we want to be friends with each other and that we are sorry for any hurt we have done? Surely this is what Jesus is talking about when he says that if we approach the altar while not at peace with our brother or sister then we should leave and be reconciled first. (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 23-24).

It is true that as we come to Mass we should seek forgiveness and be reconciled with those around us. For this reason we have the Penitential Rite at the start of Mass. Are we thinking about this again as we offer each other the Sign of Peace?

The real idea behind the Sign of Peace is recalled in the prayer that comes before it. This speaks of Jesus' own words about peace. He said 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives (John Chapter 14 verse 27). This peace we cannot give to each other; only he can give it. It is a special kind of peace.

Christ's Peace is not only about human beings making up in reconciliation. We know that the Hebrew word for peace is 'shalom' but this greeting that was used every day had a special meaning when spoken by the Messiah.

His 'Shalom' is not just a standard greeting said without thinking. His 'Shalom' is the gift of everlasting peace, the gift of salvation.

In ancient times the question was asked why we don't have the Sign of Peace earlier in our Mass so that we can show our willingness to forgive each other. Pope Innocent I wrote in 416AD, 'it is clear that by the Peace the people give their consent to everything that has been performed in the mysteries and celebrated in church, and acknowledge their completion by the seal of the concluding Peace'.

This gesture in the Communion Rite emphasizes that what we share is Christ's Peace celebrated at every Mass. It is his salvation won for us by his death and resurrection and made present to us on the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer. The Sign of Peace is more than a simple 'wish you well'. As we say to each other 'Peace', 'the Peace of Christ', or similar words, what we share is a gift from Jesus. There is a great solemnity to it and a deep joy. This is not about trying to shake everybody's hand or including lengthy singing about peace. It is like Holy Communion itself; it is a most profound moment shown under the simplest signs.

Save the Date...

June 8-10, 2012

Catholic Charismatic Conference
Franciscan University ~ Steubenville, Ohio

- For adults ages 18+
- Current Canadian passport required
- Transportation by Coach Bus

**Registrations January-April 2012
for early bird discounts**

First come, first served as this notice is also published
in surrounding parishes

For more information contact Vicky: vjsea@yahoo.ca

READY FOR PRE AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)?

Many thriving parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto and across North America have been using Pre-authorized giving (**PAG**) for years. We are preparing to launch it here at St. Benedict. **PAG** is an easier, more convenient way for us to support our parish. **PAG** allows you to authorize your financial support to be directly transferred from your bank account to St. Benedict's. **PAG** is a better way to make your regular contributions, including the Weekly Sunday Offertory Collection, ShareLife, Shepherd Trust and other collections, including our Capital Campaign. **PAG** is attractive because:

- Set up is free, quick and easy.
- Saves you time in the morning so that you are not running around looking for money or cheques.
- Allows you to have a copy of your donations on a month to month basis allowing for more efficient budgeting through your banking records.
- Eliminates the risk of carrying money around.
- Allows you to focus on prayer, and eliminates the need to rummage through your wallet during mass.
- Allows you to support your parish even if you are unable to attend mass. Just as our personal homes are maintained and secured while we are away from them; **PAG** allows our spiritual home to be maintained as well even when we can't be there.
- Absolutely safe and secure.

More information to follow in the coming weeks.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2012

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Come and join us in prayer with His Grace Archbishop Thomas Collins, joined by His Grace Anglican Archbishop Colin Johnson, Lutheran Bishop Michael Pryse, Slovak Catholic Bishop John Pazak and other city-wide religious leaders on:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 ~ 3:00 P.M.

St. Michael's Cathedral

200 Church Street (at the corner of Shuter & Church Streets)

Refreshments to follow in parish hall

For further information, please contact the Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs at 416-934-3400 ext. 344.

**ST. DOMINIC SAVIO SQUIRE
CIRCLE MEETING**

**this Evening
SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH**

Executive Meeting 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Circle Business Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Parish Hall

ARE YOU AN ORGAN DONOR?

“Organ donation is a peculiar form of witness to charity. In a period like ours, often marked by various forms of selfishness, it is ever more urgent to understand how the logic of free giving is vital to a correct conception of life. Indeed, a responsibility of love and charity exist that commits one to make of their own life a gift to others, if one truly wishes to fulfill oneself. As the Lord Jesus has taught us, only whoever gives his own life can save it (cf. Lk 9: 24).” – Pope Benedict XVI

One organ and tissue donor can save up to 8 lives and enhance the lives of 75 others. Register today at BeADonor.ca. You can also visit www.archtoronto.org/organdonation for additional resources.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION CAPITAL FUND TARGET: \$760,000

SUNDAY OFFERING	\$7,054	SECOND COLLECTION	\$ 685.50
Average Env. Donation	\$11.45	ENVELOPE COLLECTION	\$1,087.00
NEW YEAR'S DAY	\$4,548	TOTAL	\$337,687.25

Thank you for your ongoing generous support!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 9

8:00am Carlo DeMonte by wife & family

Tuesday, January 10

7:30pm Silvestro & Felicia Pietrangelo by Bancheri family

Wednesday, January 11

8:00am Max Haunn by Jean & family

Thursday, January 12

8:00am Dec members of Malloy family by Benedict Malloy

Friday, January 13

8:00am Dec members of Gordon family by Celia Gordon

Saturday, January 14

8:00am Dec members of Policaro family by Nano family

5:00pm Carmela Ponzo by Ponzo family

Sunday, January 15

8:00am Antonio Galati by family

9:30am Teresa Pellegrina by family

9:30am For the People

11:00am John Duda by Joseph & Marianne Gaglia

12:45pm Maria Isopo by Clara



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD, ESPECIALLY:

ALBERTO D'ORSOGNA & EDUARDO CRISOSTOMO



**ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL
BUNDLE SUNDAY**

JANUARY 21 & 22

A truck will be parked in the back parking lot from early Saturday morning to late Sunday evening. Men's clothing, ladies wear, children's wear

baby clothes, coats, boots, shoes, bedding, drapes, toys, household goods, accessories and books will be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: NO MATTRESSES, BABY FURNITURE OR APPLIANCES ACCEPTED. For more information:

www.svdptoronto.org.

**MARIAN EUCHARISTIC
INTERCESSORS (MEI)**

meet in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel to pray for personal intentions and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, on Mondays (8-9pm), Thursdays (9-10am, 8-9pm), Saturdays (10-11am). All are most welcome to join us.