# A Note from Our Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings from India.



I trust that you had a great Easter filled with joy. May the resurrection of our Lord give us hope in struggles and uncertainties.

I also hope that you were happy to be back in the church for the Holy Week as you saw the progress in the renovation project. My immense gratitude to our contractor Peter Chaberski, the Carpentry team, SFX Guild, and other volunteers in their efforts for the effective, although partial completion of the project to resume the liturgical services in the church.

In my 25 years of ministry in the Archdiocese, it was the first time that I was away from my parish during Holy Week and Easter. It was a very difficult decision, but I managed to join you virtually and spiritually at various celebrations.

Thanks to Fr. Eduardo, Fr. Dominic, Msgr. Thomas, Deacons Anthony, and Ryan, Parish Secretary Joanita Miranda, altar servers, choirs, EMOHCs, the decoration team, lectors, sacristans, and ushers for your wholehearted help and leadership.

Some of you might be asking: "Why is Fr. James taking this long to come back after the funeral?" Here in Kerala, there are traditions and rituals we observe after the death of a family member. We celebrate 7 consecutive days of Mass and cemetery visits. The immediate family also observes the next 41 days offering special prayers including daily Mass and acts of charity for the remission and forgiveness of the deceased's sins. The 41-day observance signifies the Ascension of our Lord to heaven after His Resurrection.

Still during this time, the parish priest visits the family to offer condolences and special prayers. After the prayers, the white veil which covered the bed of the deceased is removed. This signifies that through the intercessory prayers and penance, the deceased becomes worthy of heaven.

I will be returning soon and joining my family only spiritually. Once again, I take this opportunity to thank you for all your prayers, support, and consoling words.

May the Lord bless us all.

Fr. James Cherickal

#### CWL Food Drive

April 15, 2023 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm April 16, 2023 from 7:00am to 2:30pm **LOCATION:** Church Parking Lot

#### PROCEEDS WILL GO TO:

★ Monetary Donations to Missionaries of Charity
★ Food Donations to the Good Shepherd Ministries

#### National March for Life

26th NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE: Stand Firm

WE STAND FIRM for the pre-born, mothers in crisis pregnancies, those targeted due to disability and the elderly in hospitals and care homes. We march in solidarity with the vulnerable

COME MARCH WITH US On May 11, 2023 Bus leaving for Ottawa at 630am from St. Francis Xavier Parish • \$40.00 Contact: stephengomes@hotmail.com • 905-8679197

## **Mass of Welcome**

Mass of Welcome for Toronto's New Archbishop His Excellency Francis Leo

May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm ♦ St. Francis Xavier Parish, Mississauga

## **Recruiting Altar Servers**

#### Volunteer Hours will be Provided

Must be in grade 5 or higher Next meeting: April 29, 2023 at 3pm



CWL Mother's Day Flower Sale Catholic Women's League Council 3067





The CWL would like to wishes all mothers a Happy Mother's Day! Let us appreciate the wonderful women in our lives while supporting the CWL

# The Catechism Corner (\*)

## **Q:** What are the characteristics of faith?

A: Faith is the supernatural virtue which is *necessary* for salvation. It is a *free gift* of God and is accessible to all who humbly seek it. The act of faith is *a human act*, that is, an act of the intellect of a person- prompted by the will moved by God – who freely assents to divine truth. Faith is also *certain* because it is founded on the Word of God: it *works* "through charity" (Gal 5:6); and it *continually grows* through listening to the Word of God and through prayer. It is, even now, *a foretaste* of the joys of heaven. cccB 153-165, 179-180, 183-184

Does your ministry have any info or news to share? Contact: sfxbulletin5650@gmail.com a week in advance



Thank you very much for supporting our parish's ShareLife campaign. Thus far we have raised \$25 315.50 toward our goal of \$141 400.00 Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.