

SAMUEL! SAMUEL!

The first reading of the Liturgy of the Word for this Sunday, brings us one of the stories, which I believe to be one of the most revealing and intriguing story in the Bible. The poor mother Hanna was practically thrown out of the temple by the priest Eli, because he thought she was drunk early morning. You remember that she was praying to God asking for a son, whom she would have consecrated to God. Today we read exactly the passage when that baby, Samuel, is serving the old priest Eli. For three times the Lord is calling in the night the baby and only at the third time the priest Eli realizes that it is God calling. Finally the child is instructed to answer the call and he becomes a prophet of God.

A few basic conclusions: God calls most of his servants at a very young age. Only sometimes He calls later in life, like St. Paul. 2 – The vocation of the child is many times incubated in the heart of the mother. 3 – Formation and support for vocations has to come from the family and the community at large. 4 – Sometimes God has to repeat a few times His call, in order to be understood. 5 – A Spiritual Director is essential in order to discern the calling of God.

Now, what can we say about the vocation crisis in our Church today? These are my reflections: 1 – We are not praying and asking enough for vocations in our communities. 2 – Probably God is expecting the priests to be real priests dedicated to prayer, preaching and mercy. 3 – Lay people have to pick up a lot of responsibilities and ministries in the community, so that priests may be able to dedicate themselves strictly to priestly work. 4 – As we need a new evangelization for the lay people, we need a new reform for the clergy and religious. 5 – The basic problem today is the lack of faith in our families. Vocations can grow only when there is faith and prayer in the families.

So can you say with Samuel: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening”?

IF THE MIGRANT IS NOT MY BROTHER, THEN GOD IS NOT MY FATHER!

To welcome the immigrants for us Christians is not an optional, it is an obligation. Remember that one of the questions at the final judgment will be exactly, whether or not we have welcomed the immigrants/strangers. There is a lot of talk in the media today about limiting the influx of immigrants in the “rich” countries. That does not reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, we see how Pope Francis does not miss any opportunity to remind the great powers of the world that we have a grave responsibility to take care of these people, that our wars have displaced in millions. After we, the rich countries of the world, have destroyed their homes and cities, we cannot close our borders, and enact our laws to keep them out in the chaos we have created for them. John Paul II called last century, the century of Cain, who after having killed his brother

Abel, arrogantly told God: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The answer is YES! And the rich countries of the world today are the poor countries keepers. They have to solve the problems that they have caused with their wrong policies and wars.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 St. Hilary

8:00am Stanislawa Rawicka

6:00pm Sandro, Domenico & Maria D’Ovidio

Sunday, Jan. 14 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am Larry Feijo

10:00am MESSA CON PIÚ INTENZIONI

11:30am MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS

1:00pm Andring Habungan

4:30pm Special intentions for Anna Stecka

6:00pm MISA CON INTENCIONES MULTIPLES

Monday, Jan. 15

8:00am Andrei Jerome Villa

7:00pm Giuseppina & Emilio Morao

Tuesday, Jan. 16

8:00am Karen & Azzareya Abilay Marshall

7:00pm In Honour to Jesus

Wednesday, Jan. 17 St. Anthony

8:00am Charlie D’Souza

6:30pm (*Novena in honor of Mother of Perpetual Help*)

7:00pm MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS

Thursday, Jan. 18

8:00am Thanksgiving from Maria & Dennis Borja

7:00pm Martin Burke

Friday, Jan. 19

8:00am Minerva Jones

7:00pm Special intentions for Teresa Botero & family & Acosta Valencia Family

Saturday, Jan. 20 Sts. Fabian & Sebastian

8:00am Deceased members of Portelli Family

6:00pm Agostinho & Maria Lucinda Mota

Sunday, Jan. 21 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am Afonso, Irene & Antonio Travassos

10:00am MESSA CON PIÚ INTENZIONI

11:30am MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS

1:00pm Lucia & Berta Fernandes

2:30pm FILIPINO MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS

4:30pm Mumtaz & Fakhira Bourachi

6:00pm MISA CON INTENCIONES MULTIPLES

NOTIZIE IN ITALIANO

GRUPPO DI PREGHIERA CARISMATICO é sospeso temporaneamente. Vi faremo sapere quando repreneurá.

CATECHESI ogni venerdi nel Salone Fr. Zanon al' 1:30pm.

AVISOS EN ESPAÑOL

La Familia Misionera les invita a integrarse y anunciar su fe en Cristo. Las reuniones se realizan los martes a las 7:35 p.m. en el Salón Scalabrini.

¡PRÓXIMAMENTE TENDREMOS LOS TALLERES DE ORACIÓN DEL P. IGNACIO LARAÑAGA!

Para quienes no se han registrado en la Iglesia y desean hacerlo en nuestra Parroquia, pueden pedir su solicitud de registro o pasar directamente al despacho parroquial.

La Renovación Carismática Católica Hispana los invita muy especialmente a la Asamblea de Oración y Alabanza este Martes 16 de Enero a las 7:40 p.m. en el Salón Grande de la parroquia. El tema de reflexión será: "María Madre de Dios y Madre de todos los hombres. María, por su parte, conservaba todas estas cosas en el corazón." (Lucas 2, 16-21).

El café de la amistad será retomado en el mes de febrero.

2018 ENVELOPES can be picked up at the main entrance of the Church.

If you don't have them, you may obtain them at the office.

THE NEW WEB PAGE

You probably have noticed the new web page for our parish. If you go to: www.stcatherine.ca you will find a new image and new info about the activities of our parish. It is not completed but we are filling in the missing spots. We invite you to use it even to communicate with our office.

YOU MAY WANT TO JOIN also the various social media: FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, all from our parish. TELL YOUR CHILDREN!

**CONNECT with our parish on Twitter:
@ SCOC2340**

LECTORS & EUCHARISTICS MINISTERS

meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at 7:30pm in Fr. Zanon Hall. **It is important that all be present.**

ALL USHERS – IMPORTANT meeting on **Wednesday, January 24th at 7:30pm in Fr. Zanon Hall.**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

In-person Registration on January 15th 7:00pm-9:00pm; January 17-19 9:00am-3:00pm. Proof of age and Baptism Certificate are needed.

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR PARENTS of First Communion and Confirmation CHILDREN.

At St. Catherine we want to give an opportunity to all parishioners of all ages to grow in faith in all the stages of their life. There are special moments, especially at Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation when the whole Christian family is called to celebrate and deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ.

For this, in our parish we invite the PARENTS and GODPARENTS (for confirmandi) to participate in a special series of conferences/discussion about topics of the faith, which will help them to accompany their children in their journey of faith.

WHILE YOUR CHILD IS TAKING CATECHISM, you can join in Zanon Hall for a conversation with Fr. Walter and Vicky Nisce. We strongly recommend that ALL parents become part of the faith journey of their children and celebrate the sacrament as A FAMILY, by praying together and reviewing together the content of their classes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY In 2017, SVDP made 223 home visits to 148 families in the community. They delivered over 500 bags of food and provided over \$8,000.00 in assistance to buy fresh food. Through the generosity of our parishioners, they helped 165 adults and 162 children in times of need. Thank you for your continued support.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY will be celebrating the Feast Day of Sto. Nino on Sunday, January 21st at 2:30pm followed by a gathering in Scalabrini Hall for some fellowship and snacks.

PARISH ENGLISH PRAYER meetings every Saturday at 2.30 pm in Scalabrini Hall. Intercessory prayers, anointed praise and worship, thanksgiving and petitions and the Word of God reflections. - Come one, come all !