

## **Weekend Mass Reflection**

By Deacon Andy Kemp

Wis. 6:12-16

Ps 63 "My soul thirsts for you, O Lord my God"

1 Thes. 4:13-18

Mt. 25: 1-13

Some of us served our country during times of peace. Some of you served to restore peace. What is "peace"? To be at peace can mean many things to many people. It's usually associated with freedom and is the basis of democratic societies. What does it mean to be truly free, to be at peace? For Christians, we are truly free when we can publicly worship and gather at Mass without fear of reprisal or imprisonment by the government. For the Christian to be at peace means that they are developing their relationship with God and long to see His face. They live their lives in a Christ centered manner guiding them in loving and caring for God's people, all people. "Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ...". We are reconciled with God through the death and resurrection of Christ. This union brings us peace. (CCC #2305) This is a sacred bond that gives us hope and brings us comfort and peace.

This Remembrance Day will be like previous Remembrance Day celebrations. We'll remember those that gave their lives to preserve peace, and to live out God's Words to care for His people. I can remember coming home with my newly issued green fatigues, boots, and black beret. I had joined the militia (Queen's York Rangers) and I was thrilled. My dad wasn't so thrilled. He was happy for me, but he was also sad. He had placed his life on hold to go to war. He landed at D-Day with the Queen's Own Rifles. He didn't go for glory or medals. "I went because it was the right thing to do. People shouldn't be treated like that". He came home and started his life. This 5'8", 130 lbs. man with the ear to ear grin and laughter and heart to match picked up where he had left off. He married and became a father to a daughter and son (he was 49 years old when I was born!). For the most part, he kept most of his experiences to himself. He did share with my wife, Rose, his time spent reading his bible during periods of quiet. He was scared and his quiet time in prayer brought him comfort, peace. Maybe my father was familiar with today's psalm? Psalm 63 states, "I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadows of your wings I sing for joy."

Our readings bring us comfort and hope. We are reassured of a life with God the Father in heaven. Pain and suffering are very real and Christ's saving action on the Cross is a very real reminder of the hurt that is in this world. We also know His Resurrection leads us to be joined with our Father in Heaven. God is always near, guiding and protecting us. We are then free to pursue Him with all of our mind and body. To seek peace is to gain wisdom. It is the wise

person that recognizes that God is love and that sharing God's love is endless. The more that we pursue God, the deeper our relationship becomes with God, and from that, we experience a feeling of peace in our daily lives. Getting to know God in the good times helps us to make sense of life's challenges and hurdles. We thirst for God. What does God offer that we want and desire so badly? God gives us rest, a sense of calm. We have hope in those that have died before us that they are in heaven and their pain and suffering has ended. We live our lives to their fullest ready for the day that the Lord calls us. Our Gospel reading teaches us to remain vigilant and always ready. We know not the time or the place when our Lord will call us.

Sadly, hatred and violence will be with us. Evil prowls about ready to attack us and separate us from God. This will never happen. Nothing can take away our love for God and no one can stop God from loving us. Men and women are willing to die so that others may live. Men and women are speaking up and defending the oppressed. We don't glorify war but remember the dead. Love is from God. He will give you as much love as you're willing to share. God's love is endless and knows no boundaries. God wants us to be with Him and that gives us hope. God also wants us to care for all that He created and that gives us strength. "Put on the armor of God" (Eph. 6:11), seek God in all things, and remain vigilant, "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt. 25:13)

### **Christ, The Good Shepherd**



During the uprisings in the Middle East, Ron and Joke Jones, who served with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Israel, communicated the following in their prayer letter: *The result of the fighting and killing has left a profound sense of discouragement that hovers over the country. Several times we have come into closer contact with this conflict than our comfort zone allows. Yesterday a friend shared with us something*

*which she observed that was a delightful reminder of God's care for us. She watched a shepherd caring for his flock near the area where guns are fired. Every time the shots rang out the sheep scattered in fright. The shepherd then touched each of them with his staff and spoke calmly to them, and the sheep settled down immediately because they trusted the shepherd. And then another shot sounded, and the same routine happened again. Each time, the sheep needed the shepherd to orient them again and reassure them that they were safe. We are all like those sheep, and Christ, the Good Shepherd, reaches out and touches us with His staff, speaking words of calm and comfort.*

Where can you go this weekend to Mass? Here are the attendance numbers from last weekend Check it out!			
	SHJ – 5pm Saturday	SJM - 9:15am Sunday	SFA – 11am Sunday
	31 October	1 November	1 November
Placements Available in Church Each Weekend	16	47	16
Parishioners Who Attended Last Weekend	26	63	29
Placements Still Open Last Weekend	0	12	0



Face coverings are now mandatory.

**\*Weekdays\***

- If you are unable to make it to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, don't forget that we also have a weekday Mass at 9 a.m. in St Francis, Frankford every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Before setting out, however, be sure to check the Weekly Parish Bulletin, which is sent with this newsletter, because weekday Mass schedules can sometimes change!

Weekends

- The doors of the church open 30 minutes before the start of Mass.
- Seating is on the basis of first-come-first-seated.
- Upon arriving at the church, please let the usher know how many people are in your group.

**Parish Financial Support**



Thank you for continuing to help our Parish through these difficult times with both your prayers and generous donations. Your contribution will help to ensure that the Parish can cover its present financial obligations until we are able to resume offering full capacity seating at all our Masses and liturgies.

Here are now 6 ways to donate:

1. Set up an automatic deposit to the Parish bank account – this can be done by calling the Parish at 613-398-6745.
2. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the Office at 288 Riverside Parkway, Frankford, and leave it in the small black mailbox to the right of the door.
3. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the St James Church at 236 Edward Street, Stirling, and leave it in the black mailbox to the left of the main door.
4. Send an e-transfer from your account to St Francis of Assisi Parish at email [assisifrankford@gmail.com](mailto:assisifrankford@gmail.com). Then email us at [assisi@sympatico.ca](mailto:assisi@sympatico.ca) to let us know (a) the password which you have chosen for us to access the donation, (b) your first and family names, address, telephone number, and the number on your regular Sunday donation envelope (if you do not have one, let us know that, too).
5. Mail your donation to St Francis of Assisi Parish, PO Box 339, Frankford, ON K0K 2C0
6. At Mass in the Collection Box

