



MARTYRS' SHRINE

LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Weekly Church Bulletin | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Sunday, July 12 2020

SERVED BY JESUITS

Rev. Michael Knox, SJ -
Director

Rev. Patrick Coldricks, SJ
Rev. Stephen LeBlanc, SJ

HOLY MASS

Online Weekly

Every Sunday at
www.martyrs-shrine.com/mass

MASS INTENTIONS

This week's Mass is
celebrated for:

- Joseph Tri Ngo +
- Raymond Richard King
- Jack Brennan
- Anne Sheily

For the special intentions of
members of the Martyrs'
Shrine Association

THE EXTENT OF GOD'S EMBRACE



Even now, as restrictions related to COVID-19 are somewhat changing, there is a new sense of distance that has become a part of our lives. In our churches, we must sit apart, and families must remain separate from other families. Many have to work remotely, away from their colleagues. Family members, who live apart, must rely more on the telephone, or computer, to keep in touch and, if they can visit one-another, it is really only to be outside of the house, or in very small numbers. Six feet of distance must be kept from anyone else in public spaces, and masks must now be worn, in most of the Province of Ontario, when we are out shopping.

Here, at Martyrs' Shrine, we have had to make the decision to be closed for this season. It was by no means an easy one to make, but the safety of our pilgrims and the desire to preserve this treasure, made it necessary. This means that pilgrims cannot come to walk these holy grounds, to pray by the relics of Sts. Jean de Brébeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, and Charles Garnier, or to share in the Holy Mass. These are traditions for many, many, people, not lost, but available again in May of 2021.

With these difficult circumstances in mind, I am reminded of the centurion who approached our Lord Jesus asking that his servant might be healed. Jesus offered to go to the Roman's house and heal the man, but the centurion replied, 'Lord, do not trouble yourself'. 'But say the word', he continued, '...and let my servant be healed'. (Luke 17: 6 – 8) The soldier understood that just as he trusted his own men with orders to be executed, all the more he should trust the Christ, God. His simple faith affirmed in his mind that God can do wonders from any place, at any time.



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It is true that, for this season, pilgrims are unable to join us in the traditional way. They cannot attend, in person, the Masses being said for them. They cannot touch the relics of our holy martyrs offering petitions. They cannot visit their cultural monument and pray for their families in their perspective 'mother lands'. It is true that they cannot bring religious objects to the priests on staff for blessing, nor can they enter into spiritual conversation with them. However, it is also true that the intercessory prayers of St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions extend far beyond the gates of Martyrs' Shrine, and the extent of Christ's loving embrace envelopes all of Creation.

Mass is still being said here every day for all of our pilgrims. Through our website, petitions can be sent, candles can be lit, and prayers said. Offerings can be made, struggles brought to us in prayer, and hopes re-ignited. Grace keeps no distance, love knows no border, and God's healing power remains, as we continue to journey with St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions towards a deeper union with Jesus Christ.

Fr. Michael Knox, SJ

Director of Martyrs' Shrine

GARMS AUTO SERVICE

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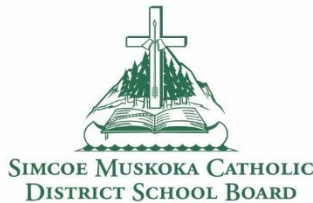


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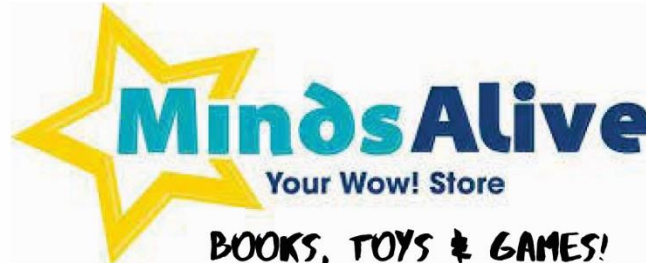
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