



EDGE is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program that provides a safe fun place for youth to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. This year, Edge will be combined with Grade 7 students doing their Confirmation in 2020. Our next **Edge will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.**



감사합니다 Natick  
 Danke Ευχαριστώ Dalu  
 Thank You Kőszönöm  
 Спасибо Dank Gracías  
 谢谢 Merci See  
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**Dear St. Clare of Assisi Parishioners: The Reach Out Committee of St. Clare of Assisi Parish** thanks you and our Catholic Schools

Community, for participating in our 2019 Pyjama Drive. Thanks to you, many needy children and adults will be warm and cozy this Christmas. We were able to support: 360 Kids, Vaughan Food Bank, Birthright, Sisters of Life, Sisters of Charity, St. Vincent De Paul Society, St. James Community, and other organizations. Wishing you and your families, hope, faith, joy, good health and the peace of Christ at Christmas and always! God's Blessings, The Reach Out Committee!



**Toronto Serra Club** - *"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."* Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a

priest, deacon, brother of sister, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997, email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) or visit [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca).**



Do you or does a loved one experience same-sex attraction? **Courage** (*Spiritual support for adults who experience same-sex attraction and who desire to develop a life of interior chastity in union with Christ*) & **Encourage** (*Spiritual support for family and friends of those who experience same-sex attraction; faithful to Church teaching on chastity*) provide spiritual support and pastoral guidance in full accordance with authentic Catholic teaching on homosexuality and chastity. For more information, please contact 416-928-5094 to speak to either Fr. Kevin Belgrave (**Courage**) or via email at [couragetoronto@yahoo.ca](mailto:couragetoronto@yahoo.ca) or Fr. Eric Rodrigues (**Encourage**) via email at [encouragetoronto@yahoo.com](mailto:encouragetoronto@yahoo.com).

**Theology of the Body 2020 Toronto (Certificate Course) Presented LIVE by Sr. Helena Burns, fsp.** Why is John Paul II's life-changing teaching – The Theology of the Body – the answer to today's hottest issues? Our culture is all about identity, gender, body, beauty, sex, love and relationships. So is God. Classes will take place at **Pauline Books & Media 3022 Dufferin St., Toronto** on the following **six Saturdays from 10-4pm: January 4, 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 15.** Ideal for parents, teens, and pastoral ministers. Contact [srhelenaburns@gmail.com](mailto:srhelenaburns@gmail.com) or online at [www.tinyurl.com/TOBcertificate](http://www.tinyurl.com/TOBcertificate) (*Choose in-person OR online – not both*).



St. Clare of Assisi wants to remind its parishioners that there is NO MASS on Thursday evenings. The church doors close every Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. for maintenance. Thank you!



**Reminder to those who are registered with us, please contact the office, via email, if you've had a change of address and/or telephone number so we can update our records for income tax purposes. Thank you!**



**Don't forget to stay in touch with our St. Clare of Assisi Twitter account.** We generally post information on upcoming events here at the parish, share a link to the Sunday Mass readings, "Saint of the Day" and other relevant news you may find in the Sunday Bulletin. Follow us on Twitter at @stclareofassisi.



**ST. CLARE OF ASSISI** is offering registration for **FORMED...The Best Catholic Content. All in One Place.** FORMED.org is an online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks & movies. • Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) • Enter our **PARISH CODE: HDHK7D** • Create a FREE account with username/email and password • Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription. Do not sign up as an individual.



## REFLECTION

### Rejoicing amidst the Darkness

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” These are the words proclaimed in the entrance antiphon of Mass for Gaudete Sunday this week. It urges us to constantly rejoice in the Lord, and as good stewards of Christ, we should always strive to live lives inundated with the joy that flows from the Lord.

In order to do this, we must understand the difference between joy and happiness, for the Lord never promised us happiness. Instead He says, “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Happiness is a result of our good circumstances, because we feel good, or we had something positive happen to us, etc. Joy on the other hand goes much deeper. Henri Nouwen describes it as “the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing –sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take the love away.”

So, joy is the ability to remain happy due to our awareness of being beloved sons and daughters of God even amidst the trials of our life. Henri Nouwen further describes joy as a choice we must make every day. How often in our difficult lives do we take solace and rejoice in our identities of being beloved children of God? This Gaudete Sunday let us strive to be more intentionally joyful, and to pray to Christ for strength, for He says, “Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete” (John 16:24).