



BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

Markham, Ontario

☎ (289) 554-0556

Fax: (289) 554-1996

Weekday Mass

Wednesdays

8:45am

St. Brother Andre Catholic High School
6160 16th Ave E, Markham

Sunday Mass 10:00am & 12:00pm

St. Joseph Elementary School
388 White's Hill Ave., Markham

Pastor

Fr. Joseph Grima

office@blessedozanam.ca

Sacramental Inquiries

firstcommunion@blessedozanam.ca

confirmation@blessedozanam.ca

“The question which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much. It is a violent clash of opulence and poverty which is shaking the ground under our feet. Our duty as Christians is to throw ourselves between these two camps in order to accomplish by love, what justice alone cannot do.”

– Frédéric Ozanam

www.blessedozanam.ca

📷 [bl_frederic_ozanam_markham](https://www.instagram.com/bl_frederic_ozanam_markham)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/BlessedFredericOzanamParish) Blessed Frederic Ozanam Parish

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time November 5, 2017



Certain scribes and Pharisees at the time of Jesus are bad examples of religious leadership: some did not practice what they preached; others did things only to get attention; some sought prominence in public places; still others made a great show of their religious piety; and others expected more of their followers than of themselves. In short, there were those who wanted all of the privileges and trappings came went with their position, but did not live up to the accompanying responsibilities.

Writing for his community, Matthew invites them to draw parallels for themselves. That same challenge from Jesus echoes down through the centuries to us today. Jesus'—and Matthew's— first piece of advice is "Don't be like those Pharisees!" Don't use religion and religious leadership for your own selfish motives, to impress people and to be praised for your "piety." Such empty displays do you no spiritual good. This Gospel proposes the model of servant leadership—the style of leadership that Jesus himself exemplifies. Matthew's whole Gospel has been crafted to show Jesus as the greatest teacher and his whole Gospel has implied what Matthew now puts explicitly on the lips of Christ: "You have only one Teacher, the Christ."

Jesus teaches that religion is a liberating reality, freeing people from whatever bound them: fear, guilt, self-absorption, materialism, addictions of various kinds. The life Jesus wants us to have is that of the children of God, free from all evils like selfishness, pride, arrogance, abuse of power, and resentment. Those who are called to leadership are to live their leadership in service in a way that liberates people.

We would be missing the point if we saw this reading merely as a condemnation of all scribes or all Pharisees. Jesus begins by referring to the good teachings from the scribes and Pharisees; he is critical only of their abuses of power and position. Generalizations about groups are dangerous, because they are never completely true. This does not diminish the seriousness of the offenses committed by the few, nor does it negate the good done by the many.

Our challenge is to not just recognize good teaching or good leadership when we encounter it, but to admire it, study it, and allow it to influence our thoughts and actions. How has Jesus called me to servant leadership and how have I responded?

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ANSWER



"The greatest among you will be your servant." Can I respond to God as a priest, deacon, brother or sister? If God is calling you, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation**

Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org.



Wednesday, November 8th – at St. Brother Andre High School
8:45 AM Special Intention for Maria Assunta
+ All Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, November 12th – at St. Joseph Catholic School
10:00 AM + Bianca & Zena D'Angelo
12:00 PM Pro Populo

VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS NEEDED



We are looking for people to assist in preparing the Confirmandi to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please consider becoming a catechist to help our Confirmandi on their faith journey. Classes will run once a week for 6-8 weeks in January **during school hours**. If you are interested please call Fr. Joseph at 289-554-0556 or email

office@blessedoanam.ca. This is a wonderful opportunity for student teachers or supply teachers.

BOOK OF LIFE

In Loving Memory
of those who are forever
present in our hearts.



Our Book of Life will be placed near the statue of Mary, Queen of All Souls, during the month of November. All parishioners are invited to take a sheet available at the office after Mass and add the names of their dearly departed. The names of your loved ones will be placed in our Book of Life. We will pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING



Thank you to everyone who registered for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Those who still wish to sign-up, may continue to do so. Just fill out the registration form in the brochures available following mass and submit it with a void cheque to the volunteers or drop it in the offertory basket. Your support of Blessed Ozanam Parish is much appreciated.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is asking for your support as we reach out to help families in need in our new parish community, as well as men and women at selected halfway houses this Christmas season. You can be the miracle these men, women and families are hoping for by pledging a donation to the Christmas Outreach Program. Donation envelopes will be available for pickup on the weekend of Nov 11/12 after all Masses. Thank you for your support and we wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season.