

An Introduction to

The Mystery of Divine Love

A program of Catholic education offered by St. Dominic's Parish, 2415 Rebecca St. / Oakville / ON



ST. DOMINIC'S PARISH of Oakville is pleased to offer a **six session** program designed to help interested individuals gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith.

Each session will be approximately 60 minutes in length, followed by an optional question and answer session. The program is open to all adults and senior high school students.

No subject is more important, yet, so misunderstood in today's society as is the subject of "love". If there is only one word in a person's vocabulary that speaks to the meaning of life, that is the most important gift one person can give or receive, which speaks to the one thing that leads to unity with God and eternal happiness, it is the subject of "love".

In the words of St. Paul, "If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." (1 Cor 13:2)

If you are confused by the array of conflicting teachings that claim to be Catholic, or if you have found the Catechism too difficult to digest, then this program will provide you with a clear and concise explanation of the truths of the Catholic faith necessary to live your every day life in the presence of Christ and His Holy Mother.

Location and Time : See the the Parish Sunday Bulletin and the Parish Website for details.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

SESSION 1

The Nature of Love -The relationship of sin, love & grace . Love as Relationship in the Trinity of Persons . The attributes of love: God as the object of one's love . the principle of unity . love as an act of the will . reciprocity . obedience . sacrifice . as the foundation of a mutual relationship

SESSION 2

Mary's Love - The Marian dogmas and their relationship to love . Mary's "burning" and "maternal" charity in the teachings of Saint Pope John Paul II . Charity, the foundation for all virtue . Mary's love as Mother of the Church . Marian devotion as an act of mutual love . the issue of unrequited love.

SESSION 3

The Sacraments of Love (Part I) - Grace (divine love in action) in the sacraments of Baptism Confirmation, Matrimony . Holy Orders . Anointing of the Sick and Dying.

SESSION 4

The Sacraments of Love (Part II) - Mortal sin, venial sin - obstacles to love and unity with God . Penance , reconciliation and a conversion of love . the Eucharist and the grace of sanctification . Eucharistic reverence and devotion - love in action.

SESSION 5

The Paschal Mystery - The Spirit of Love's Greatest Masterpiece - The Cross and the Divine Martyr - "There is no greater love ". The Mass - the mystery of the cross that transcends time and place . In the imitation of the love of the Divine Martyr - the universal call / vocation to a spirit of martyrdom, a spirit of obedience and sacrificial love.

SESSION 6

The Final Perfection of Love - The final stage of transformation in the perfect love of God . Purgation and suffering as a martyrdom of love . Man's final end - the unity of love in the presence of the Trinity and the Beatific Vision.