

First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

Let us recognize the consequences of sin, the promise of redemption, and the need to prepare for the celebration of the paschal mystery.

The Schedule for the Stations of the Cross to be held each Friday at 7 p.m. during Lent is as follows:

Date	Leader
March 3	Knights of Columbus
March 10	Marilyn Olsen
March 17	Father Murray
March 24	Cursillo
March 31	Youth Ministry
April 7	CWL
April 14	Father Shroff

SECOND COLLECTION – There will be a second collection this weekend for the Diocesan & Missionary Works.

REMINDER; it is not too late to apply for the Spring Women Cursillo **March 9-12**, Men's weekend **April 6-9**, 2017. Cursillo is a nice way to give yourself a spiritual spa. Please contact Helen Lemoire at 613 590-7450 for information.

PARISH BREAKFAST – The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Parish Breakfast on Sunday, March 12th after the 9:00 & 11:15 am masses. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Tickets will be sale the weekend of March 4/5.

URGENT “Call for Conscience”

In the coming weeks, members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament will review Bill 84 which deals with legal issues related to euthanasia/assisted suicide. At present, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is forcing doctors to participate, despite their objections, when a patient decides to end their life. No foreign jurisdiction in the world that has legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide has forced health care workers or facilities to act against their conscience. Other provinces across Canada do not do this and have found ways to provide conscience protection for doctors and institutions. Yet, Ontario refuses to protect doctors who object to assisted suicide/euthanasia. Meanwhile, only 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative (end of life) care. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more, join the “Call for Conscience” and write directly to your elected MPP asking them to amend Bill 84 to add conscience protection.

Spiritual Adoption Program:

I am continuing to grow and develop very quickly. I hope you have stopped by to see my picture. I am very cute even if I say so myself. I just realized that I can move my eyelids, I can squint! I can also frown, or pucker my brow. My heart is really pumping fast now and my arms, legs and ears are getting so big. Many moms decide that having a baby is not a good thing for them but I'm pretty sure that because of your prayers, my mom and those in her life are going to protect me. Thanks for continuing to pray for me. *Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2270* Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.

Offering for February 26, 2017

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 3072.00
PAC/Visa/MC	\$ 2660.00
Loose:	\$ 634.00
Total Collection:	\$ 6366.00

Pastor's Corner

On this First Sunday of Lent, the first reading from today's Mass takes us back to the creation of man in the Garden of Eden and to Original Sin. The reading begins with the words, "The Lord God formed man from the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." Life, therefore, is the first of all God's gifts to the human race. Life is "breathed into" man by God Himself. Hence last Thursday's reading from the Book of Deuteronomy: "I have placed before you life and death, good and evil; choose life, that you might live" (Deut. 30). The creation of man, as narrated in the Book of Genesis, was highlighted in the Ash Wednesday liturgy. During that Mass, we received ashes on our forehead as the Priest said the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words remind us of our complete dependence upon God, from whom we received the breath of life out of the dust of the earth. They are also a reminder of our mortality, and that we must all one day die and appear before the judgement seat of Christ, and render an account of our deeds.

Lent is a season of conversion and penance. During this season, we intensify our practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Fasting does not just mean eating less food; it also includes all the means of mortification and self-denial that we undertake. Almsgiving is not just about giving money to those in need, but can refer to all acts of charity that we do towards our neighbour. And prayer, of course, is that personal one-on-one with God, who loves us and wants to enter into a personal relationship with each of us. Daily Mass is the best of prayers, but there are also those prayers that we do in our homes, when we "close the door and pray to our Heavenly Father in secret."

During this season of Lent, it is important to listen to the voice of God. But we cannot hear the Lord unless we remove from our day-to-day lives all those distractions that prevent us from being attentive to Him. Lent is a good time to "fast" from such distractions: to turn off the TV and the internet, to shut down our cell phones and mobile entertainment devices, and to pick up a good, spiritual book and allow God to speak to our heart. The writings of the Saints are marvellous in this regard, and are second only to the Sacred Scriptures themselves.

This Lent, why not spend time in our families every evening, with our children and loved ones, reading to them from the lives of Saints and other great works of Catholic spirituality? I pray that we may all have a very blessed and fruitful Lenten season, and that each of us may grow in our love for Christ and our desire to serve Him and our neighbour.

May God bless you all!

INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 4– First Sunday of Lent

- 9:00 am Intention of Father Shroff req by Vince & Annmarie Costello
- 5:00 pm †Leonidas & Carmelina Ropero req by the family
†Gordon Grenier req by Noel & Joan Bhumgara
†Teresa Wong req by the family
†John Rogers req by Mr. & Mrs. Lapointe

Sunday, March 5 –First Sunday of Lent

- 9:00 am For Our Parishioners
- 11:15 am †Douglas Snell req by Carmen D’Souza
†Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus
Intention of Joann req by a Parishioner
Mass of Thanksgiving req by a Parishioner

Monday, March 6 – First Monday of Lent

- 9:00 am Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Anthony req by a Parishioner

Tuesday, March 7 – First Tuesday of Lent

- 9:00 am †Yolande Vas req by the Pereira family

Thursday, March 9 – First Thursday of Lent

- 9:00 am Souls in Purgatory req by a Parishioner

Friday, March 10 – First Friday of Lent

- 9:00 am Souls in Purgatory req by a Parishioner

Saturday, March 11 – Second Sunday of Lent

- 5:00 pm †Ken & Frances Kennedy req by the family
†Ann Leblanc req by Mary & Kenny Meehan
Intention of Leonard Leland req by March & Richard MacDonald
Deceased members of the Pereira family

Sunday, March 12 – Second Sunday of Lent

- 9:00 am †Lester MaCann req by John Butt & Maureen Whelan
†Duarte Ceolho & Maria & Jaoa Casimiro req by Isabel Casimiro
†Elizabeth Myers req by Dave & Sarah McLean
†Ann Delage req by the Pastoral Care Team
†Maureen & Thomas Turner req by JP & Patricia Clement
†Angela, Nicola & Felix Caputo req by Carlo & Pat Caputo
- 11:15 am For Our Parishioners

Please pray for our sick; Michael Nortey, Bonnie Lehman, Elsie & Steve Stadler, and John MacDonald.

Please pray for our deceased, that they may be received into God’s love.

PRO LIFE CORNER

Let us pray that all may reject the temptation to be like God who has mastery over human life, and instead may accept and reverence life as a supreme gift of the Creator. Let us also pray for all elected officials that they will courageously advance the cause of life and that health care practitioners, especially doctors and nurses will be permitted to practice their profession in accordance with their conscience.