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Sunday, March 6th, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Lent

“He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’” — Lk 15:31-32

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. March 5	10am-2pm	Reconciliation 4-4:45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation 5:00pm † Marko Kotar (Family)
Sun. March 6	9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo † Eric Egert (Mary Ann Biggar)
Mon. March 7	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. March 8	9:30am	† David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. March 9	9:30am	† Deceased Family & Friends of the Marfics Family (Mary & Bill Podolyak)
Thurs. March 10	9:30am	† Carmela Sardella (Family)
Fri. March 11	9:30am	† Margaret VanDoorn (Horton Family)
Sat. March 12	7:00pm 9-10am 4-4:45pm	Stations of the Cross Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	† Elizabeth & Luigi Cecco (Anna & Domenic Cecco)
Sun. March 13	9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo † Katarina & Urban Simek (Patti & Cyril Simek) † Daniel & Cecilia Leo (John & Diane Szydowski)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday masses.
Offertory February 27th & 28th, 2016

87 Envelopes	\$1,986.95
Loose Collection	\$ 163.10
Total Offertory	\$2,150.05
Syrian Refugee Family	\$ 4,005.00

Month of February:
 Income: \$ 8,947
 Expenses: \$14,563

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"The Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" Jesus crossed lines that weren't supposed to be crossed. He talked to women in public, touched the "unclean" to heal them, and chummed it up with tax collectors and sinners. This didn't make sense. It didn't fit into the standard categories. And so the religious leaders began to complain.

In response to this, Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son. Through this story, he illustrated that God loves all of his children even when they have not behaved perfectly. But more than this, the tale also deals with the resentment of the older son—the one who always followed the law. Like the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes, the older brother complained. "All these years I served you," the son said, "and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends." But how does the father respond? "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours." In other words, the older brother had no reason to complain or be angry. He already enjoyed all good gifts. The father simply wanted him to rejoice that his brother had returned home. "He was lost and has been found."

It's important for those of us who attend Mass regularly, participate in the sacraments, and serve in our parishes not to fall into the trap of being like the bitter older brother or the complaining Pharisees. We must welcome everyone in our midst with joy, not resentment or judgment. It can be easy to think that others don't deserve as much as we do, and to forget to be grateful for all that we have. But we are ALL called to "celebrate and rejoice" when the lost return home.

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passion Sunday: Saturday, March 19th, 5pm
Passion Sunday: Sunday, March 20th, 9:30 & 11am
Mass of Chrism: Tuesday, March 22nd, 7:30pm
 (Location—Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Church Street, St. Catharines)
Holy Thursday: March 24th, 7pm
 Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm
Good Friday: March 25th, 3pm
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 7pm—Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday: March 26th
 Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
 8:00pm Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday: March 27th, Masses 9:30 & 11am
Divine Mercy Sunday: April 3rd, Prayers 3pm

Fourth week Lent Daily Meditation: Laetare Sunday: Be joyful! This Sunday has a joy-filled tone. We enter into the second part of Lent with a spirit of eagerness. Our celebration of the mercy and life given to us in Jesus is near. The letter to the Ephesians can be a meditation for the week. We have been saved by our Lord, Jesus, the Christ. That is consoling at this part of Lent. It is not the work we do that saves us. It is God's love - in the midst of our darkness. We can ask to be "lifted up" with Jesus in his surrender with the Father: lifted up on the cross and therefore, lifted up in Glory. And, we can express our desire to be an instrument of his healing love, in the hearts of those to whom he sends us. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

The Jubilee Year of Mercy : In response to our Bishop's request, St. Ann's has a Prayer Hour for Mercy with Eucharistic Adoration every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Confession is available during that time until 7:55 p.m. when we will have Benediction. In addition, Confession is available before each weekday Mass from 9:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. Tuesday to Friday. Confessions on Saturday are available from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in addition to the usual 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is my hope that this Year of Mercy will be a time of increased prayer and increased reception of the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, so that we may grow much closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ and better appreciate and put into practice the great love and mercy He shows us. **Also, at any time you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you may come to the rectory or phone to make an appointment.**



Share Lent 2016

The Share Lent collection for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is next Sunday – Solidarity Sunday!
Share Lent Pilgrimage—Helping Nuns serve their people in Bethlehem

Now our pilgrimage takes us to the Holy Land. Development and Peace is supporting Salesian nuns in the Cremisan Valley in Bethlehem in their struggle to remain close to their people. Their ability to provide schooling to over 450 children has been threatened by the construction of a separation wall which will cut them off from the people they serve. Your support helps to provide them with crucial legal support to fight the construction in the courts. **The Notre Dame Fair Trade Club will be selling fair trade products (Easter chocolate, coffee, tea, chocolate bars, sugar, cocoa) after each Mass next weekend.**

Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee & Fundraising:

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 9th at 7pm in the church hall.** Our guest will be Marilyn Nabils, the diocesan representative who has been assigned to assist parishes who have made a sponsorship commitment. Our financial goal is to raise \$30,000 to sponsor a family with 5-7 members. **To date, a total of \$9,700 has been donated.** We thank you for your tremendous support! We will continue to accept donations. Please use a separate envelope labelled "Syrian Refugee Family" with your name and address on it. If donating by cheque, please make it payable to "St. Ann Parish". There are many details involved with this initiative. As time progresses, the committee will keep you informed and up to date about these decisions and other ways you may assist. Once again, we are thankful and very grateful for the interest shown in re-locating a refugee family and assisting them to re-locate in our community.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS Celebrated by Bishop Gerard Paul Bergie, The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, **Monday, April 4th, 2016 7pm.** RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL. Hosted by the Cathedral CWL. Information: William and Elise Mathie, 905-684-7569 - Diocesan Respect Life Committee.

Next weekend, Sunday, March 13th, remember to turn your clocks forward one hour as daylight savings time begins.

Parish Calendar

- March.....** Next meeting Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee, 7pm church hall.
- March 9th....** Solidarity Sunday
- March 13th....** Palm Sunday
- March 20th...** Chrism Mass, Cathedral (St. Catharines) 7:30pm
- March 22nd....** Holy Thursday, Mass 7pm
- March 24th....** Good Friday 3pm, **Way of the Cross 7pm**
- March 25th....** Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
- March 26th....** Easter Sunday
- March 27th....** St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am
- March 31st...** **The Way of the Cross: Join us each Friday during Lent at 7pm**

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St. Ann's needs new members. The motto is that no work of charity is foreign to the society, and assistance is provided in many areas such as: Low-cost food outlets; Budget counselling; Children's activities and holiday programs; Prison visitation; Drug and alcohol rehabilitation; Home and hospital visitation; Emergency food, rent, utilities, clothing; Comfort and where applicable spiritual guidance. **The ultimate goal is for members to give hope to all the people we assist and if you can help please speak with Father Chad, Deacon Jim or Liliana.**

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (March 19/20) or Good Friday (March 25),** your binders will be available for you **this weekend** at the back of the church, with your name on it. Two readers are scheduled. Please contact each other and assign yourselves the parts for the long gospel reading (Luke—for Palm Sunday) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions. Following your reading date, please return the binders to the back of the church. Thank you.

The 13th Annual Bishop's Gala will take place on **April 1st, 2016, 5:30 p.m at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines.** \$75 per person and can be ordered through the NCDSB website or by contacting Sherry Morena, 905-735-0240, ext. 213 or sherry.morena@ncdsb.com.

Youth Ministry: Youth Ministry is now on **WEDNESDAY** nights from **6:30pm-8:30pm.** Join us **Wednesday, March 9th** for a MOVIE NIGHT in the parish **conference room.** Please enter through side doors. **Invite a friend! MARCH BREAK:** March 14th-18th—NO YOUTH MINISTRY ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH. **Youth Ministry Overnight LOCK-IN:** March 18th at 8:00pm-Saturday March 19th at 9:00am Please have your registration forms in by **Wednesday March 9th.** For more information, contact youth ministry coordinator Roberta Plantic at 905.401.0174 or rplantic@branchesoftheword.org.

The Serra Club of St. Catharines presents TRIVIA NIGHT.....promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Friday, April 8, 2016 Dinner served at 6pm. Trivia starts at 7pm. Guest of Honour: Most Reverend Bishop Bergie .St. Ann's Parish 5740 Buchanan Ave., Niagara Falls. Dinner includes: pasta & meatballs, coffee, dessert, door prize ticket \$20.00/person or \$160.00/table of 8. For tickets, contact: Caroline Matovic cmatovic@outlook.com or (289)271-8954 OR Mike Lettieri mikejosielettieri@yahoo.ca or (289) 296-5485

We welcome in Baptism, Adam & Nathaniel Junkin, children of Adam Junkin & Genvieve Brennan. May the gift which Baptism bestows, grow unhindered in us all.