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**Sunday, January 29th, 2017**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Blessed are the merciful,  
 for they will be shown mercy.  
 Blessed are the clean of heart,  
 for they will see God.”

— Mt 5:7-8

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

|              |          |  |
|--------------|----------|--|
| Sat. Jan 28  | 9-10am   | <b>Reconciliation</b>                                |
|              | 4-4:45pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation |
|              | 5:00pm   | Missa Pro Populo                                     |
| Sun. Jan 29  | 9:30am   | ✠ Ivan & Teresa Balazic (Mike Blazic & Family)       |
|              | 11:00am  | ✠ Wendy Wytke (Meyo Family)                          |
| Mon. Jan 30  | 9:30am   | ✠ Rose Pentesco Connors (Delores Kennedy)            |
|              | 7-8pm    | <b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>                |
| Tues. Jan 31 | 9:30am   | ✠ Christopher Beck (Diane & John Szydowski)          |
| Wed. Feb 1   | 9:30am   | ✠ Cor Schertzing (Horton Family)                     |
| Thurs. Feb 2 | 9:30am   | ✠ John Harrington (Kennedy Family)                   |
| Fri. Feb 3   | 9:30am   | Special Intention (Karen & Michael)                  |
| Sat. Feb 4   | 9-10am   | <b>Reconciliation</b>                                |
|              | 4-4:45pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation |
|              | 5:00pm   | Missa Pro Populo                                     |
| Sun. Feb 5   | 9:30am   | ✠ Cherian Elengikal (Vianney & Family)               |
|              |          | ✠ Kiyoko Suzuki (Mike & Anne Young)                  |
|              | 11:00am  | ✠ John & Teresa Sporbeck (Meyo Family)               |

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**  
**Offertory January 21st & 22nd, 2017**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| 83 Envelopes     | \$1, 855.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$ 66.75    |
| Total Offertory  | \$1, 921.75 |

**Offertory boxes 2017:** If you have not picked up your boxes, they are available in the church hall. **2016 tax receipts will be available the weekend of Feb 4/5. Please pick them up at the back of the church to avoid mailing costs. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.**

**Fourth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” Here, in a nutshell, is the Christian belief about the afterlife. We trust that heaven is open to believers who accept the gift of salvation and follow the way of the Lord, even (or especially) when that way is difficult!  
 The beatitudes in today’s Gospel give us a program for following the path to heaven. These famous words offer a kind of twofold image. There are, on the one hand, the beatitudes about what we should do and be: poor in spirit, meek, merciful, clean of heart, and peacemakers. Such qualities are reflections of the nature of God in whose image we are meant to live. When we embrace and reflect this image to the world, there is no doubt we are walking on the path of God’s will.  
 Then, there are also the beatitudes about what we are called to endure: mourning, hunger for righteousness, persecutions and insults due to our belief in Jesus. These are the trials that often beset the life of a faithful Christian—admittedly more so in some ages and areas than in others. But Jesus makes it clear that even these trials and struggles are a sign that a Christian is on the right path, not that God has abandoned him or her, but that the reward of heaven lies around the corner.  
 One of the greatest consolations of our faith is that even when life does not unfold according to our own perfect designs, even when there is suffering to deal with, even when we do not have great success in the eyes of the world, we can maintain hope and peace as we await the “reward” of the just. The eternal happiness of heaven will be worth every ounce of temporary trial here on earth.



**Pope’s Prayer Intentions Month of February:**  
**Universal:** *Comfort for the Afflicted*—That those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**  
 In today’s competitive world, many people do not see justice and humility as virtues to acquire. Yet Jesus makes a big point of giving us the beatitudes as the blueprint to follow for our lives. Being poor in spirit, meek, thirsting and hungering for righteousness, being merciful, clean of heart, and peacemakers are all hallmarks of the true disciple and a child of God. After doing all these things, however, the true disciple must be prepared for persecution. Are you really ready to become a true disciple?

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – St. Ann’s Conference**  
**The St Ann’s Conference of The Society of St Vincent de Paul is active** and seeking new members. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. The Mission of the Society is that as Vincentians, we see Christ in anyone who suffers; come together as a family; have personal contact with the poor; help in all possible ways. If you are interested in becoming a member of this rewarding vocation, or would like to learn more about the Society, please contact the office. As our conference moves forward, we will be looking for ways to serve both our local community, and the broader Pelham and Welland communities. If you wish to make a donation to the Society, the collection box is at the back of the church following all masses. Any amount is appreciated and is used to assist those in need. If you or someone you know is struggling financially, please contact the office. All calls are confidential.

**Next meeting—Feb 12th following 11am Mass— all welcome**

**WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED**  
**Question:**  
 A special blessing of throats occurs on the feast of St. Blaise, February 3. What is the origin of this?  
**Answer:**  
 St. Blaise was a bishop of Sebaste, Armenia, in modern Turkey, who was martyred for witnessing to the faith. He was tortured and beheaded for his beliefs by the local Roman governor around AD 316. This is all that is known about him, the rest being legend. We know much more about devotion to and the popularity of St. Blaise than historical facts.  
 The special blessing of throats associated with St. Blaise is due to a miracle attributed to him. While in prison, he miraculously saved a boy choking on a fish bone. Early in the sixth century, evidence exists in the Eastern Church that Blaise was prayed to for ailments of the throat. To this day, his feast is a holy day in the Eastern Church. In the ninth century, veneration of St. Blaise came to the Western Church and became very popular. Blessing of the throats with crossed candles began in the 1500s, the height of devotion to St. Blaise, and that blessing is still part of the devotion of the Catholic Church.  
**If you would like to participate in this tradition, Fr. Chad & Deacon Jim will bless throats following all weekend Masses of Feb 4/5.**



**The 25th World Day of the Sick** will be celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 2017. The World Day of the Sick focuses on three themes. It reminds the faithful to pray for the sick; it invites us to reflect upon the meaning of human suffering; finally, it recognizes and honours all persons who work in the health care field.  
**An invitation is extended to all parishioners who are elderly and/or suffering from a serious illness or disease to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th FOLLOWING THE 11AM MASS.**

**Recipients of the Anointing of the Sick:**  
 Those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament. The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after being anointed and then again falls ill or if during the same illness the person’s condition becomes more serious. A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery. Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present. Sick children may be anointed if their sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament.

**St. Ann’s Church - Seasonal Agricultural Worker Support Program...in need of VOLUNTEERS!**  
 Most seasonal farm workers will start to arrive early March and will not come prepared for our colder temperatures. **To better support and welcome our seasonal workers to St. Ann’s Church, we are in need of the following new or gently used items: sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks, bicycles, luggage, toiletries (e.g. new toothbrush/toothpaste/soap, etc.). Please drop off items in church basement. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT!**  
 Stay tuned for more program details. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Anne Marie Cargnelli – [amcargnelli@hotmail.com](mailto:amcargnelli@hotmail.com) or St. Ann’s Church.

**Parish Calendar**

**February.....**  
**Feb 1st.....** Youth Ministry Cancelled  
**Feb 3rd.....** Feast of St. Blaise  
**Feb 4/5.....** Blessing of Throats following all Masses  
**Feb 4/5.....** Charity Tax receipts available to pick up  
**Feb 7th.....** Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee Meeting 7pm, Lions Club Fenwick  
**Feb 11th.....** Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick  
**Feb 11/12** Youth Ministry bake sale/auction fundraiser  
**Feb 12th.....** Anointing of the Sick following 11am Mass (More to follow)  
**Feb 12th....** SVDP Meeting following 11am Mass  
**Feb 15th.....** Confirmation Class 6:30pm  
**Feb 15th...** Liturgy Committee Meeting 6:30pm  
**Feb 19th.....** CWL shower for Syrian Refugee Initiative (More to follow next weekend)  
**Feb 23rd.....** First Communion Parents Meeting 7pm  
**If you would like to make a donation to our own Syrian Refugee initiative, you may do so at any time. New information has been posted to our website.**

**World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2:** The purpose of the day is to “help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels” as well as “to be a suitable occasion for the consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervour which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord.” (Saint John Paul II, 1997)

**You Can Help Your Marriage –** Are you frustrated or angry at each other or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 24, 2017**, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**YOUTH MINISTRY: YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings 6:30 -8:30pm. (CANCELLED FEB. 1ST.) Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>. If you would like to volunteer, check out our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry> or email me [gbroadley@branchestheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchestheword.org)**

**St. Ann Youth Ministry Presents: The First Annual Winter Festival!**

Please join us for our first youth ministry fundraiser of the year! Our youth are hosting the first annual Winter Festival in the parish hall on the weekend of **February 11th and 12th after each of the Masses.** We will be auctioning off delicious baked goods, selling hand made jewelry, and running various games for the whole family to enjoy! All funds raised will go towards youth ministry at our parish. Bring your family and join us for this great cause that is sure to be lots of fun for all! Our home-made baked goods will be a delicious Valentines treat for your loved ones! Any members of the parish community who wish to donate baked goods for our auction, or volunteer to help out, please contact Genevieve (see email above).

Please drop off your baked goods Feb 10th during office hours or before Masses on the weekend.