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**Sunday, March 5th, 2017**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."  
 At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan!"  
 — Mt 4:8-10a  
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. March 4	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	† Agnes Feryn (Karen & Michael) † David MacDougall (Gwen MacDougall)
Sun. March 5	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	† Susie Mislán (Mikolasek & Biggar Families)
Mon. March 6	9:30am	Special Intention for Stephanie Anthony (Karen & Michael)
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>
Tues. March 7	9:30am	<b>Mass Cancelled</b>
Wed. March 8	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Thurs. March 9	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Fri. March 10	9:30am	† Carmela Sardella (Liliana Haynes)
	7:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Sat. March 11	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. March 12	9:30am	† Ivan & Tereza Kuhar (Mike Blazic & Family)
	11:00am	† Anthony Filbert (Lynda Filbert & Family)

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**  
**Offertory February 25th & 26th, 2017**

82 Envelopes	\$1, 808.00
Loose Collection	\$ 127.00
Total Offertory	\$1, 935.00
Maintenance Collection	\$ 127.00

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**  
 We have begun Lent, entering into a season of conversion and repentance. Like us, Jesus was subject to temptation, but he resisted with all his heart. As we celebrate our Eucharist today, let us ask God to give us the perseverance to avoid sin.

**First SUNDAY OF LENT**

"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry." And no surprise! That's an incredibly long time to fast. Undoubtedly Jesus' physical and emotional strength would have been extremely weak after enduring such a marathon of abstinence. And isn't it interesting that the "tempter" should choose to appear at this particular moment? When bread must have sounded better than ever, the devil comes and tests Jesus, saying, "Command that these stones become loaves of bread."

How hard it must have been to resist! Jesus relied upon the word of God, and battled the devil by holding fast to the truth. "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."



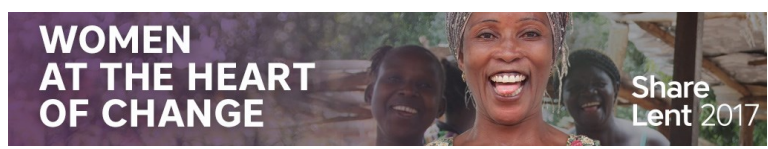
What an excellent model this provides for us. We too face temptation of various kinds and degrees. As the first reading from Genesis reminds us, the "cunning" serpent has been slithering around humanity from the beginning of time. Even when we have all that we need, the devil makes us want more, or want different, than what we have. Today's Gospel calls Satan "the tempter" for good reason. He tempts us to break God's law as Adam and Eve did when they ate from the tree "in the middle of the garden." But Jesus shows us the right response by battling the devil with the truth of God's word. Whatever temptations might beset us, there is power in clinging to the truths that we find in Scripture. In our moments of trial, may we have the strength to claim these truths as our own and, like Jesus, defeat the deceit of the devil.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the Month of March**  
*That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church. (Apostleship of Prayer)*



**LENT: A TIME OF REFLECTION**

Who am I? Let's slow down, pray, fast, and consider who we are in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Lent gives Christians an opportunity to do just that. We prepare for the celebration of Easter by considering Christ's suffering and death. We look at our relationship with Jesus. By looking into the scriptures, we can see the relationship God's people had with Him. How they obeyed, how they sinned and how their relationship was restored. We can see the Disciples of Christ teaching the church the importance of living a Christ-like life. The Lenten season is a period of 40 days where Christians can fast, pray, repent, practice self denial, and practice the Spiritual Disciplines. This is all done so we can reflect on our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Reflect on His suffering. Reflect on His life. Reflect on His Death and burial. Consider what His resurrection means for us. As the Lenten season comes to a conclusion with Holy Week, in our hearts and minds, we line the streets of Jerusalem to welcome Jesus on Palm Sunday. On Holy Thursday we gather with brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate the Last Supper. Good Friday we see Jesus nailed to the Cross, and then he is taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb. All is quiet until Sunday morning when we gather to worship and celebrate our resurrected Lord. So many times we think that Lent is a period of time when we must give up something. We must give up a certain food, television, or some other habit. I like to think that Lent is a time of gain. We reflect on our relationship with Jesus, and then our relationship becomes enriched, closer, and more personal.



**Development and Peace** is celebrating 50 years of solidarity for justice and peace. Their work in the Global South and in Canada would not be possible without the combined efforts of members, partners, the Catholic Church in Canada and the employees of Development and Peace who, year after year, are acting together to uphold the dignity of every child, woman and man and to build a just world. Thank you for being part of their movement! Thank you for your unwavering solidarity with the most vulnerable sisters and brothers of our one human family.

Supporting women is a priority for Development and Peace—Caritas Canada. For this year's Share Lent campaign, we invite you to listen to the voices of women who are working to build the world of tomorrow. You will find testimonials from the four corners of the globe inside our Mini-magazine found in today's bulletin. Our first testimonial is from Marta and Silvia, two women from Paraguay who are members of an indigenous women's farming association supported by Development and Peace - Caritas Canada. "I wish that there was land for everyone, that women were free and that they had the freedom to organize and defend their rights," says Silvia.

**Women keep the land in their hearts in Paraguay**  
**Women have always been at the heart of our organization! Did you know that in 1979, Development and Peace led a campaign to support the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo in Argentina, whose children and grandchildren disappeared under the military dictatorship?**

**The Canadian Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)** Part of the celebrations include a pilgrimage across the country of a *Solidarity Quilt*. The quilt is scheduled to be present in the Diocese of St. Catharines March 8 – 14, 2017. Bishop Bergie will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria for the 50th anniversary on Sunday, March 12 at 11:30am.

**On Saturday April 1, 2017**, in every parish across the diocese, a priest will be available from 10am-2pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.

**Please pray** for Stephanie Anthony as she undergoes surgery on March 7th and for Deacon Jim as he continues to recover from his surgery. May Our Lord the Divine Physician grant them healing in a speedy recovery.

**40 Days for Life** – Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, March 1-April 9. St. Ann will participate **on March 18th from 8 am – 8 pm.** Two or more people are needed to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life". To sign up: [www.wpcprolife.com](http://www.wpcprolife.com), or [40daysforlife.com/NiagaraFalls](http://40daysforlife.com/NiagaraFalls). For info or help, call Annette, 905-325-1251. Sign up sheet is at the back of the church.

**Parish Calendar**

- March.....**
- March 5th.....** First Sunday of Lent
- March 7th.....** Morning Mass cancelled
- March 12th ....** St. Vincent de Paul meeting after 11am Mass
- March 18th.....** 40 Days for Life, NF General Hospital
- March 20/21...** Assistance needed for making pierogies—sign up sheet is at the back of the church.
- March 22nd....** Finance Council meeting 6:30pm
- March 22nd.....** Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm
- March 25th.....** Respect for Life Mass, Cathedral 10am

**The Way of the Cross:** For Roman Catholics throughout the world, the **Stations of the Cross** are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week and, especially, Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the "Way of the Cross", the "Via Crucis", and the "Via Dolorosa." It commemorates 14 key events on day of Christ's crucifixion. **Please join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.**

**"Palliative Care" Information Session Hosted by Star of the Sea Parish, Tuesday, March 21st. 7-9pm.** Guest speaker is Sue Battersby-Campbell, Nurse Practitioner. Please RSVP to Tracey Findlay, CWL Chair of Health & Education. [tracy@ppsaccounting.com](mailto:tracy@ppsaccounting.com)

**The St Ann's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul** will be running a **food drive during Lent** and all donations will go to Pelham Cares. Baskets will be at the entrance to the church, beginning this weekend. Items most in need include canned fruit/vegetables, tea, juice boxes, cereal (hot or cold), canned chili/stew, canned meat, jam, shampoo, and paper towels. At this time, Pelham Cares has an abundance of dried pasta and pasta sauce and does not require these items. Donations of gift cards would be most welcome—grocery store (Food Basics/Sobeys etc.), Giant Tiger. Special envelopes for gift cards have been placed at the back of the church. They can be placed in the collection basket. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. **Next meeting, March 12th following the 11am Mass.**

**Everyday Stewardship:** *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, LPI Inc.*  
 Can you believe Lent is here already? It seems like not that long ago I was decorating a Christmas tree! Time waits for no one and that is why it is important to make a mindful commitment now to not let this Lenten season pass you by. It is a great time to focus on growing as an everyday steward. The temptations are always there to procrastinate or to give in to spiritual laziness, but the Church's observation of Lent offers us so many tools to help us get on track. Increased devotions such as Stations of the Cross, various parish missions, or Lenten-focused literature are all gifts that your parish may be offering to assist you in this season.

With the Passion being the focus of Lent, it is easy to contemplate the value of true generosity. How could someone give more than Jesus? He gave until his life was spent on a cross. When contemplating how we can increase our generosity in all aspects of our life, we only need to look to the cross. Of course, this also brings home to us that more may be asked of us than we bargained. The temptation is to not give too much, out of fear that we might face persecution or worse.

But we take solace in the fact that we are disciples of One whose love and generosity could not be contained. He gave it all so that you and I have the chance to do the same. This Lent, look to the greatest example of stewardship that ever lived. Jesus will show us the way to observe a Lent that will soon bring forth great Easter fruit.