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Sunday, January 24th, 2016
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to bring glad tidings to the poor...
 and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

— Lk 4:18a, 19
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Jan 23	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Patricia Jenkins (Sharon Goossen)
Sun. Jan 24	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Teresa Sporbeck (Mary Ann Biggar)
Mon. Jan 25	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Jan 26	9:30am	✠ Teresa Sporbeck (Ersilia Ferrara)
Wed. Jan 27	9:30am	Intention Available
Thurs. Jan 28	9:30am	✠ Mary Voogt (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Jan 29	9:30am	✠ Elizabeth Lacavera (Tom Lacavera)
Sat. Jan. 30	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Marko Kotar (Family)
Sun. Jan. 31	9:30am	✠ Lynda Chappell (Tremeer Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday masses.
Offertory January 16th & 17th, 2016

86 Envelopes	\$1,936.00
Loose Collection	\$ 79.50
Total Offertory	\$2,015.50
Initial Offering	\$ 40.00

Offertory boxes 2016: If you have not picked up your boxes, please do so by next weekend. They are available in the church hall. Thereafter, they will be in the office and can be picked up during office hours. **2015 tax receipts will be available next weekend...please pick them at the back of the church to avoid mailing costs.** Thank you.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"So that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received." St. Luke began his Gospel by explaining why he wrote it. His intention was to provide a written account "of the events that have been fulfilled among us." But he didn't write simply to make a historical record; he wrote in order to bolster the confidence of the Christian community. He wanted to offer them a resource for realizing that what they had been taught was legitimate. This is why he investigated "everything accurately anew" and wrote it down "in an orderly sequence."

This passage helps us understand the relationship between sacred tradition and sacred Scripture. As Catholics, we believe that the Bible is an essential part of divine revelation that goes hand in hand with the teachings that were established by Jesus and passed on by his apostles. The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" tells us that the church "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence" (#82). Here, Luke emphasizes that what he writes is a confirmation of what was already being taught.

This fact should help us appreciate the gift of the Bible. This inspired collection of books exists to help us practice our faith and to bring us into a deeper understanding of the revealed word of God. Although the Bible is not the only source of revelation, it does help us to have what Luke calls "certainty" regarding our faith. We do hear Bible readings at Mass, but we would do well to read the Bible on our own as well. Let us not miss the opportunity to hear God's word speaking to us every day.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

A reminder that Youth Night runs at the parish every Friday evening for Grades 5-12 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Another reminder of our St. Ann's Teen Night for grades 8-12 scheduled on the THIRD Wednesday of each month from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the parish board room. Our Youth Ministry is dedicated to supporting our young people in their journey toward God, remembering C.S. Lewis who wrote, "If you want to get warm, you must stand near the fire. If you want joy, peace, and eternal life, you must get close to what has them."

Youth Ministry Announces STEUBENVILLE TORONTO 2016

Youth Ministry is excited to announce an opportunity for all teens to attend the Steubenville Toronto Youth Conference this summer from July 22nd-24th, where our young people will discover the richness of the Catholic Church and encounter the truth of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament. With some of North America's best Catholic speakers and musicians, Steubenville conferences have been engaging youth in their faith for 40 years. The cost for the conference this year is \$250 per person, which is all inclusive—covering admission to the conference, all talks and workshops, six meals, and accommodation in residence at the Ontario Institute of Technology. **A \$50 deposit is due by February 16th.** Steubenville Toronto is open to all teens entering Grade 9 this September, to those graduating Grade 12. Please take the information sheet and registration form—both found at the back of the parish—and contact our Youth Minister Roberta to register. 905.401.0174 or rplantic@branchestheword.org.

Volunteers needed for the Syrian Refugee Crisis

For many months now the media has presented us with heart wrenching stories of Syrian refugees seeking shelter and protection in the Middle East and parts of Europe. Currently many are being temporarily housed in refugee camps made of tents, and as winter is now a reality, there is a more desperate need to relocate them to permanent homes in other countries around the world.

As on many occasions in the past, we are once again called upon to assist our brothers and sisters in need who have no reasonable hope of returning to their homes. Pope Francis has called on every parish, religious community, and shrine in Europe to welcome a refugee family. The Pope has led by example by sponsoring one family at the Vatican.

The Catholic Church in Canada processes incredible untapped potential to welcome and resettle many of these refugees. The Bishops of Canada have called on every parish that has the resources to sponsor a refugee family to seriously consider doing so, either alone or working in collaboration with others. Bishop Bergie has requested that we also follow the direction of the Pope by sponsoring a family in each parish; thirteen parishes in our diocese have already applied and have been approved by our Canadian Government, and are now awaiting their families.

Some members of our parish family have attended meetings at the Catholic Centre to determine what would be required to participate in this service of charity for refugees. The objectives are to assist newcomers with their adjustment to a new community and life in Canada as well as the following:

- To provide effective and efficient support and offer safe and temporary lodgings.
- Network with social aid agencies providing essential services such as ESL, secondary settlement, legal and other social services.
- Provide transportation to government and medical offices.
- Counselling and assistance in documentation.
- Food and clothing.

To be a participant in this moment of human history we have to establish a Committee to enable their integration and build a welcoming community. **How can you help?** Please speak to Father Chad or Deacon Jim after mass or let Liliana know of your interest to become a member of our St. Ann's team.

Examine Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter "Laudato Si" - On Care of Our Common Home. Join a study group presented by the Diocesan Council of Development and Peace. Includes reading of the text, discussion and prayer. **Thursdays—Feb 11 -March 3, 2016, 6:30-8pm**, Diocesan Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold. Copies of **Laudato Si'** can be ordered through the Office of Religious Education for \$10 or the document can be read on the Vatican website. Participants are asked to register by Feb. 4th, Office of Religious Education, 905-684-0154 Ext. 207.

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Retrouvaille can help. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend **March 11, 2016**, in Niagara Falls please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

Parish Calendar

- Jan 30/31.... Charity tax receipts will be ready for pick up at the back of the church. **Please pick up your receipt to help defray mailing costs. Thank you.**
- Jan 30/31st..... **PARISH NEEDS SURVEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING EACH MASS**
- February...
- Feb 4th... CWL meeting 7pm
- Feb 6/7.... Blessing of Throats following all masses
- Feb 10th..... Ash Wednesday
- Feb 14th.... First Sunday of Lent
- Feb 14th.... Anointing of the Sick following the 11am mass
- Feb 16th.... Mass cancelled
- Feb 17th.... Liturgy Committee meeting 7pm

Catholic Women's League
A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 4th at 7pm. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend! Come and learn about the activities of the CWL in your parish.

Parish Discernment Process: As part of this continuing Diocesan initiative, a **PARISH NEEDS SURVEY** will be distributed to all parishioners next weekend, January 30th/31st during all weekend masses. **WE ASK THAT THE SURVEY BE COMPLETED DURING MASS FOLLOWING A SHORT HOMILY.** Pencils will be provided. The information from this survey will be very important and useful in the discernment process to help us better understand the needs and concerns of the parish and to plan for the future. EVERYONE'S input is valuable! The following points will explain the process:

- This survey is to be completed by individuals (not as a couple or family) who are 16 years and older even if not registered or a regular at the parish.
- Information you provide is anonymous. You cannot be identified in any way. Please **do not** put your name on the survey.
- You will have enough time to complete the survey following a short homily.
- The surveys will be collected after mass as you leave.

There will be two open ended questions (#56— What is the one thing you like best about the parish?) & (#57—What is the greatest challenge or need facing the parish?). **Please take some time in advance of next weekend, to think about these questions and how to best articulate your answers.** Members of the Parish Discernment Committee will be on hand to assist you in any way if needed. If you know you will be away the weekend of Jan 30/31 and would like the opportunity to complete the survey, you are welcome to come to the church during office hours the week of Feb 1-5 and you can do the survey then. The Parish Discernment Committee thanks you in advance for your co-operation with this process.

"Pro-Life Coffee House - Dessert Social" hosted by St. Catharines Right to Life, Monday January 25 at 7:00 p.m. at The Heritage Christian Bookstore Cafe, 400 Scott Street, St. Catharines. Everyone welcome, there is no fee. Be inspired as guest speaker Anastasia Pearse of the National Campus Life Network shares stories about pro-life work being done on post-secondary campuses across Canada. For more info, call 905-684-7505 or email info@chooselife.ca.

Church Ministry: If would like to explore the possibility of taking part in church ministry, there is a binder at the back of the church or please phone the office for more information.