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Sunday, April 2nd, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
 She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." — Jn 11:25-27

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

Sat. April 1	10m-2pm	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Harry Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. April 2	9:30am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. April 3	9:30am	Intention Available
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. April 4	9:30am	Intention Available
Wed. April 5	9:30am	✠ Teresa & John Sporbeck (Racz Family)
Thurs. April 6	9:30am	Intention Available
Fri. April 7	9:30am	✠ Charles Zarb (Emily Wallace)
	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat. April 8	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. April 9	9:30am	✠ John & Frances Blazic (Mike Blazic & Family)
	11:00am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Meyo Family)

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

83 Envelopes	\$1, 932.75
Loose Collection	\$ 109.85
Total Offertory	\$2, 042.60
Easter Flower Memorial (30 Envelopes)	\$ 493.00

We welcome in Baptism, **Michael Joseph Asher** son of Mark Asher & Amanda Caughlin. May the gifts which Baptism bestow, grow unhindered in us all.

Pierogies for sale: \$6/dozen until supplies last. Following all weekend Masses. Thank you for your support!

Fifth SUNDAY OF LENT

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." As we draw near to the great feast of Easter, the Church gives us here some food for thought regarding the idea of resurrection and eternal life. Today's Gospel shares the story of a dead man who came to life again by the power of Jesus. Lazarus, who had been lying lifeless in a tomb for four days, "came out" of the tomb, burial cloths draped around his body, in a moment that must have been absolutely astonishing! This miracle could not have been explained by anything other than divine power over life and death.



It's important to consider that this story is not so much about Lazarus' resurrection but rather it is about **ours**. Jesus uses the occasion of this restoration of his friend, Lazarus, to teach that we **all** can be raised to new life through the power of the Lord. Jesus tells us that we too can overcome death by believing in him: "everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Easter, of course, will confirm for us that death has no power over the God of life. But today, during these closing days of Lent, we are reminded that we can share in this source of life by believing in Jesus. So now is a perfect time to double-check our faith in him. Is it authentic? Do we really accept the supernatural reality of who Jesus is? Do we believe that he can conquer even the most frightening moment of human existence: death itself?

If we find ourselves falling short of faith in these things, let us turn to the Lord and ask that he will increase our faith so that, with Martha, we can truly say, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God."



Passion Sunday:	Saturday, April 8th, 5pm
Passion Sunday:	Sunday, April 9th, 9:30 & 11am
Mass of Chrism:	Tuesday, April 11th, 7:30pm
	(Location—Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Church Street, St. Catharines)
Holy Thursday:	April 13th
	Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm	
Good Friday:	April 14th
	Confessions 9-11am
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm
	7pm—Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday:	April 15th
	Confessions 9-10am
	Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
	Confessions 4-5pm
	Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil, 8:30pm
Easter Sunday:	April 16th, Masses 9:30 & 11am
Divine Mercy Sunday:	April 23rd, Prayers 3pm

Decorating Assistance Needed: As we await the most holy season in our liturgical year, we are making plans to prepare for the decorating of our church. If you can help, please meet at the church on Wednesday, April 12th in preparation for Holy Thursday and Saturday, April 15th at 10am for Easter.



Solidarity Sunday

Thank you for your generosity! Each donation is used to help our brothers and sisters all over the world— from Paraguay to Syria, to Indonesia and beyond. We conclude this ShareLent with words of Pope Francis, offered on the occasion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy: "Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope." Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope!

Did you know that in 1992 Rigoberta Menchu, a friend of Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work defending the rights of indigenous peoples? To learn more about this inspiring woman, visit: devp.org/insp-women#rigoberta.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

As our season of Lent quickly draws to a close, we are reminded today that God's creative and life giving presence is always at work, bringing light out of darkness and new life out of death. The prophet Ezekiel reminds us that God's spirit is within us. Realizing this allows us to endure not only our eventual physical deaths but any difficulty, disappointment or crisis we may encounter. God's desire to bring all things into loving union with him is eternal.

St Ann's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul

The food drive will end on **April 9, 2017** and donations will be taken to Pelham Cares in time for Easter. Baskets are at the entrance to the church. Items most in need include canned fruit/vegetables, tea, 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 (Food Basics/Sobeys/Giant Tiger etc). Special envelopes for gift cards are at the back of the church and can be placed in the collection basket. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. Thank you to those who have already made a donation.



Seasonal Agricultural Worker Support Program Update THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
Your kindness and generous support is greatly appreciated. To date, approximately 20 farm workers have arrived from Mexico with another 40

expected to arrive in April, all working at Willowbrook Nurseries. With your help approx. 15 newcomers from Mexico have been provided with warm clothing, toiletries, bags and bikes. We are still in need of sweatshirts, backpacks and donations to be used for safety vests and lights for bikes. Stay tuned for more program details. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Anne Marie Cargnelli – amcargnelli@hotmail.com.

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (April 8/9) or Good Friday (April 14)**, your binders are **now available** 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 (**Matthew—for Palm Sunday**) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions (petitions for Palm Sunday only). The Passion Narratives are to be used during Mass.

Parish Calendar

April.....	Diocesan Day of Reconciliation 10am-2pm
April 1st....	Solidarity Sunday
April 2nd....	St. Vincent de Paul meeting after 11am Mass
April 7th.....	Visitation of the sick and homebound
April 9th.....	Palm Sunday
April 11th.....	Bingo cancelled
April 13th....	Holy Thursday. Mass 7pm
April 14th.....	Good Friday. Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm

April 15th.....	Easter Vigil 8:30pm
April 16th.....	Easter Sunday, Masses 9:30 & 11am
April 19th.....	St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am
April 23rd....	Divine Mercy Sunday, Prayers 3pm
April 30th.....	First Communion, 2pm

The Way of the Cross: Please join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.

Youth Ministry for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings 6:30-8:30pm. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>.

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee: The committee is preparing for the arrival of the families and are in need of some household items. You will find a list on the parish website linked to the "Refugee Project" tab. Any assistance would be appreciated.



Easter Flower Memorial: The beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Easter in our parish. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the **Easter Flowers Memorial Envelopes found in your offertory boxes dated March 26th.** If you do not have envelopes but would like to donate, you may use a plain envelope with your contact information listed.

These donations, made in memory or honour of your family members and friends help cover the cost of Easter flowers. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honour friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, or bring to the parish office on or before the weekend of April 8/9. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The names of all those for whom our Easter flowers are in memory of will be printed in the parish bulletin on Easter Sunday.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: Lent always helps me renew my relationship with God. What can I do to achieve that the rest of the year?
Answer: The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year-round keeps us in spiritual shape!