

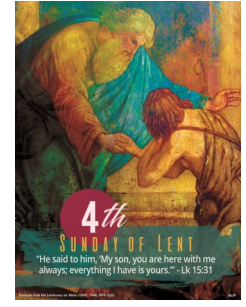
Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Repentance. Envy. Joy. Hope. Have you felt these human emotions? Today's Gospel offers a rich story, one we can all find our place in. As we reflect on our own spiritual lives this Lenten season, it can be helpful to imagine ourselves in the story of the Prodigal Son.

Su

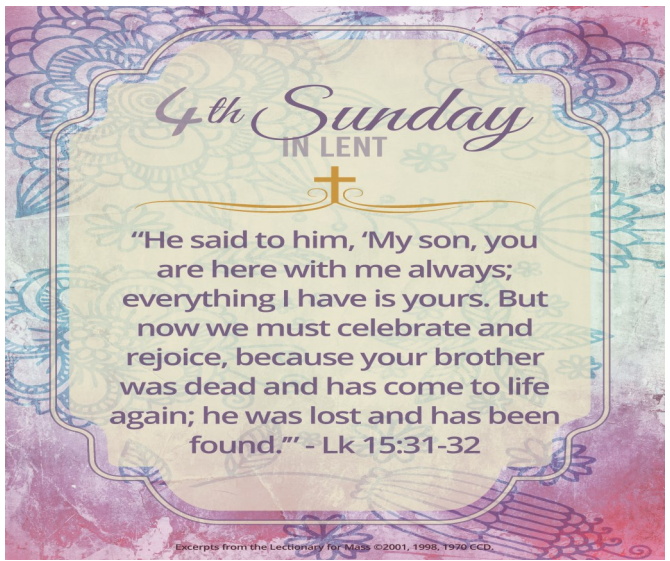


"I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." The younger son has sinned greatly, betraying his father's trust and squandering his money in sin. Yet the parable turns on his deep repentance and humble return to his father. Is there any area of your life you have been wandering from God or you've squandered good gifts? This Lent, return to the sacrament of Confession! God, a merciful Father, waits for you there.

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." The father in the parable sees his son's selfishness, perhaps even suspects what he might do, but gives him the inheritance anyway. After his son's departure, the father waits with hope for his son's eventual return. Has someone you love left the Church, made poor decisions, or abused your trust? This Lent is a time to let go of bitterness and to live in hope. Prepare your heart to be merciful! Not all in the parable invite the mercy of God into their hearts. The self-righteous older brother dishonors his father with his pettiness. "My son, you are here with me always, everything I have is yours." Do you covet what others have? Do you feel as if you've been taken advantage of or that your work goes unseen? This Lent is a time to grow in gratitude. Take a close look at the blessings in our life that you might be missing. We are all called to repentance. Open your heart to God's personal invitation to growth!

HOLY WEEK

Passion Sunday: Saturday, April 13th, 5pm
Passion Sunday: Sunday, April 14th, 9:30 & 11am
Mass of Chrism: Tuesday, April 16th, 7:30pm (Location—St. Alfred's Parish, Vine St., St. Catharines)
Holy Thursday: April 18th
 Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm
Good Friday: April 19th
 Confessions 9-11am
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm
 7pm—Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday: April 20
 Confessions 9-10am
 Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
 Confessions 4-5pm
 Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil, **8:30pm**
Easter Sunday: April 21st, Masses 9:30 & 11am



On Saturday, April 6, 2019, in every parish church 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.

Lenten Food Drive: Baskets have been placed at the church entrance. Donations of nonperishable food items would be appreciated and will be forwarded to Pelham Cares.

Migrant Ministry: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting warm clothing for the men, as they will arrive during the cooler weather and may be unprepared for the colder climate. Items most in need are socks, warm gloves, and toques. We are also accepting donations of gently used men's sweaters and coats, as well as new toiletries. Thank you for your continued support.

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (April 13/14) or Good Friday (April 19)**, 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 (petitions for Palm Sunday only). **A reminder that during Mass you are required to use the Passion Narrative Lectionaries which will be placed on both lecterns for you. The binders are for practice reading only.** On your reading date, please bring the binders with you and leave them at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

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 24th or you may use a plain envelope with your contact information listed.**

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP: So you never have been that serious about a stewardship way of life? It's not that you have been greedy or unloving toward others. You give of yourself when you determine there is a real need. However, you haven't intentionally worked toward surrendering all you are, all you have, and all you do to your God. It's hard because when you compare yourself to others, you seem pretty good. You aren't some prodigal child who needs to return to God because you have lived a life full of sin and selfishness.

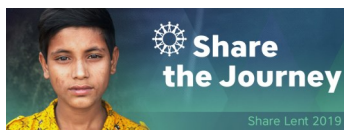
Yet, there lies the problem. We can easily feel we aren't so bad, so why change anything? We can lull ourselves into a belief that we will probably get to heaven, therefore why do more? Assurance of salvation is another topic, but basically we can look at our life as a series of transactions with God.

However, we shouldn't determine our actions based upon what we get. The actions of a loved one are due to the love for one's beloved. Jesus gave his life out of love for us. He has shown us what complete surrender looks like. He does not need our surrender but wants it because that is what those in love do. This Lent, perhaps our prayer should not be to simply be better stewards, but to love Him more. Then our motivation will not be based upon what we should do but on what we are moved to do out of love.

Parish Calendar

- April**
- April 5th.....** First Friday Holy Communion to sick and homebound. Phone the office to arrange a visit.
- April 6th.....** Diocesan Sacrament of Penance in all parishes from 10am –2pm
- April 7th.....** Solidarity Sunday
- April 10th.....** Finance meeting 6:30pm
- April 14th.....** Palm Sunday
- April 16th.....** Chrism Mass, 7:30pm St. Alfred's Parish
- April 18th.....** Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm (Bingo cancelled)
- April 19th.....** Good Friday
- April 20th.....** Holy Saturday -
- April 21st....** Easter Sunday
- April 24th....** Confirmation meeting 5:30pm
- April 24th.....** St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am
- April 28th.....** Divine Mercy Sunday

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. **A Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make a good confession before the pious devotion of the Stations of the Cross.** Please join with us as we gather to walk with Jesus this holy season of Lent.



Share the journey with those forcibly displaced in Colombia

In Colombia, over 6.5 million people have been forcibly displaced due to conflict, violence, natural disasters, and development projects. With your support, Development and Peace's partner the National Agrarian Coordination (NAC) is working with Indigenous women, many of whom are victims of forced displacement, to help them gain the skills and confidence to be intermediaries with the authorities. By promoting inclusive and participatory democracies, we are addressing one of the root causes of forced migration! **Next week is Solidarity Sunday, when the Share Lent collection in support of the work of Development and Peace will take place. Your generosity has a real impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in the Global South!** Envelopes are in your offertory boxes or you may use those attached to today's bulletin.

St. Ann School third annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction—Friday, April 12th, 7pm. Reserve your tickets now to support our school community and have a fun night of trivia, food, great prizes, and lots of laughs! Tickets are \$20.00 and can be paid in advance through School Cash-on-Line or paid at the door. Pizza and munchies are included in the cost of the ticket. This year The Trivia Kings will be our trivia provider, so get ready for an entertaining night!

If you would like to reserve tickets please email stantrivia@gmail.com. This is a licensed event so admission is 18+. This year, we would like to purchase two air conditioning units for two of our classrooms that have direct sunlight all day. Please help support our school community!

The CWL council of St. Alexander Parish will host the Evening of Reflection on Thursday, April 11th at 6pm. Amelia Leraci will give a presentation on Shoe Box Donations. They are also hosting a bus trip to Midland on Saturday, June 8th. They will visit **Martyrs' Shrine** in the morning and the **Midland Butter Tart Festival** in the afternoon. The cost is \$50. Contact St. Alexander to register.

Sat. Mar 30	9-10am	Confession
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Mar 31	9:30am	✠ Cornelius Vanderlee (Tina Vanderlee)
	11:00am	Special Intention for the unborn children and their mothers (Jankovich Family)
Mon. April 1	9:30am	✠ Souls of the Faithful Departed (Rob Novak)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confessions
Tues. April 2	9:30am	✠ Mary Whalen (Teresa Walters)
Wed. April 3	9:30am	✠ Souls of the Faithful Departed (Rob Novak)
Thurs. April 4	9:30am	Erin & Jason (Teresa Walters)
Fri. April 5	9:30am	Special Intention (Teresa Walters)
Sat. April 6	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
Sun. April 7	9:30am	Special Intention for the unborn children and their mothers (Jankovich Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory March 23rd & 24th, 2019

77 Envelopes	\$2, 170.00
Loose Collection	\$ 67.65
Total Offertory	\$2, 237.65
Flowers	\$ 538.00

Strawberry Fair Volunteer Committee Needed. For details, phone the office soon.

