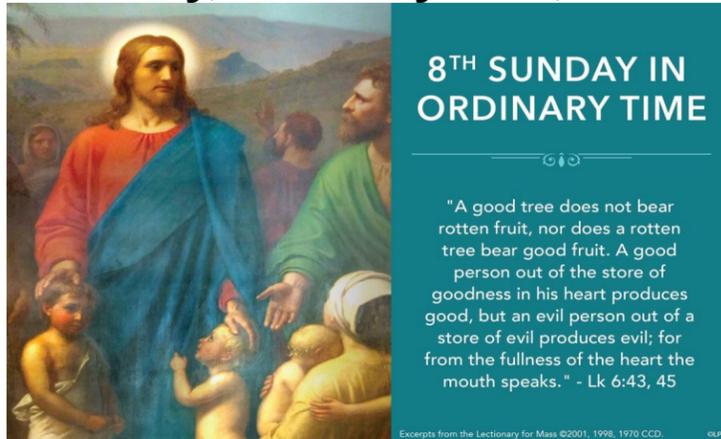




Sunday, February 27th, 2022



8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

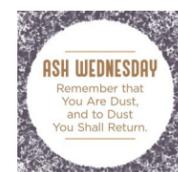
"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

What we say and how we say it reveals the true intentions of our hearts. The content and manner of our speech is a window into the recesses of our souls. Our consciences, attitudes, sentiments, weaknesses, and motives are displayed. As much as we think we can hide the truth of our lives from others, we cannot. Who we really are is not only expressed on our lips but is written on our faces. Jesus says precisely this, "For every tree is known by its own fruit." What does the fruit of our lives say about us? Because we like to play the game of hide and seek with ourselves, in pretending that we are hiding we deflect attention others may give to us by becoming more critical of others. After all, the more time one can spend analyzing others' behaviour the less time one has to look at his or herself. Often, the behaviours we abhor most in others are the very ones we are guilty of ourselves. We just don't know it yet. The more we put ourselves in the role of a judge, the more satisfaction and control we seem to achieve. Yet, what about ourselves? In focusing our attention on the beams in others' eyes, the aridity and barrenness of our lives goes unchecked. St. Ambrose reminds us that "no one heals himself by wounding another." Bringing our brothers and sisters down by being overly critical, serves no positive purpose. But the one who knows how easy it is to fall into sin and weakness and how quickly errors in judgment can be made, knows the depth of true compassion, mercy, and kindness. Having recognized our own poor choices, misguided opinions, negative emotions, and ability to do horrendous things, we can be more sympathetic and understanding of where others may be. We are designed to be mentors and guides to one another. In walking the journey together, we can help each other become the best we can be. Humility is the order of the day and the primary virtue that prevents us from being hypocrites.

Countdown to Lent....Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Prayer, penance, fasting and almsgiving are the main Lenten works. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Joel 2:12. **Masses will be celebrated at 9:30am and 7pm.**



The following is provided from the Code of Canon Law for your information.

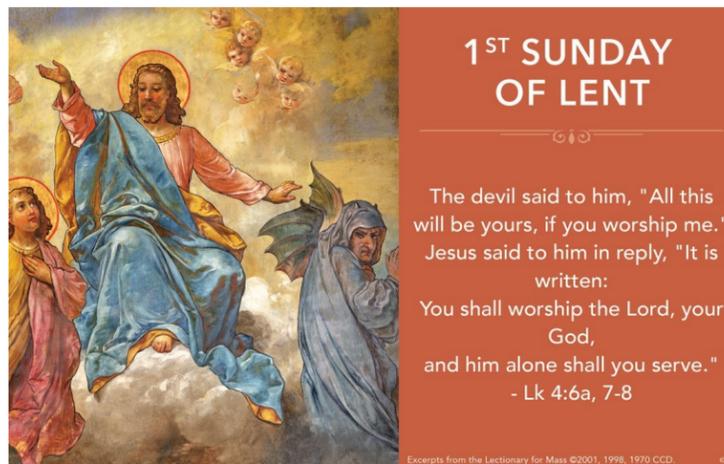
Can.1251 Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Can.1252 The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority (age 18) until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance. The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat.

Lenten Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you I into the desert of Lent so that we might confront the powers of evil and, with your assistance, overcome them. Give us the courage to face the truth about our lives, both the blessings we have received and the failures we have experienced. May these forty days of prayerful observance strengthen us in faith, renew us in hope and fill us with love to share with our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers the soul of † Bishop John O'Mara, Bishop Emeritus of St. Catharines who passed away on February 16th.. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Sunday, March 6th, 2022



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." - Lk 4:6a, 7-8

NO MASS

Mon. Mar 7
Tues. Mar 8 9:30am † Emilia Rajda (Danuta Mazur)
7-8pm
Wed. Mar 9 9:30am † **HOLY HOUR & Confessions** Helen Albanese (Vince Addario)
Thurs. Mar 10 9:30am † Deceased Members of the Legace & Shannon Families (Racz Family)
Fri. Mar 11 9:30am Vince Addario (Lena Addario)
Sat. Mar 12 4-4:45pm **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions** Deceased Members of the Marfics Family (Bill & Mary Podolyak & Family)
5:00pm †
Sun. Mar 13 9:30am Missa Pro Populo
11:00am † Frank Grennan (Racz Family)
Birthday Blessings for Ronaldo Joel Alave (Racz Family)

Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses.



This Lent, let's put people and planet first
This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's *People and Planet First* campaign calls you to support our sisters and brothers in the Global South in defending their rights and the planet. Do this by:
Donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on **April 3, the fifth Sunday of Lent.** Your generosity helps support over 85 projects in 27 countries around the world!
Learning more by reading the **Mini-magazine** and other resources available at devp.org/lent/resources.
Signing the petition for strong laws to control Canadian corporations' behaviour abroad at devp.org/act.

Knowing that "with God, all things are possible," people of faith and conscience unite in 40 days of prayer and fasting for the unborn. The Welland Port Colborne Prolife group is hosting its annual "40 Days for Life" campaign in Niagara Falls starting on March 2, 2022. We are looking for individuals and/or parish groups who can sign up for a minimum of one hour to pray in the area by the Niagara Falls general hospital. To sign up or get more information please visit <http://wpcprolife.com/> or contact the coordinator at loeffenlife@gmail.com.

First Sunday of Lent

One of the greatest temptations human beings face is leaving the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them in pursuit of more personal satisfactions. When we consider all that desires our attention in a given day, there are many lures that attract us to illusions about ourselves. We can easily find ourselves distracted or tired, preoccupied with preserving our status in life, social relationships, current trends, and corporate demands, and intrigued by pursuing what we perceive to be the "path of least resistance." The daily concerns of life can quickly take our eyes off of our truth, making the empty promises of worldly accomplishments and ideologies seem so attractive. What is at risk in giving into this temptation?

We cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige. We replace the true God with a "pet" one. While many do not totally dismiss the idea of God and pretend to remain at least remotely connected, they do not invest themselves heart, mind, and soul in the relationship either. That is why we are so easily swayed. If something attractive comes along, we lunge for it. After all, having a position above and over everyone else is a good thing, isn't it? In more honest moments, many have to admit that they believe this to be true. The Evil One is very convincing. But he can only gain control if we allow him to.

About temptation, St. Basil remarks, "As the pilot of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation." And here is found the reason for Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. It is also a time for some honest reflection rooted in prayer, fasting, and selfless giving that can bring us to temptation's remedy: love. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.

Development and Peace: a movement of solidarity

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We partner with organizations in the Global South that promote alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and support women in their quest for equality and justice. With the help of our 11,000+ volunteer members, we inform Canadians about the root causes of impoverishment and mobilize them to act for change. Our Lenten campaign, *People and Planet First*, offers you the opportunity to help protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems from corporate abuse.

To learn more about and to join our movement, visit devp.org.

CHANGES TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS- EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

Capacity limits in all indoor public settings, including churches, will be lifted.
Proof of vaccination requirements for all settings will be lifted.
Masking requirements will remain for all public places, including churches and office settings.
For those who are sick, have a compromised immune system or feel uncomfortable returning to church at this time, the dispensation for Sunday Mass remains.

SEASON OF LENT

For our Lenten observances, including Ash Wednesday Masses and liturgical services, all churches can be open to full capacity for the first time in two years. Ashes may be distributed according to usual custom, with ashes placed on foreheads. Palms can be distributed. Reconciliation services can be celebrated according to usual customs and procedures.

Offertory February 13, 2022- \$3, 205.00
Offertory February 20th, 2022- \$1,205.00

