

Sunday, January 30th, 2022

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

[He said to them], "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" - Lk 4:21-22

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Sat. Jan 29	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Deceased Members of the Podolyak Family (Bill & Mary Podolyak & Fam.)
Sun. Jan 30	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Domenic Cecco (Pat Vaillancourt & Family)
Mon. Jan 31	9:30am	NO MASS
Tues. Feb 1	9:30am	✠ Jack & Dorothy Walters (Colin & Teresa Walters)
	7-8pm	HOLY HOUR & Confessions
Wed. Feb 2	9:30am	Blessings & Health for Linda Myszczyzyn (Myszczyzyn Family) Special Intention for Healing
Thurs. Feb 3	9:30am	✠ Antonio Addario (Vince Addario)
Fri. Feb 4	9:30am	Blessings & Health for Linda Myszczyzyn (Myszczyzyn Family)
Sat. Feb 5	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Antonio Addario (Vince Addario)
Sun. Feb 6	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Kiyoko Suzuki (Mike & Anne Young)

**Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory January 16th, 2022- \$1,135.00**

Offertory January 23rd, 2022- \$2,015.00

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the Month of February:

For religious sisters and consecrated women: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a "Salvadoran Roman Catholic archbishop who was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador's civil conflict (Encyclopedia Britannica)." As a voice of the voiceless, he was an outspoken champion of the poor who were the ones most affected by the civil unrest and violence. His advocacy provoked several attempts on his life. Nonetheless, St. Oscar Romero was convinced that before all else his faith in the resurrected Christ and the values of the Gospel trumped any earthly concern or worry. He walked with complete confidence and trust. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. Such is often the fate of those who challenge the socio-political agendas of the day. We may look at the example of witness of St. Oscar Romero as something extraordinary. In one sense it is. Through the power of God, an ordinary human being did extraordinary things. But, in and of himself, St. Oscar Romero was simply a humble, loving servant of God. Oscar knew not only the power of love but the risk that comes when loving unconditionally. The beauty of God's message was able to shine in and through him because he was able to step out of the way and be a vessel. One can assume that for St. Oscar Romero, one's earthly life has no merit when faith, integrity, conviction, zeal and love are jettisoned. Fear and apprehension had no grip on this man who not only saw but spoke the truth.

Do we speak the truth? It makes us feel good to speak of God as love. But have we ever considered the ramifications of this radical message? There are assaults on human life occurring daily. More and more the value and worth of a human being is being reduced and minimized. We are becoming widgets in the production of life. In our whole simple humble ways, we too are called to be prophets. Knowing who you are and what is within your means to do, how can you make God's love real, stand up for what is right, and give witness to the sacredness of all that is around you?

Feast of St. Blaise— February 3rd

St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.

History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions, and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived. Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If you would like to participate in this tradition, Fr. Jacek will bless throats following all Masses on the weekend of Feb 5/6 and also on Thursday, February 3rd.

Tuesday, February 8, is the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

It is celebrated on the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. Let us pray for the victims and for those who work to end human trafficking. For more information about this issue that affects victims in our own local community, please go to the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre website <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>.

Sunday, February 6th, 2022

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. - Lk 5:10-11

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Mon. Feb 7		NO MASS
Tues. Feb 8	9:30am	Amer, Divya & Praanjal (Divya G.)
	7-8pm	HOLY HOUR & Confessions
Wed. Feb 9	9:30am	✠ Helen Albanese (Vince Addario)
Thurs. Feb 10	9:30am	✠ Angelo Albanese (Vince Addario)
Fri. Feb 11	9:30am	Vince Addario (Lena Addario) ✠ Gerald Iftody (Pat Vaillancourt & Family)
Sat. Feb 12	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Mary & Ray Whalen (Teresa & Colin Walters)
Sun. Feb 13	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Mary Wood (Joan & Tim Crowther)

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

Covid-19 Update: On Thursday, January 20th, the Government of Ontario announced a three-phase timeframe for decreasing COVID-19 restrictions. In light of the announcement: As of Monday, January 31, 2022, Chancery and parishes offices will re-open.

Since we are not requiring proof of vaccination for church attendance, capacity limits will remain unchanged (2- meter physical distancing = 33%). Based on the government's current projections, this capacity limit will remain in place at least until March 14, 2022.

World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2nd. :

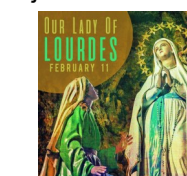
Wednesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also the World Day for Consecrated Life. The image of light has traditionally been associated with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord as candles are blessed and distributed to the faithful. This image can also be associated with Consecrated Life. Throughout the history of the Church men and women religious have been a light in the darkness by living out their various charisms. We are most grateful to those in Consecrated Life in the Diocese of St. Catharines who have contributed so much to education, healthcare, works of charity, and parish life. They have been the light of Christ to so many in the past, present, and will continue to be in the future.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man," these words, uttered by Simon Peter, can be found on any one of our lips. What real significance do I have in the big picture of God's Divine plan? Even though we try our best to hide it, we all suffer from a lack of faith. We get tired, confused, and often lack any sincere desire to put anything into our relationship with God. It's easier to simply reap whatever benefits the world has to offer and call it a day. Floating along on the superficial currents of life doesn't require much effort and seems to get us through the day. Confronting our own infidelity, apathy, weakness of spirit, and doubt in God's providence, how can we even remotely be considered a worthy vessel of God's presence or credible voice for His message?

This is the irony of faith. God doesn't seek the perfect vessels. He likes the broken ones. There is something to be said about living honestly and sincerely, and wrestling with sin, imperfection, and weakness rather than skipping through the peripheries of life with pretention, arrogance, and mendacity. If we believe ourselves to be our own "god" and serve only ourselves, we close the door to ever being used by the real and only True God. But, if we at least acknowledge that there is One greater than ourselves, then even in our deepest poverty and lowliness, God can enter.

Lessons are best learned from those who suffer. Only someone who has been lonely and lost can attest to the beauty of both Divine and human friendship. Only those who have really lost their way know what happens when they are found. Only those who are afraid know what it is to be calmed by God. The Gospel is messy because life is messy. There are no black and white solutions to problems and challenges that are hazy and gray. When our hesitancy to encounter God gets replaced by friendship with God, we become more aware of our dignity and the fact that we are loved just as we are.



On Friday, February 11, we celebrate the Feast in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes. This is also the World Day of the Sick.

This day highlights the healing ministry of the Church and recognizes the service of those involved in health care.

Pope Francis' Message for the thirtieth World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2022, can be found at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20211210_30-giornata-malato.html It is entitled "**Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful**" (Lk 6:36). **Standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity**

"Jesus' invitation to be merciful like the Father - writes the Pope - has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer". People who have made their service a mission. Because Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father".

An invitation is extended to all parishioners who are elderly and/or suffering from a serious illness or disease to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th following morning Mass or SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th FOLLOWING THE 11AM MASS.

This year's ShareLent campaign is approaching soon. If you would like to learn more about this year's campaign, or about the work of Development & Peace, please plan to attend a workshop (via Zoom) on Saturday February 12th, 10 – 11:30 am. Join us for a morning of prayer, music, fellowship and fun as we "see-judge-act" our way to a more just world. Celebrate the impact of your solidarity in Madagascar, Honduras and Cambodia! To register, or to find a workshop on an alternate date, please go to <https://www.devp.org/en/?s=Share+Lent>

