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**Sunday, February 4th, 2018**  
**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

— Mk 1:38-39

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

Sat. Feb 3	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Feb 4	9:30am	✠ Martin Kolenko Jr. (Stefan & Maria Hozjan & Fam.)
	11:00am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Josie tenDen)
Mon. Feb 5	9:30am	✠ Kiyoko Suzuki (Mike & Anne Young)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Feb 6	9:30am	✠ Nick Lancione (Sherry Lancione & Family)
Wed. Feb 7	9:30am	Intentions of Vulcan Wilson (Walters Family)
Thurs. Feb 8	9:30am	Intentions of Jeff Bezos (Walters Family)
Fri. Feb 9	9:30am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
Sat. Feb 10	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Feb 11	9:30am	✠ Lewis Tremeer (Donna & Jean Larocque)
	11:00am	✠ Mary Wood (Joan & Tim Crowther)

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

**Offertory January 27th & 28th, 2018**

69 Envelopes	\$1,668.10
Loose Collection	\$ 77.00
Total Offertory	\$1,745.10

**Thank You FOR GIVING GENEROUSLY**

**Offertory boxes 2018:** If you have not picked up your boxes, they are available in the church hall. **2017 tax receipts are now available.** Please pick them up at the back of the church to avoid mailing costs.

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity.**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For most of us, the dynamic between prayer and action is imperfect. Breakfast needs to be made and the kids dressed. Work demands our energy and additional responsibilities fill our evenings and weekends. Then there's the football game or a new TV series to stream. After all, don't we need to relax?

We're all busy. But just imagine Jesus' situation in today's Gospel. He heals Peter's mother-in-law, drives out demons, and cures diseases late into the night. With very little sleep, he arises before dawn to capture some peace and quiet, only to find "those who were with him pursued him." How often do we feel pursued by the harried commitments, even when we try to seek rest? Perhaps we can learn something from the response of Jesus. Jesus models two key things: the essential nature of prayer and the essential call of vocation. "He went off to a deserted place, where he prayed." Despite inevitable exhaustion, Jesus prioritizes time with the Father. We might not have easy access to deserts and mountaintops, but today's Gospel challenges us to take intentional time set apart for God. We can designate a "prayer chair" in a corner of our home or leave a little earlier to pick our children up from school so we can snatch time in a nearby chapel. We can pray the rosary on our commute or take the dog for a long walk in silence. Jesus is true to his calling. He continues on in his state of life, serving the people nearest to him. Like Jesus, we are invited to set intentional time for communion with God so that we can be refreshed and empowered for our communion with others.



**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

When we suffer, we can easily find ourselves thinking that we have been abandoned by God or have done something to displease him and are now paying the price. Suffering is not God's fault. The reality of suffering and death is much more complicated than this and even somewhat mysterious. When Jesus preached the Gospel, it was made clear that suffering has meaning and always brings with it new life. It requires faith in order to understand this mystery. The Gospel brings us new life both here and in the life to come. This is truly Good News! When this Good News is understood by the believer it stirs within us a passion to urgently preach this healing and life giving message to others. Sometimes we can feel like we are living the life of Job: everything is going wrong all at the same time. Everyone finds himself or herself in a valley once in awhile. How we got there is not nearly as important as how are we going to get out.

**Countdown to Lent:** Everyday stewards are called to be grateful for all things, large and small. It is easier to be grateful for obvious things like family, health, and life itself, than it is to look for the ordinary gifts in our life. When we cultivate a sense of wonder and thankfulness for the many little things in life we find ourselves more resilient in times of trial. We can look out our window and see all those gifts in creation. We can look around our home and see all the things people take too easily for granted. Imagine life without some of the simplest of things. There are people in this world that long for all of those things. But God has given them for your benefit and for you to share with others. **Before Lent begins** in a couple weeks, take the time to create a list of at least 10 things that you normally take for granted. Keep that list handy and maybe add to it from time-to-time. When life seems hard and that cloud seems to hang over our heads, bring out the list and let gratefulness lift you up and out of your plight so that once again you can be about your Father's work.



**The 26th World Day of the Sick** will be celebrated on February 11, 2018, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The World Day of the Sick focuses on three themes. It reminds the faithful to pray for the sick; it invites us to reflect upon the meaning of human suffering; finally, it recognizes and honours all persons who work in the health care field. Please find attached the English and French texts of the Holy Father's Message, "Behold, your son... Behold, your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (John 19:26-27).

**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 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th FOLLOWING THE 11AM MASS.**

**Recipients of the Anointing of the Sick:**

Those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament. The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after being anointed and then again falls ill or if during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious. A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery. Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present. Sick children may be anointed if they sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament. **On Sunday, February 11, 2018,** the World Day of the Sick, Bishop Bergie will celebrate Mass with the communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. All are welcome to attend, especially the sick and those who care for the sick.

**40 Days for Life –** Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14-March 25. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life." To sign up: [www.wpcprolife.com](http://www.wpcprolife.com), and follow the link. You may sign up at your church – or contact Angela: [angelabraun@live.com](mailto:angelabraun@live.com) or Annette: [loeffenlife@gmail.com](mailto:loeffenlife@gmail.com) or phone 905-931-0363.



**CWL Annual Diocesan Retreat: Theme: Come Rest in Christ.** Saturday, March 17th or Wednesday, March 21st., 8:30-2:30pm, Registration 8:30-9am. \$35 per person. Gethsemane Ministries, Wellandport.

Deadline to register, Feb. 21st. Guest Speaker: Fr. Stephen Bruzese. Phone the office. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**Join the CWL in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council– 1958-2018: Saturday, April 21st,** Mass 4:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Dinner 6pm, Club Roma, St. Catharines. Tickets \$35, all welcome. Ticket Deadline: Feb. 21st.

**Thursday, February 8th is the fourth 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 <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>.

**Parish Calendar**

- Feb 3/4....** Feast of St. Blaise– Blessing of Throats following all Masses
- Feb 3/4....** Charity Tax Receipts ready for pick up.
- Feb 10/11....** Youth Ministry Bake Auction
- Feb 11th....** Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—World Day of The Sick. Anointing available following 11am Mass. More info in bulletin.
- Feb 11th.....** St. Vincent de Paul meeting following 11am Mass
- Feb 14th.....** **ASH WEDNESDAY.** Masses 9:30am & 7pm
- Feb 20th....** **Mass cancelled**
- Feb 25th....** Youth Mass 9:30am
- Feb 28th....** St. Ann School Lenten Reconciliation
- March.....** World Day of Prayer
- March 2nd.....** Visitation of the sick and homebound
- March 2nd....** Youth Ministry Bingo Lookout Ridge
- March 2nd.....** St. Vincent de Paul Meeting following 11am Mass
- March 11th.....** March Break
- March 12-16...** Diocesan wide day of Reconciliation 10am-2pm
- March 17th....** Solidarity Sunday
- March 18th.....** Feast of St. Joseph
- March 19th.....** Youth Mass 9:30am
- March 25th....** Palm Sunday
- March 25th.....** Holy Thursday (Bingo Cancelled)
- March 29th....** Good Friday
- March 30th....** Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
- March 31st....** Easter Sunday
- April 1st.....** Easter Sunday

**St. Ann Youth Ministry Presents: The Second Annual Winter Festival!**

Our youth are hosting the second annual Winter Festival in the parish hall on the weekend of **February 10th and 11th after each of the Masses.**

We will be auctioning off delicious baked goods and running various games for the whole family to enjoy! All funds raised will go towards youth ministry at our parish. Bring your family and join us for this great cause that is sure to be lots of fun for all! Our home-made baked goods will be a delicious Valentines treat for your loved ones! Any members of the parish community who wish to donate baked goods for our auction, or volunteer to help out, please contact Genevieve at: [gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org) Please drop off your baked goods Feb 9th during office hours or before Masses on the weekend.

**SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY.** This month's topics are 'Identifying the Losses', (February 12); and 'Finding Peace', Deacon Gunther Eyer, presenter (February 26). Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

**Married Singles Lifestyle –**The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 16, 2018**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).



