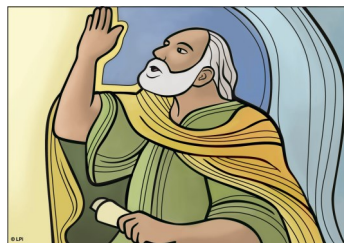


iRev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Sunday, February 12th, 2017 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. But I say to you, do not swear at all. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” — Mt 5:33-34a, 37

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

Sixth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus presents two paths for us today: we can break his commandments or obey them. And the result corresponds to our choice. If we decide not to follow God’s guidelines, we will not enjoy the fullness of the kingdom of heaven. But if we choose otherwise, eternity will look much brighter for us!

Of course, it’s easy to know in our minds what the right choice is. But putting this into practice is another matter. The commandments Jesus gives in today’s Gospel are not easy to follow. He takes the ancient Ten Commandments to a deeper level of commitment. He says more than do not kill. Rather, do not even harbor anger in our hearts. He says more than do not commit adultery. Rather, do not even indulge in lustful thoughts. He says more than do not lie. Rather, do not even swear.

Undoubtedly, Jesus is asking us to chart a challenging course. But he would not expect us to follow these directives if it were impossible to do so. And it’s important to bear in mind that Jesus doesn’t set high standards to test or punish us. His love for us is at the root of everything he teaches us. Following these commandments, challenging though they may be, will *in fact* make us happier people, both now and in eternity! As with so many good things in life, committed effort on our part is necessary—whether it be maintaining good health, accomplishing a certain skill, or earning a sought-after award. So too with a soul that is truly free. We need to exercise a life of virtue by taking the advice of Jesus Christ, the best life coach we could ever hope to have.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

This week and next Jesus presents challenges to Christians to go beyond the strictures of the law and to engage in a deeper understanding of what it can mean to follow Christ. Are we ready to do that with our whole heart?

40 Days for Life – Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, March 1-April 9. 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, or [40daysforlife.com/Niagara Falls](http://40daysforlife.com/NiagaraFalls). For info or help, call Annette, 905-325-1251.

2017 Bishop’s Gala: The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is hosting the 14th annual Bishop’s Gala **April 1, 2017, 5:30pm** at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. The event supports scholarships and students in need throughout the Catholic Schools of the Niagara Catholic district School Board. For information contact Linda Marconi, 905-735-0240 Ext 214.

St. Ann’s Church - Seasonal Agricultural Worker Support Program...in need of VOLUNTEERS!

Most seasonal farm workers will start to arrive early March and will not come prepared for our colder temperatures. **To better support and welcome our seasonal workers to St. Ann’s Church, we are in need of the following new or gently used items: sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks, bicycles, luggage, toiletries (e.g. new toothbrush/toothpaste/soap, etc.). Please drop off items in church basement. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT!** Stay tuned for more program details. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Anne Marie Cargnelli – amcargnelli@hotmail.com or the parish.

Catholic Women’s League News

The Catholic Women’s League will host the **St. Ann Syrian Family Welcome Shower on Sunday, February 19th, 2017, 2pm** in our parish hall. There will be a recently welcomed Syrian, Rana Bshara from St Kevin Parish who will share her family’s experience. If you would like to bring a gift, although not necessary, we are registered at Wal-Mart Canada. First Name: St. Ann’s, Last Name: Catholic Church Under Wedding Registries (Gifts do not need to be wrapped) Gift cards would be much appreciated.

Pierogies: The CWL will be making pierogies on March 20th (preparing filling) and March 21st to prepare dough and assemble. If you can assist, please sign the sheet at the back of the church.

Cancelled Postage Stamps: The CWL will be collecting cancelled stamps which help raise funds for Development and Peace. A basket has been placed in the church hall where you can deposit them.

Lenten Retreat: will take place April 5th & April 8th at Gethsemane Ministries in Wellandport. The CWL will pay half the cost for all women who would like to attend. More details to follow. Phone the office if you are interested in attending.

The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee is eagerly awaiting the arrival of their family scheduled for some time in the spring. Navigating their new surroundings is just one of the challenges they will face. We are looking for some more volunteers to assist with driving the families to appointments, grocery shopping, school, activities etc., when they arrive. As with all vulnerable sector/high risk ministries, police screening is required. Please contact the office and we will assist you with the paperwork. The SRRC is appreciative of any assistance you can provide.

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 24, 2017** please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

Separated and Divorced Healing Ministry. This month’s topics are “The Losses of Separation and Divorce” Feb 13th and “Looking at Separation and Divorce Through the Eyes of Children” Feb. 27th. Meetings are 7pm to 9pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave., NF. No registration required. For info call 905-356-4113 or 904-684-0154. email: separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

A Holy Season of Renewal: Enrich your Lenten experience by joining the parish of St. Mary, Welland, for a series of 8 talks presented by Fr. Stuart MacDonald. Topics will include: Faith; Spiritual Life; Sin; Penance; Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving; Marriage; Paschal Mystery; Four Last Things. Talks will be given twice weekly—Tuesday 7-8 pm and Thursday 10-11:30am, beginning Feb. 14th—April 6, 2017. There is no fee, but please register to ensure sufficient materials are available. Contact Helen Smits 905-988-2274 or cooj0510@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

February.....
Feb 11th..... Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick
Feb 11/12 Youth Ministry bake sale/auction fundraiser
Feb 12th..... **Anointing of the Sick following 11am Mass**
Feb 12th.... SVDP Meeting following 11am Mass
Feb 15th..... Confirmation Class 5pm.
Feb 15th... Liturgy Committee Meeting 6:30pm
Feb 19th..... CWL shower for Syrian Refugee Initiative
Feb 23rd..... First Communion Parents Meeting 7pm
March.....
March 1st..... Ash Wednesday. Masses 9:30am & 7pm
March 3rd..... World Day of Prayer....more to follow
March 5th..... First Sunday of Lent
March 7th..... Morning Mass cancelled
March 22nd.... Finance Council meeting 6:30pm
March 22nd..... Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm

YOUTH MINISTRY: YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings 6:30-8:30pm. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>. If you would like to volunteer, check out our website email gbroadley@branchestheword.org

Everyday Stewardship– Reflection

I saw a slogan once for an Internet start-up: “There is one rule; there are no rules.” In fact, when I searched for this slogan again online, I was surprised at all of the variations on the “no rules” sentiment. Apparently, even Justin Bieber has a documented quote: “I want my world to be fun. No parents, no rules, no nothing. Like, no one can stop me. No one can stop me.” Wow. My own kids seldom read my reflections. If they are reading this one, *don’t get any ideas!*

Of course, a society without laws or rules will not exist for very long. The laws of a society are there to protect us from perhaps our greatest enemy: ourselves. We can’t just do whatever we feel like. We will eventually hurt others or ourselves. The laws of God and his Church have the same effect. Sinful and imperfect people need parameters. Christians who choose sin or their own will over God’s commandments not only break the relationship they have with their God, but they hurt others and diminish the body of Christ.

A stewardship way of life asks of us to live in a certain manner. We sometimes think that our cultivation of gifts and giving them back with increase to God is for God’s sake. God’s commands do not benefit God, for God is complete and perfect without need for increase. But this way of life is for the benefit of his creation. There is no power struggle here between a God of rules and his children. The cross bears witness to that. Instead, God’s “rules” prevent us from destroying ourselves, and give us a path so we may flourish. Whether you are an ordinary Joe or an ordinary Bieber, following God’s commands will lead to the real satisfaction in this gift of life.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner: Saturday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn Parkway Conference Centre, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines. Guest Speaker: Stephanie Gray, author of, *Love Unleashes Life*. Join us to hear this highly acclaimed international pro-life speaker. Enjoy an excellent dinner and fellowship, celebrating the beauty in every human life. To reserve tickets (\$45, \$25 for students), call our office 684-7505 or email: info@chooselife.ca. For event and speaker details: visit ChooseLife.ca

Note Dame Trivia Night February 24, 2017. Tickets \$20.00, please call ND Outfitters at (905) 788-9100. All proceeds support ND students- athletics, clubs, bursaries.

Sat. Feb 11	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Tereija & Martin Bajuk (Frank & Ivanka Plesko)
Sun. Feb 12	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Mary Wood (Joan & Tim Crowther)
Mon. Feb 13	9:30am	Intention Available
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Feb 14	9:30am	Intention Available
Wed. Feb 15	9:30am	✠ Jean Frasier (Helena & Adam Sarvis)
Thurs. Feb 16	9:30am	✠ Ted Ruiters (Horton Family)
Fri. Feb 17	9:30am	Special Intention (Karen & Michael)
Sat. Feb 18	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Feb 19	9:30am	✠ Nina Aleksiejuk (Jan & Lana)
	11:00am	✠ John Sporbeck (Mary Ann Biggar)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses. Offertory February 4th & 5th, 2017

86 Envelopes	\$1, 815.00
Loose Collection	\$ 71.65
Total Offertory	\$1, 886.65
Maintenance (25 Env.)	\$ 400.25

2016 tax receipts are now available at the back of the church. Please pick them up at to help defray mailing costs. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

We welcome in Baptism, **Emitt Gordon Durk**, son of Adam Durk and Ashley Steele. May the gifts which Baptism bestows, grow unhindered in us all.