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**The Diocese of St. Catharines
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**
*“Put out into the deep water and let down your
 nets.” (Lk 5:4)*
Sunday, March 18th, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” — Jn 12:24, 31-32

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

Sat. Mar 17	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Mar 18	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
	9:30am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
	11:00am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Mary Ann Biggar)
Mon. Mar 19	9:30am	✠ Josephine Murphy (Phyllis & George Repar)
		✠ Joseph Bajuk (Frank & Ivanka Plesko & Fam)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Mar 20	9:30am	✠ Gerald Keast (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. Mar 21	9:30am	✠ David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Thurs. Mar 22	9:30am	✠ Kelly Morellato (Racz Family)
Fri. Mar 23	9:30am	✠ Deceased Family & Friends of the Podolyak Family (Bill & Mary Podolyak)
Sat. Mar 24	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Pauline Guillemette (Bill & Mary Podolyak)
		✠ Harry Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Mar 25	9:30am	✠ Kristina & Frank Hozjan (Joe & Teresa Hozjan & Fam.)
		✠ Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam.)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory March 10th & 11th, 2018

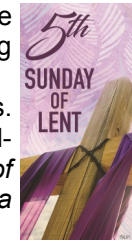
75 Envelopes	\$1, 805.00
Loose Collection	\$ 129.25
Total Offertory	\$1, 834.25
Roof Collection	\$ 800.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 560.00

Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Now there were some Greeks among those who had come to worship at the feast. They came to Philip...and asked him, ‘Sir, we would like to see Jesus.’” It has begun. News of Jesus has spread beyond native-born, Aramaic-speaking Jews. We don’t know if the Greeks mentioned here heard of Jesus from fellow travelers or if news of this intriguing rabbi had reached all the way to their home. What we do know is that this interaction spurred an interesting comment from Jesus: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” In other words, it has begun. The time has come for the message to move beyond the geographic bounds of Israel.



But what does this message require? The Gospel is clear: “he said this indicating the kind of death he would die.” A grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies to its life as only a seed. A caterpillar takes on the appearance of temporary death in order to transform into a butterfly. In the Gospels, sacrifice and death are a way of becoming something more than you were before.



This Lent, new life can come from our sacrifices. When we enter into the season with Jesus, our difficulties can transform our perspective. “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit.”

As we abstain from meat and fast from eating between meals, we can grow in compassion for the hungry. We can give alms of our time, sacrificially spending time with the lonely, the sick, and the marginalized. Our little Lenten “deaths” – death to unnecessary preferences, death to selfish living, death to ignorance of other’s pain – can bring new life to the world long after the season is over. This is the invitation this Sunday and every Lenten season, to begin anew from death to life.

Annual Diocesan RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS:

Celebrated by Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines. Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. A Special Diocesan Mass to thank God for the gift of life; to pray for human life in all its stages; to pray for those wounded by abortion. Reception to follow in the parish hall. Hosted by the Diocesan CWL, Information: Martina 289-686-6122 Diocesan Respect Life Committee.

Volunteers needed to lead the prayers of the Rosary at the Welland Hospital– Woolcott Wing about once a month. This traditional Catholic Prayer, based on the Bible, helps us contemplate the events in the life of Jesus and that of His Mother, Mary. For the residents there, it keeps them connected to their faith and helps strengthen it. Your leadership would give them the opportunity to honour our Lord and his Mother with this special prayer. If you think you could assist with this, please contact the office or speak with Deacon Jim.

Update on our Syrian Family: The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee and our Syrian Family would like to thank the parishioners of St Ann’s and St Elizabeth’s as well as Father Chad for all of their support in helping to bring this family here. They are very happy to be in Canada, have settled into their apartment in St. Catharines, and are getting to know their new home town. They are attending English classes in the community, and are looking forward to meeting all of you at Mass in the coming months. Please keep our second family in your prayers, as we wait, and hope for news of their expected arrival date.



Passion Sunday: Saturday, March 24th, 5pm
Passion Sunday: Sunday, March 25th, 9:30 & 11am
Mass of Chrism: Tuesday, March 27th, 7:30pm
 (Location—Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Church Street, St. Catharines)
Holy Thursday: March 29th
 Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7pm
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm
Good Friday: March 30th
 Confessions 9-11am
 Celebration of the Lord’s Passion 3pm
 7pm—Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday: March 31st
 Confessions 9-10am
 Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
 Confessions 4-5pm
 Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil, **8:30pm**
Easter Sunday: April 1st, Masses 9:30 & 11am
Divine Mercy Sunday: April 8th, Prayers 3pm

40 Days for Life – Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14-March 25. People are welcome to participate on any of these days 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.” You are welcome to simply show up or if you wish to sign up go to: www.wpcprolife.com, and follow the link, or contact Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363.



Solidarity Sunday: We wish to thank you for your generosity on this Development and Peace Solidarity Sunday. Your donation will be used to help our sisters and brothers all over the world — from Lebanon to Cambodia, to Nigeria and beyond! The theme of our Share Lent campaign *Together for Peace*, invites us to build peace through dialogue and reconciliation and to consider mercy as a source of hope for the future. This is what Pope Francis underlined on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy: “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope!

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (March 24/25) or Good Friday (March 30)**, your binders are now available 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 (**Mark—for Palm Sunday**) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions (petitions for Palm Sunday only). On your reading date, please bring the binders with you and leave them at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

Parish Calendar

March.....
March 18th..... Solidarity Sunday
March 19th..... Feast of St. Joseph
March 25th..... Palm Sunday
March 27th..... Chrism Mass, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines 7:30pm
March 29th.... Holy Thursday (Bingo Cancelled)
March 30th..... Good Friday
March 31st.... Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
April 1st..... Easter Sunday

The Way of the Cross: Join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.

Roof Fundraiser

Total donations to date, are **\$23,210.25**. We would like to thank the **St. Ann Bingo Committee for their donation of \$500!** A tremendous thank you to **everyone** for their generosity! If you would like to donate, you may do so at any time. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the church and we will leave some near the donation board in the parish hall. You can place donations in the offertory, bring to the parish office or hand them to Fr. Chad or a member of the Finance Council.

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 11th.** If you do not have envelopes but would like to donate, you may use a plain envelope with your contact information listed. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, or bring to the parish office on or before the weekend of March 24/25. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



This summer St. Ann Parish will be hosting their 3rd Annual Vacation Bible School from August 13th to August 17th.

Registration is now open. Forms are at the back of the church or phone the office. All children from ELKP to Grade 6 can participate. Older students in Grades 7-12 can volunteer as Junior Leaders. Spots fill up quickly, so plan to register soon. Please note that Junior Leaders 14 years of age or older are required to complete the Police Record Check. As this process can take as long as 6 weeks to complete, we recommend that you contact us soon if you want to be involved.

Adult Faith Formation Series: Exploring Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love.

This faith formation series is being held on four consecutive Monday evenings, beginning April 9, 2018, 7-9pm., at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, L2V 4Y6. Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/DUIZAM0YdRtNPYB32> or by calling the Office of Religious Education, 905-684-0154, ext. 207 by April 4, 2018. A registration fee of \$10 will be collected on the first night to cover the cost of materials including a copy of *Amoris Laetitia*.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY.

“Learning to Forgive”, (March 26) - Fr. Chris Kulig, presenter. 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

Please remember in your prayers the soul of **Armand Lamontagne** who passed away March 11th. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

