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Sunday, February 26th, 2017
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” — Mt 6:31, 32b-33a

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

Sat. Feb 25	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	† Ernesto Pignataro (Jim & Josephine Pignataro)
Sun. Feb 26	9:30am	† Louis Marshall (Anne & Mike Young)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. Feb 27	9:30am	Intention Available
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Feb 28	9:30am	Intention Available
Wed. March 1		Ash Wednesday
	9:30am	St. Ann School Mass
	7:00pm	Intention Available
Thurs. March 2	9:30am	† Tony, Margaret & Bert Van Doorn (Horton Family)
Fri. March 3	9:30am	Intention Available
	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat. March 4	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	† Agnes Feryn (Karen & Michael)
		† David MacDougall (Gwen MacDougall)
Sun. March 5	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	† Susie Mislán (Mikolasek & Biggar Families)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory February 18th & 19th, 2017

77 Envelopes \$1, 949.95
 Loose Collection \$ 160.00
 Total Offertory \$2, 109.95

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK
 The providential love of God is without end and God's eternal mercy is shown to every creature. Even in times of pain and difficulty, we are called to trust in God's mercy and love. In the Gospel today, Jesus reminds us that we are worth more than the birds of the air or the flowers of the field.

Eighth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 “Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?” No, indeed we can't. But evidence does suggest that worrying can **subtract** time from our life span! Clearly, we are not meant to worry. It's not healthy and it's not useful. But for many of us, it's quite difficult not to be anxious and concerned about matters that are important to us. So what is the secret to letting go of this unnecessary anxiety?

Jesus gives us an answer in today's Gospel. “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” In other words, our focus should be on being faithful followers of God. When we put our trust in the providence of the One who “clothes the grass of the field,” and stop trying to rely on our own (meager) powers, then things will be taken care of: “Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”

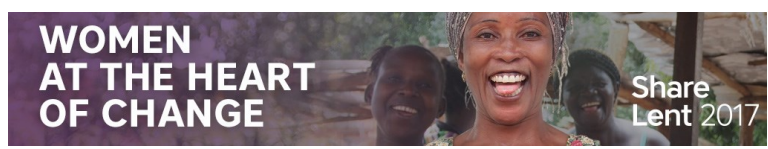


Part of the secret here, of course, is coming to accept God's will for us, even when it doesn't perfectly match what we may have been envisioning. There is a kind of surrender involved that puts God's plan first. Instead of getting worked up that things aren't going our way, this kind of reliance upon God enables us to relax and accept the way things **are** going. The great spiritual writer, Jean-Pierre de Caussade, put it well in his work, *Abandonment to Divine Providence*, when he said, “To escape the distress caused by regret for the past or fear about the future, this is the rule to follow: leave the past to the infinite mercy of God, the future to His good Providence, give the present wholly to His love by being faithful to His grace.” God takes care of the birds, the flowers, even the grass! He will also take care of us.

Lent begins March 1st There are traditionally forty days in Lent which are marked by fasting, both from foods and festivities, and by other acts of penance. The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbour). Today, some people give up something they enjoy, and often give the time or money spent doing that thing to charitable purposes or organizations. Lent is a season of sorrowful reflection that is punctuated by breaks in the fast on Sundays (the day of the resurrection); thus, Sundays are not counted in the forty days of Lent. **Masses Ash Wednesday...9:30am & 7pm.** The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. The ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility.

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

Can.1251 Abstinance 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. Abstinance and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
Can.1252 The law of abstinance 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 abstinance, are taught the true meaning of penance. The law of abstinance forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat.



Development and Peace is celebrating 50 years of solidarity for justice and peace. Their work in the Global South and in Canada would not be possible without the combined efforts of members, partners, the Catholic Church in Canada and the employees of Development and Peace who, year after year, are acting together to uphold the dignity of every child, woman and man and to build a just world. Thank you for being part of their movement! Thank you for your unwavering solidarity with the most vulnerable sisters and brothers of our one human family.

This year's campaign which will begin on Ash Wednesday is entitled “**Women at the Heart of Change**”. Since the organization's founding in 1967, money donated annually by Catholics during Share Lent provides essential support to the poorest populations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Today, Development and Peace supports 173 partners and 194 projects in 46 countries around the world! You can make Share Lent part of your family's Lenten journey by using the Solidarity Calendar which you will find today in your bulletin. This year, the Share Lent collection will take place **on April 2nd, which is Solidarity Sunday.**

Did you know that Development and Peace's first campaign took place in 1968 and raised \$1.35 million which was used to carry out projects in 32 countries?

The Canadian Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) Part of the celebrations include a pilgrimage across the country of a *Solidarity Quilt*. The quilt is scheduled to be present in the Diocese of St. Catharines March 8 – 14, 2017. Bishop Bergie will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria for the 50th anniversary on Sunday, March 12 at 11:30am.

Catholic Women's League News

The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee would like to extend their gratitude to the Catholic Women's League for hosting last weekend's shower for our Syrian Families. The event was well attended, great food was shared and the guest speaker, Rana Bshara gave an insightful talk on her family's experience fleeing their Syrian homeland and adjusting to a new life in Canada. Thank you to all who attended, donated food and brought gifts.

Lenten Retreat: will take place April 5th **OR** April 8th at Gethsemane Ministries in Wellandport. Both days are the same and you may choose the day which best suits your schedule. The cost is \$30 (includes lunch) and the CWL will reimburse half the cost for all women who attend. The guest speaker will be Ann Jacobs. Topic: Mary Responding in Faith. To register, please phone the office. **DEADLINE is Sunday, February 26th.**

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.

2017 Bishop's Gala: April 1, 2017, 5:30pm at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. For information contact Linda Marconi, 905-735-0240 Ext 214.

Parish Calendar

March.....
March 1st..... Ash Wednesday. Masses 9:30am & 7pm
March 3rd.... Visitation of Sick and Homebound
March 3rd..... World Day of Prayer....more to follow
March 3rd..... Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent 7pm
March 5th..... First Sunday of Lent
March 7th..... Morning Mass cancelled
March 12th St. Vincent de Paul meeting after 11am Mass
March 20/21... Assistance needed for making pierogies
March 22nd.... Finance Council meeting 6:30pm
March 22nd..... Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm
March 25th..... Respect for Life Mass, Cathedral 10am
The Way of the Cross: For Roman Catholics throughout the world, the **Stations of the Cross** are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week and, especially, Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the "Way of the Cross", the "Via Crucis", and the "Via Dolorosa." It commemorates 14 key events on day of Christ's crucifixion. The majority concern His final walk through the streets of Jerusalem, carrying the Cross. When the Way of the Cross is commemorated in Catholicism this is done by a sort of prayer wherein the faithful imagine the various tableaux of the journey, known as The Stations of the Cross. The word 'station' stems from Latin 'statio', meaning: I stand. As far back as the 16th century these stations could be seen along the street Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, a well-known voyage for pilgrims. **Beginning March 3rd, join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.**

The St Ann's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be running a **food drive during Lent** and all donations will go to Pelham Cares. Baskets will be at the entrance to the church, beginning next weekend. Items most in need include canned fruit/vegetables, tea, juice boxes, cereal (hot or cold), canned chili/stew, canned meat, jam, shampoo, and paper towels. At this time, Pelham Cares has an abundance of dried pasta and pasta sauce and does not require these items. Donations of gift cards would be most welcome—grocery store (Food Basics/Sobeys etc.), Giant Tiger. Special envelopes for gift cards have been placed at the back of the church. They can be placed in the collection basket. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

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.

World Day of Prayer 2017– “Am I Being Unfair To You?”
Written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of The Philippines
 World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. Through World Day of Prayer, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole world, are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures, share the burdens of other people by praying with them and for them, and use our own talents in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world. The women of the Philippines invite us to consider these words: “Am I being unfair to you?” This year's worship theme is taken from Matthew 20:1-16, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard.

Join our neighbours in celebrating World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3rd at 2pm at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1557 Pelham Street, Fonthill.