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**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.



When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

**Niagara Region has now moved into the Red Zone- 30% attendance capacity is in place.**

All parishes have resumed 30% capacity indoors. All Diocesan Pandemic Protocols remain in place including physical distancing and Contact Tracing protocols.

**Face coverings are mandatory.**

**Once the 30% capacity has been filled, the doors will be locked. We will take attendance for each Mass and/or Liturgical service for contact tracing purposes.**

**Offertory March 13 & 14, 2021  
 Envelopes: 2, 770.00**

**Interac E-transfer is also available to make donations. Please use the following email: stannfendonations@cogeco.net (No password required)**

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

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

**When Our Own Hour Comes**

We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behaviour for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "Father, save me from this hour?" But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.



**Respect for Life Mass:** A powerful prayer that we offer each year as a diocesan family is the Respect for Life Mass, which will be held at our Cathedral on **The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, Thursday, March 25, 2021**

**at 7:00 pm.** Due to the pandemic and reduced capacity at the Cathedral, people are encouraged to participate via livestream this year. It is important that we continue to pray for a greater respect for life from conception to natural death.

**Holy Cross Cemetery's Annual Spring Cleanup** will commence on April 6, 2021. All wreaths, tin cans, glass jars, flower pots and similar articles not removed will be disposed of on April 6, 2021. If you are unable to pick up your wreaths, etc., by this date you can call the cemetery at 905-734-4172 and make arrangements for the staff to hold these articles for a short period of time until you are able to retrieve these items.

**The Diocesan Separated & Divorced Healing Ministry Support Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month (except holidays) from 7-9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario. For information, call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com) Because of the current province-wide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings will be held virtually via the Zoom platform and pre-registration is required for Zoom meetings by phoning 905-356-4113 or emailing [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com) **March 22, 2021:** Have Faith, Dcn. Gunther Eyer, presenter

**Holy Week Liturgical Celebrations 2021**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE PHONE OR EMAIL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND any of these Masses or services.**

- Palm Sunday:** March 27<sup>th</sup>, 5pm  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 & 11am
- Holy Thursday:** April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm  
Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm
- Good Friday:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Confessions 9-11am  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm  
**(30% Capacity Filled)**
- Holy Saturday:** April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Confessions 9-11am  
Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets  
Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil **8:30pm**
- Easter Sunday:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, Masses 9:30 & 11am



**SOLIDARITY SUNDAY**

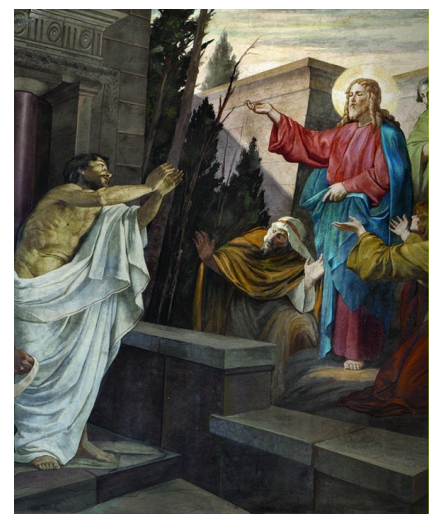
Last year Covid-19 shuttered our churches the week before the Solidarity Sunday collection. Members of Development and Peace felt this as a two-edged sword: the loss of the spiritual comfort of the Easter liturgy, and the financial blow to our organization. Share Lent is the main source of funding for our sisters and brothers in the Global South. Catholics continued to be generous through online donations, envelopes dropped through rectory doors and the Special Collection in the fall. Thankfully, Development and Peace was able to honor our existing commitments to international partners. While Share Lent 2021 is going forward, we don't know how long the current lockdown will occur (or happen again) and how it will affect fundraising. The religious communities in Canada are supporting Share Year Round through a matching fund which currently amounts to \$130,000. These funds will apply to anyone signing up for Share Year Round during the Lenten season this year. Please see <https://www.devp.org/en/pressroom/2021/comm2021-02-17> for more information. Nancy Santamaria Diocesan Council Chair Development and Peace Solidarity Sunday is on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**At the parish, we will be accepting donations through the Sunday collection, e transfer or you may drop off donations at the church during office hours.**

**Show your support by donating generously this Solidarity Sunday.**

**Share Love, Share Lent: Keeping Canadians committed.** Did you know that advocacy by Development and Peace members resulted in several schools, parishes and municipal offices across Canada giving up bottled water? Join our *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign to celebrate the many ways in which Canadian Catholics show that they care for social, economic and environmental justice. To help make a difference, **get your MP to commit to building back better from the pandemic.** Visit [devp.org/lent](http://devp.org/lent) to learn more.

**Sunday, March 21st, 2021**



**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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."  
 - Jn 12:23-24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat. Mar 20	4-4:45pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Confessions</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
	5:00pm	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo) <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
Sun. Mar 21	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Elizabeth Laruso (Jake & Mary Voogt)
Mon. Mar 22	9:30am	✠ Marion Mullin (Teresa & Colin Walters)
Tues. Mar 23	9:30am	✠ Aristide Tacinelli (John & Diane Szydlowski)
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Confessions</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>
Wed. Mar 24	9:30am	Reparation for all offences Against the Blessed Virgin Mary And St. Joseph (Teresa & Colin Walters)
Thurs. Mar 25	9:30am	Intentions of Jack & Dorothy Walters (Teresa & Colin Walters)
Fri. Mar 26	9:30am	✠ Ralph Biancaniello (Vince Addario) ✠ Isaiah (Magazzeni Family)
Sat. Mar 27	4-4:45pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Confessions</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>
	5:00pm	✠ Wally & Sophie Paterak (Chris Meyo & Family) Anniversary Blessings for Lena & Vince Addario (Vince Addario)
Sun. Mar 28	9:30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Wayne Rebeiro & Anthony & Muriel Guest (Rebeiro Family)



