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Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Then Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.'" To the woman caught in adultery, Jesus was literally a saviour. She was about to suffer the death penalty, according to the law of Moses, but the Lord preserved her life. He did not pretend she was innocent or excuse her behavior. His protection was not the result of anything the woman did or said to earn his favor. Rather, his freely bestowed mercy became an opportunity for her conversion. He saved her and set her free—not only from the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees—but from her own destructive behavior. The woman's physical life was spared, and if she chose to follow Jesus' instruction to abandon sin, her spiritual life was also saved as a result of this dramatic encounter.

We also have access to this freedom. When he died on the cross for us, Jesus became our savior too. Instead of condemning us, he set us free from the power of sin. But like the woman in the Gospel, we have a choice to make. Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient to remove the "death penalty" for us, but we are the ones who decide whether or not we will "sin anymore." We decide whether we will be slaves to selfishness, lust, and envy or whether we will pursue a life of generosity, self-control, and peace. Jesus does everything he can for us, short of taking our will captive. We, finally, have to decide: will I follow the path of Jesus, who has saved me, by resolving to sin no more? Or will I depart from my savior, and return to the same old self-destructive patterns?

The holy season of Lent is made to assist us in our decision to repent and to change for the better. There is no better time than now to sincerely resolve to begin anew.

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Mass of Chrism: Tuesday, March 22nd, 7:30pm
 (Location—Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Church Street, St. Catharines)

Holy Thursday: March 24th, 7pm
 Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm

Good Friday: March 25th, 3pm
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 7pm—Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday: March 26th
 Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
 8:00pm Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: March 27th, Masses 9:30 & 11am

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 3rd, Prayers 3pm

Living Lent With Mercy- Pope Francis -Fifth Sunday In Lent – Light of Love Jesus' attitude is striking: we do not hear words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy which are an invitation to conversion. *Angelus, March 17, 2013* Lord, you never tire of forgiving us and showing us God's mercy. Sometimes people prejudge my character, criticize the way I look, condemn my lifestyle. Sometimes people embarrass me in public, betray my confidence, take advantage of me and say things about me that are not true. I get tired from feeling rejected and defeated. Lord, I realize that the very things that hurt and offend me, I do to others as well. Give me a forgiving spirit and help me to treat all people with nonjudgmental love and mercy. Amen.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy : In response to our Bishop's request, St. Ann's has a Prayer Hour for Mercy with Eucharistic Adoration every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.
 The Sacrament of Confession is available during that time until 7:55 p.m. when we will have Benediction. In addition, Confession is available before each weekday Mass from 9:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. Tuesday to Friday. Confessions on Saturday are available from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in addition to the usual 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is my hope that this Year of Mercy will be a time of increased prayer and increased reception of the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, so that we may grow much closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ and better appreciate and put into practice the great love and mercy He shows us. **Also, at any time you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you may come to the rectory or phone to make an appointment.**



Share Lent 2016
Share Lent Pilgrimage—Solidarity Sunday!

Today is Solidarity Sunday. Thank you for your generosity. Every gift goes far to help our sisters and brothers around the world—from Haiti to Paraguay to Bethlehem and beyond! We end our Share Lent pilgrimage with the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year of Mercy: **"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look the future with hope."** Thank you for helping create a hopeful future!

Holy Thursday March 24th: Jesus' washing of the feet of the disciples is a sign of His humility by performing this act. It is also a symbol of Jesus' message of service that He conveys to the Apostles by acting as a personal attendant for their needs. **Volunteers needed (12 men and/or women). Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you would like to participate.**

Easter Triduum: Through his paschal Mystery, the Lord Jesus redeemed the human race and gave perfect glory to the Father. By dying, Christ destroyed our death; by rising, he restored our life. For this reason, The Easter Triduum, when we celebrate the suffering, death and Resurrection of our Lord, is the high point of the liturgical year. The Easter solemnity is to the year what Sunday is to the week. **Consult the bulletin for all liturgical celebrations this coming week. LIVING WITH CHRIST SPECIAL PERIODICAL— EASTER TRIDUUM 2016 AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. FEEL FREE TO TAKE A COPY FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE.**

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (March 19/20) or Good Friday (March 25)**, your binders will be available for you **this weekend** 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 (Luke—for Palm Sunday) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions. Following your reading date, please return the binders to the back of the church. **A reminder that Passion Narratives books will be used during Mass. Your binders are for practice only.** Thank you.

Decorating Assistance Needed: As we await the most holy season in our liturgical year, we are making plans to prepare for the decorating of our church. If you can help, please meet at the church on Saturday, March 26th, at 9am.

Parish Calendar

- March.....
 - March 13th.... Solidarity Sunday
 - March 16th.... Syrian Refugee Sponsorship meeting
 - March 20th.... Palm Sunday
 - March 22nd.... Chrism Mass, Cathedral (St. Catharines) 7:30pm
 - March 22nd... **Bingo cancelled**
 - March 24th.... Holy Thursday, Mass 7pm
 - March 25th.... Good Friday 3pm, **Way of the Cross 7pm**
 - March 26th.... Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
 - March 27th.... Easter Sunday
 - March 31st... St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am
- The Way of the Cross: Join us each Friday during Lent at 7pm**

Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee & Fundraising:
 Our financial goal is to raise \$30,000 to sponsor a family with 5-7 members. **To date, a total of \$14,400 has been donated.** We thank you for your tremendous support! We will continue to accept donations. Please use a separate envelope labelled "Syrian Refugee Family" with your name and address on it. If donating by cheque, please make it payable to "St. Ann Parish". There are many details involved with this initiative. As time progresses, the committee will keep you informed and up to date about these decisions and other ways you may assist. Once again, we are thankful and very grateful for the interest shown in re-locating a refugee family and assisting them to re-locate in our community. **Next meeting is Wednesday, March 16th, 7pm in the church hall.** If you would like to become part of the committee, please let us know soon.

Youth Ministry: Youth Ministry is now on **WEDNESDAY** nights from 6:30pm-8:30pm. **MARCH BREAK:** March 14th-18th—NO YOUTH MINISTRY ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH. **Youth Ministry Overnight LOCK-IN:** March 18th at 8:00pm-Saturday March 19th at 9:00am. For more information, contact youth ministry coordinator Roberta Plantic at 905.401.0174 or rplantic@branchesoftheword.org.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS Celebrated by Bishop Gerard Paul Bergie, The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, **Monday, April 4th, 2016 7pm.** RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL. Hosted by the Cathedral CWL. Information: William and Elise Mathie, 905-684-7569 -Diocesan Respect Life Committee.

The 13th Annual Bishop's Gala will take place on **April 1st, 2016, 5:30 p.m at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines.** \$75 per person and can be ordered through the NCDSB website or by contacting Sherry Morena, 905-735-0240, ext. 213 or sherry.morena@ncdsb.com.

The Annual National Catholic TV Mission 2016, "Merciful Like the Father," with Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB will be broadcast during Holy Week on the following dates/times: **Salt + Light TV:** Part 1: Tuesday, March 22 and Part 2: Wednesday, March 23rd at 8pm & Midnight. **Vision TV:** Part 1: Monday, March 21 and Part 2 on Tuesday, March 22 at 6pm & 10pm. To support the Mission or to get more information please call the National Catholic Broadcasting Council's toll-free number: 1-888- 383-627

The Serra Club of St. Catharines presents TRIVIA NIGHT.....promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Friday, April 8, 2016. Guest of Honour: Most Reverend Bishop Bergie .St. Ann's Parish, Niagara Falls. Ticket \$20.00/person or \$160.00/table of 8. For tickets, contact: Caroline Matovic cmatovic@outlook.com or (289)271-8954

Sunday, March 13th, 2016
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." — Jn 8:6b-7

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

Sat. March 12	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Elizabeth & Luigi Cecco (Anna & Domenic Cecco)
Sun. March 13	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Katarina & Urban Simek (Patti & Cyril Simek)
		✠ Daniel & Cecilia Leo (John & Diane Szydowski)
Mon. March 14	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. March 15	9:30am	✠ Arnold Dykstra (Horton Family)
Wed. March 16	9:30am	✠ Trish Vaughn (Horton Family)
Thurs. March 17	9:30am	✠ Koos Sijm (Horton Family)
Fri. March 18	9:30am	✠ Joseph Amero (Voogt & Green Families)
	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat. March 19		Passion Sunday
	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Josephine Murphy (Phyllis & George Repar)
Sun. March 20		Passion Sunday
	9:30am	✠ Nina & Czeselaw Aleksiejuk (Jan & Lana)
	11:00am	✠ Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday masses.
Offertory March 5th & 6th, 2016

82 Envelopes	\$1, 878.15
Loose Collection	\$ 85.75
Total Offertory	\$1, 963.90
Syrian Refugee Family	\$4, 700.00
Maintenance	\$ 160.00
Flowers	\$ 235.00