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Pastor

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**Third Sunday of Lent**

When I became the pastor of a large parish, I soon found myself, for the first time in my life, riddled with anxiety, headaches, difficulty making decisions, and fatigue. I called a therapist friend and told her my symptoms and asked if she thought I needed a serious medical exam. She said, "How much water do you drink?" I told her, "I haven't had time to drink water lately." She responded, "You're chronically dehydrated. Drink eighty-five ounces a day and call me in a week." I started guzzling water and in a week all my symptoms went away. I felt great.

Like me, the people in the Exodus wanderings were dehydrated. But unlike me, they knew it. Their symptoms were bad. They fight with each other. They accuse God of being a monster who wants them and their children to die of thirst. Their thirst drives them to plot the bloody assassination of the man who rescued them. God responds by using Moses to strike a rock from which rivers of living waters flow to quench their thirst for years to come.

The Holy Spirit is the living water of love which flows from the pierced side of Jesus, the new Moses. What symptoms in your life suggest you're spiritually dehydrated? Anger at God? Cynicism at your leaders? Bitter rivalry and bickering with others? Don't panic. *Of course* we have those symptoms. Ask God to provide his water to quench your spiritual thirst, and he will. And all those symptoms will soon disappear.



**Share Lent 2023**— please consult today's bulletin inserts—"Let's Stand for the Land" & "Act Collectively to Defend the Land". Solidarity Sunday is on March 26th, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. **Donation envelopes are in your offertory boxes (or e transfer) or you may use those attached to today's bulletin.**

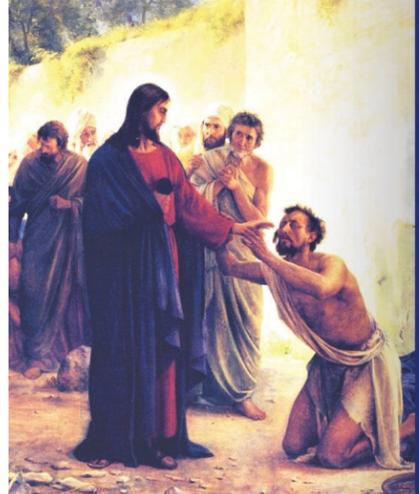


**Stations of the Cross— Every Friday during Lent at 7pm.** For Roman Catholics throughout the world, the **Stations of the Cross** are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week and, especially, Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the "Way of the Cross", the "Via Crucis", and the "Via Dolorosa." It commemorates 14 key events on day of Christ's crucifixion. *Please join with us as we gather to walk with Jesus this holy season of Lent.*

**Diocesan Day of Reconciliation: On Saturday, March 25, 2023** in every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available from 10:00am to 2:00pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.

**The Parish Community of St. Kevin (Welland)** is proud to present a very special guest speaker for Lent. Father Larry Richards of Erie, PA will be at St. Kevin Parish (303 Niagara Street, Welland) on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 6:00pm with an hour of Praise & Worship Music, continuing at 7:00pm with Fr. Larry speaking on the theme of "Surrender," and concluding with a period of social time to meet Father Larry along with an opportunity to purchase some of his books and publications (cash or cheque please). Visit <https://www.thereasonforourhope.org/meet-father-larry/> To learn more about Fr. Larry. All are welcome.

**Sunday, March 19th, 2023**



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

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

Mon. Mar 20	9:30am	<b>No Mass</b>
Tues. Mar 21	9:30am	Intentions of Colin Walters (Teresa Walters)
Wed. Mar 22	7-8pm	<b>HOLY HOUR &amp; Confessions</b>
	9:30am	Deceased Members of the Legacy & Shannon Families (Racz Family)
		Blessings & Health for Randy & Jane Carnegie (Family)
Thurs. Mar 23	9:30am	Felix Ejeah (Mark & Dayna Young & Family)
Fri. Mar 24	9:30am	Intentions of Vern & Donna Walters & Children (Colin & Teresa Walters)
		Special Intention for Lena, Jessica, Kleio & Matthew Addario (Vince Addario)
Sat. Mar 25	7:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
	10am-2pm	<b>Diocesan Day of Reconciliation</b>
	4-4:45pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>
	5:00pm	Stanley Vrstovsek (Plesko Family)
Sun. Mar 26		<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	Ralph Biancanello & Gerard Gosselin (Vince Addario)

**Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses**

**During Lent, the CCCB video series *Journey through Lent* will be available** once again on the CCCB website. [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)

**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 in your offertory boxes dated March 19th or you may use a plain envelope with your contact information. Or....e transfer.**  
**Offertory February 26th, 2023— \$1,770.00**  
**Offertory March 5th, 2023- \$1,690.00**  
**Maintenance: \$820.00**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

God asks a rhetorical and slightly sarcastic question to Samuel, the prophet: "How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel?" Like us, Samuel is depressed that the old king failed. It's painful to admit that the old regime is done. But God won't let us wallow our pity-party forever. "I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem," announces the Lord, "for I have chosen my king from among his sons." Samuel finally goes and anoints the young David as the new king. And his kingdom is glorious; it's the golden age of Israel's earthly history.



How discouraging to see that my own selfish ego is no longer in charge! How long will I grieve that money, power, pleasure, and reputation have been rejected as the ruler of my life? How wonderful that God has a new future in store for you and me. He is sending us to Bethlehem to anoint the new David as our king. His kingdom won't fail us. He'll slay our goliaths, unite our dispersed energies, and build a Temple where God himself will dwell. So how long will you grieve? How long?

**Annual Diocesan RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS: Presider Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D. Bishop of St. Catharines Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Friday, March 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Reception to follow in the parish hall**

**Holy Cross Cemetery** will be having their ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP, beginning on Tuesday April 11, 2022 All wreaths, tin cans, glass jars, flower pots, and similar articles are to be removed before this date, if not; the cemetery will dispose of these articles. If anyone is unable to pick up their wreaths etc. by that date, they can call the cemetery at 905 734-4172 and make arrangements for the staff to hold the articles for a short period of time until they are able to come to the cemetery to pick them up.

**Lectors for Palm Sunday and Good Friday:** If you have been assigned to read on **Palm Sunday (April 1/2) or Good Friday (April 7)**, your binders will be available for you **on the weekend of March 18/19** 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 (**Matthew—for Palm Sunday & John for Good Friday**) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions (petitions for Palm Sunday only). **A reminder that during Mass you are required to use the Passion Narrative Lectionaries which will be placed on both lecterns for you. The binders are for practice reading only. I will put a sticky note where the reading begins.** On your reading date, please bring the binders with you and leave them at the back of the church. Thank you!



**Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord— March 25th:** O Blessed Virgin Mary, on this very special day for mankind, when God's plan for the eternal salvation of man was introduced and brought to fruition through you, we give thanks to the Holy Trinity for choosing you to be the mother of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. You made manifest the strength, courage, complete trust in God and tenacity of purpose without any hesitation or regard for self. By your example, help us to hear the Word of God and respond with generous hearts to the message of the Gospel. May we live our lives in humble service to our brethren, with love of God, faith in Christ our Redeemer and joy in following and accomplishing God's Will, even in the midst of trials and persecution, reaching out to all who are most in need. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday, March 12th, 2023**



**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

Sat. Mar 11	4-4:45pm	<b>Third Sunday of Lent Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>
	5:00pm	Vince Addario (Lena Addario)
Sun. Mar 12		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>
	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	Slavka Huc (Frank & Ivanka Plesko)
Mon. Mar 13	9:30am	<b>No Mass</b>
Tues. Mar 14	9:30am	Zvoni Nenadovich (Gloria Egert)
	7-8pm	<b>HOLY HOUR &amp; Confessions</b>
Wed. Mar 15	9:30am	Jack & Dorothy Walters (Colin & Teresa Walters)
		Birthday Blessings for Ronaldo Joel Alave (Racz Family)
Thurs. Mar 16	9:30am	Marie Therese Brown (Dona)
Fri. Mar 17	9:30am	Joseph & Marion Mullin (Colin & Teresa Walters)
		Angelina Addario (Vince Addario)
		Blessings & Health for Maryla Carnegie (Jane Carnegie & Family)
Sat. Mar 18	7:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
	4-4:45pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>
	5:00pm	Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo)
Sun. Mar 19		<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	Maria Albanese (Vince Addario)

**Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses.**  
**YOUTH MINISTRY—MONDAY EVENINGS FROM 6:30-8:30PM IN THE PARISH HALL.** Registration forms are at the back of the church. All youth in Grades 5-8 are welcome! **CANCELLATIONS: Monday, March 13th (March Break), Monday, April 10th (Easter Monday)**



