



# Parish Week

One does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes  
From The mouth of God.

Sunday, 31 March 2019

## Saturday, 30 Mar.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Theo Secco (Louis & Sandra Gomes Pereira)
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Gracias & Rajas Andreas

## SUNDAY, 31 MAR. / LENT 4-C

- *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*
- *Share Life Sunday; 1<sup>st</sup> Collection*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Vincente Roldan (family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas (family)
- 11.30 am Catholic Women's League
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Amado Mutuc (Rodas family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Monday, 1 Apr.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Joel Benedict (mother)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Erlinda Domingo (family)
- 7.40 pm Infant Parent/Godparent meeting

## Tuesday, 2 Apr. / St. Francis of Paola, hermit

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Andy Diaz (Casildus Manuel)
- 12.30 pm St. Maria Goretti School Lenten Mass
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Louis & Charlotte Wijesingha (Errol & Malini)

## Wednesday, 3 Apr.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Jerry & Tina Koenig (children & grandchildren)
- 2.25 pm St. Albert School Confirmation Instruction #3 - *Distribution of Reconciliation slips*
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Anita Dias (friends)

## Thursday, 4 Apr. / St. Isidore, bishop & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Baby Alleluia & Glory D'Cunha (family)
- 9.10 am St. Maria Goretti School Confirmation Instruction #3 - *Distribution of Reconciliation slips*
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Pearl Joseph (Agnes)

## Friday, 5 Apr. / St. Vincent Ferrer, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Daphne)
- 6.00 pm Holy Hour
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Anthony & Gasper D'Souza (Linette)
- 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross (Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers)

## Saturday, 6 Apr.

- 8.00 am Mass: † For the Unborn (Audrey)
- 4.00 pm St. Maria Goretti School 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Family Instruction #2
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Mina & Mukesh Kapadia, 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## SUNDAY, 7 APR. / LENT 5-C

- *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. Lydia Marquez on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- 10.30 am Mass: † Alex Rodrigues (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Michele Morra (Sophie Salve)
- 1.30 pm Infant Baptism
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

# Focus on the Word

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year C

Joshua 5.9-12; 2 Corinthians 5.17-21; Luke 15.1-32

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Amen.

## Pray for the Deceased

Magda Gatchalian

A.B. Thomas

Fr. Keith Hardless, of Guyana

Cardinal Godfried Danneels, of Belgium

The 157 Victims of the airline tragedy in Ethiopia



## First Friday Devotions 5 April

Each First Friday of the month, there is a *Holy Hour* at 6.00 pm, and Mass at 7.00 pm. For private use, the parish *Holy Hour* booklet with the complete prayers, corresponding to the Priest's prayers, may be obtained at the office for \$2.

## Stations of the Cross

Each Friday in Lent, the *Stations of the Cross* will be prayed following the 7.00 pm Mass.

The remaining Facilitators for 2019 will be:

- April 5 Greeters & Eucharistic Ministers
- 12 Knights of Columbus
- 19 Lectors



## Special Collection

### 31 March: ShareLife Sunday

On 31 March, ShareLife Sunday, the second collection will be for our annual *ShareLife Appeal*, for all the agencies that help us to live the Gospel by caring for our brothers and sisters in need.

## COMING UP

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8 Apr. - ► St. Albert School Lenten Mass (1:00 pm)

14 Apr. **Palm Sunday:** *Holy Week* begins

18 Apr. **Holy Thursday:** *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper;*  
- Adoration until midnight

19 Apr. **Good Friday:** *The Passion of Our Lord*

21 Apr. **Easter Sunday:** *Resurrection of Our Lord;*  
2 Collections: (a) *Offertory;* (b) *Easter*

28 Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Maintenance*

5 May *ShareLife* Presentation, **David Bruce**

15 June ► Lectors' Workshop, Precious Blood Church (9 am - 2 pm)

## Website [stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org](http://stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org)

For more information on these and other parish activities, see page 3 in the website bulletin.

# ShareLife 2019

Living the Gospel  
locally and around  
the world

“It is important that we continue to support the *ShareLife* appeal, to provide for the needs of the marginalized both here in our communities and around the world. Sometimes the results are obvious and sometimes they're invisible, but always they make a tangible difference in the lives of the people we are helping. Please prayerfully consider how you can be supportive today on *ShareLife* Sunday.” - **Cardinal Thomas Collins**

Today, 31 March 2019, is *ShareLife* Sunday.  
Thank you for supporting *ShareLife*!



## Vatican Flag Raised at City of Toronto to Honour St. John Paul II

2.00 pm, 31 March

To celebrate **St. John Paul II**, the City of Toronto will raise the Vatican flag in a ceremony taking place at 2 pm in Sunday, 31 March at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. The City will also recognize other significant contributions of the late pontiff. For more information, phone: 416-845-5777.



## Our Church's Year of Prayer

The LITURGICAL YEAR is a cycle of praise and worship which allows Christians to experience the mysteries of salvation as they are outlined in Scripture, and as they are lived in history.

### Advent

*The weeks following the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas*

We prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives and hearts.

### Christmas Season

*From Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*

We celebrate the gift of our Father's love: Jesus is our brother and our Lord, our Saviour and our friend, our Good Shepherd for life.

### Ordinary Time - I

*After the Baptism of the Lord, to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday*

With Jesus we enter into the work of his Body, the Church.

### Lent

*From Ash Wednesday to the morning of Holy Thursday*

Through *prayer, fasting and almsgiving* we die with Christ to sin, and prepare to renew our Baptism, to live with him for God.

### Easter Triduum

*From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, to the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday*

We celebrate Jesus' dying and rising, and we share with him the gift of eternal life through our Baptism.

### Easter season

*From Easter Sunday to Pentecost*

Sharing in the new life of Christ, we are filled with his Spirit.

### Ordinary Time - II

*After Pentecost to the week following Christ the King Sunday*

We are guided by Jesus to build the kingdom of God by our lives, using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that were strengthened in us at the time of our Confirmation.

## Easter Flowers

Parishioners are invited to sponsor this year's display of EASTER FLOWERS in our Sanctuary. Envelopes are available at the office.



## Sacramental Preparation

Remember in your prayers our parish youth who will be receiving the Sacraments of *Eucharist* and *Confirmation*:

3 April: **St. Albert School**

2.25 pm **Confirmation Instruction #3**

4 April: **St. Maria Goretti School**

9.10 am **Confirmation Instruction #3**

6 & 8 April: **St. Maria Goretti School**

**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Instruction #2**

SATURDAY: 4.00 pm; MONDAY: 6.00 pm.

**28 April: FIRST COMMUNION MASS**

ST. MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL: 2.30 pm

**1 May: CONFIRMATION MASS**

ST. MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL: 7.00 pm

**5 May: FIRST COMMUNION MASS**

ST. ALBERT SCHOOL: 2.30 pm

**9 May: CONFIRMATION MASS**

ST. ALBERT SCHOOL: 7.00 pm

## Sunday Mass Slips

The Candidates have begun using their SUNDAY MASS SLIPS. They represent their wish to join the action of all parishioners in offering their prayers and gifts to God, and opening their hearts to Jesus. After the *Intercessions*, the Candidates bring their completed slips and gather near the Offertory Gift table at the head of the main aisle, and form a line behind the pews. Candidates walk behind the Gift Bearers when they are led by the Servers to the Altar.

The Candidates place their unfolded slips in the basket held by the Priest, bow to the Cross, and then return to their pew.

## Stewardship

2018 Receipts, 2019 Envelopes

The Charitable *Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2018 are in the Vestibule. They may be picked up after Mass.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your faithful weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.



# AN INVITATION TO A FRUITFUL STEWARDSHIP

The start of every new season is exciting and full of possibilities. Think of how happy people are when they see the first signs of spring, or, when the first day of school arrives, or, for baseball fans, the excitement they feel on the day of the season opener.

The same could be said of the seasons of the Church, and especially the season of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

With ashes on our foreheads, we express our eagerness to embark on the Lenten “disciplines” – to pray often, to go to Mass often, to go to confession, to do the Stations of the Cross to fast and to give alms.

However, it is important that we understand the spiritual significance of any discipline and to do it with a right attitude.

The season of Lent is described as the “accept-able time” and “the day of salvation” – a time of spiritual renewal to return to the Lord.

As we begin the journey of Lent, here are a couple of questions to help bring focus to our Lenten “discipline.” What is the reason behind the Lenten “discipline” we plan to undertake? How do we see Christ in the plan?

In order to focus on the spiritual significance of Lent, the season itself is shaped around the imagery of Christ’s 40 days of fasting and contemplation in the desert, a test of body and spirit. In fact, the Scripture readings for the liturgy on Ash Wednesday point to the penitential nature of Lent.

When we hear Prophet Joel calling us to return to the Lord with all our heart “with fasting, with weeping and with mourning” we are reminded of our failures to live as children of God. When we hear Jesus giving us instructions on how to pray, fast and give alms, He is reminding us of our call to live as faithful disciples. If we take these readings to heart, they help us enter into Lent with humility, gratitude and graciousness.

As baptized people, we are called to live with Christ at the centre of our lives. Our spiritual renewal at any time in the Church year should focus on our way of life as faithful disciples and grateful stewards. That is



particularly important during the season of Lent in light of the suffering passion and death of Jesus.

Lent can be a period to reflect on the many ways to witness to the Lord by living out our Baptismal promises to bear fruit as stewards.

If we keep the context of our call to stewardship and discipleship in mind, the spiritual meaning of Lent becomes clear. What we do in Lent helps us to reflect and meditate on the meaning of Christ’s suffering and death in our lives. In Lent we orient our days around the suffering Christ. Our various Lenten “disciplines” may help us to learn to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who for His great love for us “emptied Himself... and became obedient to the point of death – giving up something for the sake of others – is deeply rooted in stewardship if we do it with “a renewed spirit and a contrite heart.”

According to Pope Francis in his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (“The Joy of the Gospel”), “We incarnate the duty of hearing the cry of the poor when we are deeply moved by the suffering of others” (193).

When we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, our journey with Christ will help us experience the mercy and compassion of our Lord. That makes the Lenten journey well worth our efforts, leaving us well prepared to celebrate the glorious feast of Easter.

*(Fr. Acheampong is pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Etobicoke. He succeeded Fr. George Galea, who was the Associate Pastor of St. Maria Goretti Church with Fr. Armand Joseph Desaulniers at the time of the fire that ruined the original Church on 5 December 1968.)*

WHAT MAKES YOU  
GRATEFUL?  
ARE YOU TAKING TIME  
TO DEVELOP AN  
ATTITUDE OF  
GRATITUDE?

