

THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT – SOME MUSINGS

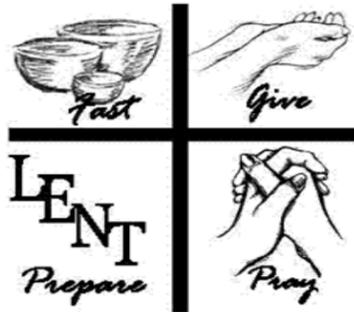
The gospel this weekend put me in mind of an incident that occurred to me a number of years ago. Our family was living in Mississauga at the time and in early December a neighbour and I took our children to downtown Toronto so see the displays in the Eaton’s store window. We took the Go train – she and I and seven children ranging in age from nine to three. All but one were boys. After we’d admired the windows we took the kids to see Santa and did a tour of the toy department. Suddenly, I realized that one of my scalawags was nowhere to be found. I was frantic! I left my other two sons with my neighbour and raced up and down the aisles searching for my son. I found him, unharmed, and happily looking at the boxes of dinosaur models. I didn’t scold; I was so relieved that I’d found him and that he was safe. Unlike the son in the gospel story he’d not asked to leave, he just found something that intrigued him. Nor had he asked for anything from me. But my joy and relief when he was found was overwhelming. And since the other children had not been upset by having to spend some extra time in the aisles of toys all was good with the world. So I can understand to some degree the relief of the father in the gospel story.

As I re-read this parable I realized that when I sin and wander away from the love of my Father, I rarely ask permission; I simply go off on my own and it’s possible to stay gone for a long time before I suddenly come to my senses and return to Him. I wonder too, if He worries about me the way I worried about my errant son. He must do, as He sent His beloved Son to be tortured and die that my sins might be forgiven. Just as He sent His Son to heal the blind man in the gospel that will be read in churches where catechumens and candidates for full communion will celebrate the first of three scrutinies.

It’s a time for all of us to scrutinize ourselves and the ways in which we respond to the call to discipleship. It’s a time for us to open our eyes to the beauty that surrounds us; to open our hearts to the needs to others; to open our minds as we listen to the scriptures and the homilies of our priests and deacons. It’s a time to see with the eyes of the faithful rather than the eyes of the skeptic. It’s a time to be honest with ourselves and with others. When those small miracles come our way, let’s accept them for what they are – God revealing Himself to us in ways we can understand. Let’s not be like the Pharisees in the story of the man born blind and find ways to explain these little wonders as a coincidence or just dumb luck. They are the love of God being sent to give us hope in a time of despair, peace in a time of turmoil, joy in a time of sadness. They are truly God moments as He works to reveal to us, His wayward and sometimes lost people, that He is waiting for us at the gate to welcome us home.

It’s time to renew our Lenten resolutions of prayer, fasting and works of charity and say to Him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, but I’m ready to stop playing in the toy aisle and come home.” He will welcome us with open arms. Let’s not be the Scribes and Pharisees of our time, demanding proof of His divinity and His humanity. Let’s be His children, at times lost and wandering, but ready to acknowledge our waywardness and beg for His forgiveness.

Wishing you a Lent of prayer and joy and many small miracles. Betty Bruch



Days of Abstinence: No meat can be eaten on Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays during Lent. This applies to all Catholics 14 and older.

Days of Fast: Only one full meal is permitted on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for Catholics between 18 and 59. Two smaller meals are permitted, but the small meals should not equal a second full meal. Drinking coffee, tea and water between meals is allowed. Snacks between meals are not allowed.

MARCH 31, 2019

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Church
24 Albert St.
Langton, ON



St. Michael’s Church
978 St. John’s Road
Walsh, ON



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael’s)
Sunday – 10:30 am

Daily Mass

Tues. – 5:00 pm
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

Reconciliation

20 min. prior to weekday mass
Sat. 4-4:45 pm
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael’s)

Mailing address

Box 8, Langton, ON N0E 1G0
Phone: 519-875-4438
E-mail: sacredheartlangton@dol.ca
Fr. Thomas e-mail: tckuriacko@dol.ca

Parish Clergy

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor
Jack Grim, Deacon
Brian Hanley, Deacon

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

Baptisms – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required
Schools – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael’s, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

The parable of the “lost son” can be called the parable of the “Father of mercy.” Luke in this Gospel shows us how persistently God is merciful. Each one of us can identify ourselves with the son of the parable: each one of us can recognize God as merciful every time we have received a bounty from his graces, above all his pardon.

The parable speaks rather of the generous father than of the lost son. Jesus wants not our admiration or praises, but imitation. To praise someone is easy. Anyone can say nice words. That doesn’t need to be sign of true friendship. Jesus associated himself with tax collectors; he kept company with sinners. (Lk. 15: 1-2) Through these instances Jesus shows that God does not abandon a sinner because he is a sinner; He accepts all who return to Him with a sincere heart. God like a loving father is extremely happy at the return of the sinner. He welcomes the one who repents.

What are we to do? Are we ready to accept others as God accepts them? Are we ready to accept Jesus in whom we have the image of the Father? As we celebrate the feast of love in the Eucharist let us be thoroughly conscious of the love of the Father poured out in His Son Jesus.

Let us build up our community and family on the forgiving love and manifest God’s mercy and goodness. God has reconciled us with Himself. Let us reconcile ourselves with God and with one another. Let us abide in the love of the Father that we may have life, and life in its fullness.

“GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!”

Fr. Thomas

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON

| DATE | TIME | MASS INTENTION | BY |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Tues Apr 2/19 | 9:30 am | NO MASS | |
| Wed Apr 3/19 | 9:30 am | • Walter VanLaeken | • Dennis & Minda Blake |
| Thurs Apr 4/19 | 9:30 am | NO MASS | |
| Fri Apr 5/19 | 9:30 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm | • Joe Devos Stations of the Cross for SHS Stations of the Cross for SHC | • Langton CWL |

DATES TO REMEMBER

| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|----------------|---|--|
| Mon Apr 1/19 | 7:30 pm | Langton CWL Meeting |
| Tues Apr 2/19 | 8:00 pm | Langton Knights of Columbus Meeting |
| Wed Apr 3/19 | 7:00 pm | Walsh CWL Meeting |
| Sat Apr 6/19 | 5:00 pm | Youth Ministry Mass at SHC |
| Wed Apr 10/19 | 10:15 am - 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Confessions at SHC All Day Confessions |
| Mon Apr 15/19 | 7:00 pm | Mass of Christ at St. Peters Cathedral, London |
| Tues Apr 23/19 | 7:30 pm | Parish Pastoral Council meeting |
| Wed Apr 24/19 | 9:30 am | Easter School Mass for SHS, OLFS & STMS |
| | 10:30 am | 1st Communion Retreat for OLFS |
| | 7:30 am | Finance Committee Meeting |



WEEKLY OFFERTORY – MARCH 24, 2019

St. Michael's

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Regular Envelope | \$ 535.00 |
| Easter Flowers | \$ 20.00 |
| Loose | \$ 37.00 |
| Sub-Total | \$ 592.00 |

Sacred Heart

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Envelope | \$ 2050.00 |
| Easter Flowers | \$ 150.00 |
| Loose | \$ 99.95 |
| Sub-Total | \$ 2299.95 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Total | \$ 2897.95 |
| Operating Goal | \$ 3700.00 |

Shortfall \$ 808.05

SH Building Fund \$ 210.00

ST. MICHAEL'S CWL NEWS

St. Michael's CWL will be having their cabbage roll fund raiser **Tuesday April 9th at the Vittoria Community Center**. All women and men are invited to come and help trim, roll, package the cabbage rolls during the day. You are welcome anytime after 8 am till done later afternoon. Many hands make light work and you are all welcome to come at whatever time you are available, morning afternoon or all day. Cabbage rolls are \$17.00 a dozen and must be picked up before the end of the day. Please call Loretta Freeman 428 5187, or JoAnn Deconinck 519 582 3477
Thank you . JoAnn



Thanks!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FULL DAY OF CONFESSIONS

This year's diocesan Day of Confessions is being planned for Wednesday, April 10. This special opportunity helps us to set aside our old ways, to be renewed in heart and soul, and to be reconciled with our merciful and loving God. As Pope Francis reminds us, confession is where we encounter Jesus. Confession times in our parish are:

Sacred Heart Church:
10:15 am to 12:00 pm
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Our diocesan website (www.dol.ca) offers some excellent resources and information about Lent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

LANGTON CWL NEWS

Our Sacred Heart Langton Annual CWL Rummage Sale was a huge success on March 23, 2019. Thank you to all the conveners for their hard work. You put many long hours into this to make sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you to the arena for letting us use a dressing room to collect all the donations. Thank you to Greg Squires for the use of his trailer and Gary Juhasz for transporting the items from the Langton Arena to the Langton Community Centre and to the Juhasz's for the donated storage space. A huge thank you to the Zameniks for volunteering their workers to help with loading and unloading of the trailers. Thank you to those who took Rummage Sale flyers around to the different communities and businesses. Thank you to those who donated all the wonderful items for our sale. A big thank you to all our faithful volunteers who gave of their time on loading up day, set up day and the sale day. Without you there would be no rummage sale. Thank you to those who prepared snacks and lunch for all the hard working helpers. Thank you to all who purchased items. Thank you to any we may have missed, your help was much appreciated. Things always turn out better when we work together!

CALLING ALL POST-SECONDARY GRADS FROM OUR PARISH

Please join the Sacred Heart, Langton CWL for our Annual Potluck Dinner on Monday June 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Langton Community Centre. It is our pleasure to acknowledge your hard work & accomplishments with a small token of our appreciation. Any member of our parish who knows someone graduating from college or university in the spring of 2019 please contact Linda Elku at 519-875-5648 or email at lelku@execulink.com. Please have this information to Linda before May 31, 2019.



Share the journey with those forcibly displaced in Colombia

In Colombia, over 6.5 million people have been forcibly displaced due to conflict, violence, natural disasters, and development projects. With your support, Development and Peace's partner the National Agrarian Coordination (NAC) is working with indigenous women, many of whom are victims of forced displacement, to help them gain the skills and confidence to be intermediaries with the authorities. By promoting inclusive and participatory democracies, we are addressing one of the root causes of forced migration! Next week is Solidarity Sunday, when the Share Lent collection in support of the work of Development and Peace will take place. Your generosity has a real impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in the Global South!

For more information, please contact Rita Bailey by email: ruby101@sympatico.ca or Elena Luna at 1-647-561-1648 or email: eluna@devp.org.

FRESH START MATERNITY SUPPORTS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

The baby bottles will be available during Lent. Lent is the season for us to concentrate on prayer, penance and alms giving. As part of our giving locally we have been involved with the baby bottle campaign during the season of Lent. We invite you to pick up a baby bottle starting in Lent and use them during the Lenten season. Please return them when they are full and bring them back to the parish office or leave them in the offertory basket. We remain grateful for any and all contributions to the baby bottle campaign. For all that you do to help the culture of life.

EASTER FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

There are Easter flower envelopes at the back of the church, as well as well as in your offertory box sets. This will give you a chance to contribute to our beautiful Easter decorations. Please be sure to fill out the envelope completely (include your envelope number) and place the same of the loved one on the envelope. The Easter Sunday bulletin will be dedicated to your loved ones and your donation will be added to your yearly contributions.