

WEEK AT A GLANCE (Mar 9 - 15)

Mon	1:30 pm	Bible Study
	4:00 pm	SSVP Executive Membership Meeting
	8:00 pm	AA
Tues	1:30 pm	Celebrate the Word
	7:30 pm	Baptismal Preparation
	8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
Wed	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:30 am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
	5:00 pm	SSVP Friendship Dinner
Thurs	9:00 am	St. Joseph's School Feast Day Mass @ St. Joseph's School
	11:30 am	Jolly Makers - Bingo & Cards
	7:45 pm	RCIA & Growing in the Spirit
Fri	9:30 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	10:30 am	Adoration
	10:30 am	Confessions
	11:15 am	Benediction
	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross - Lead by: SSVDP
Sat	9:30 am	Confessions
Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School
	7:30 pm	VIA Practice

Altar Server (March 10) Mikayla Kowalski

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – Feb 29 & Mar 1, 2020

Regular Sunday Envelope	\$ 5,870.00
Initial Envelope	\$ 25.00
Loose	\$ 250.65
Youth Ministry	\$ 2,685.00
Easter	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 70.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 10.00
Father Langan Parish Centre	\$ 6,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,085.00
Feb Online Donations	\$ 300.00
Mar Pre-Authorized (Reg. Sunday)	\$ 3,500.00
Mar Pre-Authorized (Building Fund)	\$ 940.00
Total	\$20,755.65

Thanks!

Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble... and kindles the true light of chastity. - St. Augustine

MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Mar 9 - 15)

Tues	7:00 pm	Mark Bridle Lilianne Letourneau
Wed	10:00 am	Leslie Horvath Deceased members of the Peacock Family
Thurs	9:00 am	St Joseph's School Feast Day Mass
	3:30 pm	Maple Manor
	7:00 pm	MASS CANCELLED
Fri	10:00 am	Helen Borbely Sr.
Sat	9:00 am	Sylvie Landry Evanoff & DeBoey Family
	5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sun	9 & 11 am	Parishioners of St. Mary's

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (Mar 14/15)

Saturday (5 pm)

Commentator: Carla Matos
 1st, 2nd Lector: Dorothy Lipsit, Moma Fardella
 Gift Bearer: Veronica Holly
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Valerie Claessens, Ellen Devlin, Jeanette Keba, Doug Shwaluk
 Greeter: Veronica Holly

Sunday (9 am)

Commentator: Mae Feeney
 1st, 2nd Lector: Tina Hopper, Anne Stancek
 Gift Bearers: Dustin Donais Family, Mike & Angila Donais
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Robert Verhoeve, Wim Vink, Kate Norman, Mark Hopper
 Greeter: Barbara Libon

Sunday (11 am)

Commentator: Ed Roczen
 1st, 2nd Lector: Kathy Holly, Allen Scovil
 Gift Bearer: Linda DeSutter & Tim & Laurie Monk
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Ana Jayne, Nora Marie Bruder, Helen Borbely, Jennyl Hamilton
 Greeter: Jack Parker

PRAY PLEASE FOR:

Jim Plumb, Irene Kaczmarczyk & Doris Willaert

Our hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you.

—St. Augustine



Let your roots go down into Christ, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:7

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

BITS AND PIECES:

Last week I wrote about how prayer, one of the Evangelical Counsels, starts our journey of becoming an active evangelist by deepening our relationship with God. Before we can evangelize, we need to know who God is, who we are and how are we living our relationship with God. Prayer is an important step in the process. But how does fasting help us evangelize? Fasting is an important step in evangelization as well, as we shall see.

As we grow closer to God we also begin to see ourselves more clearly. Think of your human relationships. As we begin to see another through the eyes of love we often see that we are not worthy of the love they offer us. We see our faults, and worry whether we will be seen as worthy of a relationship by the person we love. I have often heard people in awe that their spouse loves them. Our natural response is to want to change into someone worthy of the love given to us. We should not be surprised then that as we see the God who loved us enough to die for us we want to become worthy of the love that has been given. God loves. We strive to become worthy of the freely given love.

That is where fasting comes in. It is not that giving up desserts or Facebook will make God love us more. But as we grow in a desire to become worthy of the love God has for us the first thing we need to discover is that we have the ability to change, to face some of the places we have failed in our love of God. We may feel we cannot change and become a better disciple. God invites us to discover the freedom we have to choose. We can change God tells us. Look you can choose to give up desserts, checking Facebook, or many things we think we MUST do. We are free. We can change.

Once fasting proves to us we can change, then we can begin to dream. We can imagine who we can be as an intentional disciple of Jesus. Prayer brings us to God, Fasting teaches us our freedom to respond to God.

Next week we will look at how we can evangelize with the last Evangelical Counsel.

Next week we will look at how we can evangelize with the last Evangelical Counsel.

Fr. Tom Donohue



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Clergy and Staff

Rev. Tom Donohue,
 Parish Administrator
 Andre DeDecker, Deacon
 Jack Grim, Deacon
 Brian Hanley, Deacon
 Colleen Hanley, Pastoral Minister
 Teena Mendonca, Business Administrator
 Courtney Duckworth, Secretary

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri
 (9 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 4 pm)



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
 Sunday Masses: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Daily Mass

Tuesday, Thursday: 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am
 Saturday: 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Friday 10:30 - 11:15am Saturday: 9:30 am - 10:15am or by appointment

Children's "Sunday School"

Oct to May, @ 9 am Mass

Catholic Schools

St. Joseph School: (519) 660-2783
 Msgr. O'Neil School: (519) 660-2772
 St. Mary's High School: (519) 675-4435

Baptism Preparation

Contact the Office

Weddings

By appointment, and 6 months notice

MARCH 8, 2020

ATTENTION: Bulletin submissions must be received by 4 pm Tuesdays. Thank you for your cooperation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our Sunday school program happens during the 9 am Mass Sunday mornings. Sunday School is a program for children who are age 3 (or toilet trained) until they enter grade 2 to help them learn the rituals of mass and hear the Gospel story in child friendly language, through craft and song. Father Tom, at the beginning of Mass, calls the children forward and they process to the Parish Centre with their leader and return to you during the offertory song.

GROWING IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Growing in the Spirit of Our Catholic Faith will continue on Thursday March 12th at 7:45 pm in the Father Langan Parish Centre. Our topic will be "A Love That Lasts: God's Plan for Discovering Authentic Love & God's Plan for Sexuality." Everyone is welcome to attend!

STEUBENVILLE TORONTO 2020

On July 3-5, 2020 our parish will be sending a bus of youth going into high school or already in high school to this amazing Conference! If you have a child in grade eight they are eligible to come to Steubenville this year! Mark you calendars ... our theme is RESTORED! The cost is \$225 which includes the conference, lodging, bussing and food. If you want to know more information about going as a participant or a chaperone please contact Colleen Hanley (519-842-3224). To secure a spot on the bus, drop of the initial payment of \$100 to the rectory in an envelope with your name and phone number on it. Steubenville flyers with all the information are available at the back of the Church. We already have 10 registered!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking out Missionary Disciples to form a "Road to Emmaus Team". This team will journey with anyone who comes to us inquiring about the Catholic faith or discerning to become Catholic. They could be adults, youth or families who are not ready to begin the formal RCIA process for whatever reason. The Road to Emmaus team will be called upon when there is a need to journey with inquirers. What will you be asked to do? First, respond to the call of the Holy Spirit to this initiative, be a witness to the Gospel, committed to the Church and the journey, share in the community of our parish and serve those who you are called to journey with. We will need some to be catechists (teachers of the faith), some to be mentors (spending time once a month in conversation) and some will be ministers of hospitality (welcoming and sitting with them at Mass). If you would like more information please contact Colleen Hanley as soon as possible. We already have three youth and two adults waiting for sojourners.

CAN YOU HELP?

Each year we have some high school students who need financial assistance to attend the Steubenville Toronto Conference in Oshawa. As a parish, we try to make sure every youth who has a desire to deepen their relationship with the Lord has an opportunity to do in such a vibrant way through prayer, song, liturgies and adoration. If you can help a young person with a financial contribution this year please speak with Colleen Hanley or drop off your gift to the rectory. We are incredibly blessed that each one of you values and supports our youth to attend this event!

ST. MARY'S PRAYER CHAIN:

We are a group of about forty parishioners who commit to praying for prayer intentions that are given to our members and shared by email or phone within our group. Prayer intentions are very simple: the first name of a person and the intention of the prayer. Ex. "Please pray for Joe who has been diagnosed with lung cancer." If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please call Deacon Andre & Bonnie De Decker 519 409 1167. Also if you wish to start a prayer request, call Deacon Andre and Bonnie or call Rita at 519 842 3201.

BIBLE STUDY:

Monday, March 9th, from 1:30-3:00pm in the Library (FLPC RM4). Anyone interested is welcome to join the group. Bring a bible. We are in the 3rd session of a study of the Gospel of Mark. With Dr. Tim Gray from the Augustine Institute. "The Scriptures should be the heart and foundation of the Church's teaching, worship, and life." Dei Verbum

FRANCISCAN CAPUCHIN COME & SEE EVENT:

March 14, 2020 Young men from the age of 18 to 40 are invited to a "Come and See Event" with the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. We will meet at St. Francis Friary, 9169 West Ridge Line, Blenheim, at 9 am and will end at 4 pm on March 14, 2020. Come and pray and learn about our life as brothers and priests who follow St. Francis of Assisi, St. Padre Pio, Blessed Solanus Casey and many other saints. If you plan to attend please contact Fr. Louis Mousseau by phone at 519-676-7623 or email at friarlouisca@yahoo.ca.

FFI'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S SEMINAR:

Purposeful Womanhood:
Living from a Place of God-Given Purpose
Saturday, March 28th - 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
St. Tomas Aquinas Secondary School, London
Find focus and peace by learning how to discover your God-given purpose in order to transform your life into a journey of love. With practical tools and tips from guest speaker Anne Marie Posella, the day aims to encourage women to build friendships and grow in their own unique roles. Register online - \$40 at www.famfi.ca, at the door \$50. Price includes lunch, refreshments, and two talks. For more info call Karin Lansink at 519-550-0304.

Lenten Day of Prayer with Bishop Fabbro

at St. Mary's Parish, Tillsonburg

Bishop Fabbro has invited each of us to enter into a Year of Prayer which began on Pentecost Sunday this past June. Saturday March 21st we have invited Bishop Fabbro to lead us in a Day of Prayer. We will explore the Lenten scriptures and the Bishop's invitation to deepen our confidence as missionary disciples. All are welcome!

9 AM	Mass
10 AM	Opening Presentation
12:15 PM	Lunch (free will offering)
1 PM	Second Presentation
3 PM	Blessing & Dismissal

There is no cost for this Lenten Day of Prayer except for the free will offering for your lunch that will be provided.

However you will need to register as soon as possible by contacting Courtney at St. Mary's Parish (519-842-3224).

The day is structured for prayer and exploring the scriptures.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross continue Friday March 13th at 7 pm with the St. Vincent de Paul leading prayers.

SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN 2020

The tree of solidarity that is Development and Peace - Caritas Canada

In 1967, the Bishops of Canada sowed a seed of solidarity, seeking to nurture a movement for social justice. This seed took root and blossomed into a strong tree. Its roots are the thousands of Canadians who support the organization by donating time and money. Its branches are partners who flourish and help build a world of justice. Their work bears fruit for millions of people in the Global South who are taking charge of their own destiny.

Consult the Mini-magazine to learn more about Development and Peace's work.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Did you know that when you give to Fresh Start's Baby Bottle Drive, you're helping to provide a safe environment to pregnant and parenting women facing challenges related to parenting and life skills? Help to make a difference in their lives by filling your bottle with cash, coins, cheques or an e-transfer to babybottles@fsm.ca
Baby bottles can be found by the doors of Church please return the bottle by April 12, 2020. Please make all cheques payable to Fresh Start Support Services.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY BULLETIN REPORT – FEBRUARY 2020

In The Way of Divine Love, the records of Sr. Josefa Menendez' conversations with Jesus, He explains to her the surprising simplicity of our actions which help the spiritual growth of ourselves and others: "Nothing great is required, the smallest acts suffice: a step taken, a straw picked up, a glance restrained, a service rendered, a cordial smile ... all these offered to Love are in reality of great profit to souls and draw down floods of grace on them." (359) I am thinking of the simplicity of our work at the Friendship Dinner. One of our guests last week was Matthew [named changed], a young man who has been sleeping outside for the past three months. He had not been able to access the Food Bank, so he came to the dinner hungry, really hungry; we talked briefly, he ate ravenously, and we gave him some food supplies before he went back into the cold. When asked about family, he replied, "No, I'm a lone wolf." We helped him with warmth and dinner – maybe next week we will manage a night at a motel -- but his sincere "Thank you, thank you, I really appreciate it" was a simple kindness that blessed us in return. Throughout February, responding to our SSVF emergency phone line, we assisted twenty single adults and four families with food; five single adults and one family with rent; two single adults and three families with hydro; one family with Union Gas; two families with emergency car fuel; and one family with emergency clothing. At our Friendship Dinner, on February 5, we served 88 guests; on February 12, 92 guests; on February 19, 87 guests; and on February 26, 73 guests. Thank you for allowing us to help others with food, clothing, shelter and giving us the opportunity to be helped by the kindness of those we serve. -Anne Stancek

ST VINCENT DE PAUL:

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul announces that there will be a guest speaker at the March 9, 2020 meeting at 4:00 pm in the basement church gathering space. Denise Bondy, Spiritual Advisor of the Ontario Regional Council of SVP, will speak on the Vincentian theme "We are Called" all are welcome.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY COOKS FOR THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Commitment is one Wednesday a month, you will work with a wonderful cooking team.

If you wish to serve God by preparing dinner for those in need, call Anne 519-550-1642.

CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPT PICK-UP
**CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS FOR INCOME TAX
PURPOSES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH ANNEX
PLEASE PICK UP YOUR RECEIPTS WHEN YOU COME TO
MASS THIS WEEKEND!**