

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 16, 2020

Saturday, Feb. 15	5:00 pm	St. Carthagh's	Members of the Parish
Sunday, Feb. 16 (6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time)	9:00 am 11:00 am	St. Edmund's St. Carthagh's	Patrick Cassidy Leonard Kehoe
Monday, Feb. 17	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	Leonard Kehoe
Tuesday, Feb. 18	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	No Intention
Wednesday, Feb. 19	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	No Intention
Thursday, Feb. 20	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	Joan Cassidy
Friday, Feb. 21 (Third Friday)	9:00 am 3:00 pm	St. Carthagh's	Mass followed by scheduled Eucharistic adoration. Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Sacred Heart Prayers and Benediction.
Saturday, Feb. 22	11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Carthagh's St. Carthagh's	Parents Meeting Allan Kirkey
Sunday, Feb. 23 (7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time)	9:00 am 11:00 am	St. Edmund's St. Carthagh's	Members of the Parish Leonard Kehoe

Please Remember in Your Prayers: All those who are sick, including: F. Boomhour, Paul Hulsman, Neive Alderson, Norene Ruffilli, Amanda Lake, Ginger Kehoe, Margaret Dupuis-Ives, Terry Horrigan, Elinor McKenzie, Catherine Liggon, Debbie LaCroix, Presley Noble, Rob Montgomery, Germaine Wannamaker, Margaret-Rose Wood, Jack Tweedy, Janice Tracey, Michelle Fobert, Mary Stafford Cassidy, Ben Paul, Sharon Butler, Karen Kiefer, and Marilyn Sherrow.

Please let us know at the office if you would like to add to or remove a name from the list of the sick.

Offertory Collections:

St. Carthagh's	February 8 & 9	Regular Sunday	\$1,192
St. Edmund's	February 9	Regular Sunday	\$773

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING TO OUR CHURCHES

	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</u>
St. Carthagh's	W = WELCOME		
Saturday, Feb. 22	W – Karen LaVallée Arthur Allore	Sheila Toner, Carol Genereaux, Maria Cockburn	
Sunday, Feb. 23	W – Dan Dafoe Don Kirkey	Bob & Sharon Eros, Carol Badluk, Sheila Scott	Nicole Boyce
St. Edmund's	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	
Sunday, Feb. 23	Marian Nash Andre Cassidy	Vince Cassidy Jerry Cassidy	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

There will be no Bible Study this week.

Our next Joint Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 19**, at 7:00 pm, in the rectory. If you have any agenda points, please submit them to Fr. Aidan.

The World Day of Prayer is scheduled to take place on March 6, 2020 at St. Edmund's at 1:00 pm. The theme is: *"Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk"* (Jn 5:2-9a). The materials have been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. Theirs is a fearless call to act decisively in love for peace and reconciliation. Refreshments will follow after the service in St. Edmund's Hall. All are cordially welcome!

A great THANK YOU to St. Carthagh's CWL! They have donated \$1000 to St. Carthagh's Church to go towards heating costs.

Yes, I recall the conversation. It was on the Ten Commandments of God. It was actually a telephone conversation on diverse social issues but the lady's prescription for the social turmoil of today's world is: *"Just obey the Ten Commandments of God and all shall be well."* In her considered opinion, fulfilling the law guarantees happiness in life. This lady's take seems to be that of many of us. In reality however, the question that confronts us today is why is it that fulfilling the law is no guarantee of finding happiness in life? The problem certainly is not in the laws themselves, but in the slavish observance without awareness of one's motivation and understanding of the wisdom behind the laws.

Laws are guidelines to help us live a life of mutual love, respect, charity and justice. The ultimate spirit of God's laws is for love of God, others and self. But some people perceive God as a Police Officer and consequently see the laws as God's trap to catch us and punish us in this life and in the next. When people see God and his laws in this gloomy perspective, their perception necessarily leads them to an attitude of minimalism. They become very calculating and this in turn leads them to complacency and inertia. This is one reason why several people are not on fire for the Lord. They have a lukewarm faith!

Thus if I am obliged to attend Mass, I make sure I do just that. Whether I participate actively in the Mass or not, isn't important. But we know that just being physically present at Mass alone cannot benefit us at all. The Eucharist requires our total presence and full and conscious participation of mind, body and soul, if it is to be efficacious.

Our poor perception of God's laws also makes us tend to be legalistic, that is, we observe the letter, but not the spirit of the laws. For instance, people will observe abstinence on Fridays but they replace meat with a sumptuous sea-food dinner, neglecting the real purpose of abstinence, which is to train us in detachment and self-control so that we can be more like Christ and feel with him in his sufferings. Truly, when things are simply done out of duty and not out of conviction and love, they become burdensome and oppressive. Instead of liberating us for love and service, we become edgy, anxious, self-centred and unhappy.

In fact, the purpose of God's laws, as mentioned earlier, is to be more loving towards one another. Instead, whether fulfilled or not, we often use it as a tool for judging and comparing fidelity. Such uncalled for comparisons often lead to self-righteousness, leading us to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude which does not augur well for community building. This weekend, Jesus draws our attention to the wisdom of the laws and encourages us to go beyond what we do to why we do what we do.

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching. Lent begins on **Feb. 26, 2020**. With its focus on repentance, change of heart, prayer and almsgiving, it will be important for all of us to begin Lent with the Ash Wednesday Mass and the imposition of the ashes. To this end, we shall have two Masses, one in the morning at St. Carthagh's at 9:30 am, and the other in the evening at 7:00 pm at St. Edmund's. The morning Mass will also accommodate the School community.

The ashes that are used to mark the beginning of Lent come from the palm branches that were blessed and distributed the previous Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It will be appreciated if you can please bring back your old palm branches to the back of the church by **February 23**.

The next National Week for Life and the Family will be observed from **May 10–17, 2020**, with the theme, **"Children: The Crowning Glory of Marriage"** / « *Les enfants : le couronnement du mariage* ». The material for the *2020 National Week of Life and Family* has been prepared by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF). Please mark this date on your calendars.

All who plan to get married in 2020 will need to take a course to prepare them for marriage. The course is in the form of a retreat. One such Marriage Preparation Retreat has been scheduled for **March 27 and 28, 2020** at Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Belleville. We ask that all registrations be in *not later than March 13th*, so that accommodations can be made for meals and resources. Interested couples please register with Donna at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Frankford at 613-398-6745, or assisi@sympatico.ca.

Cost is \$150 per couple. Payment is welcome at time of registration, or at the door. This fee covers handouts, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks. **Deadline for Registration is March 13, 2020.** **For further clarification, please, contact Fr. Aidan or Dan at 613-478-2000.**