

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14th, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday 9:15 am	March 17th † Michael Pasternak by Sandy Blank
Friday 9:15 am	March 19th † Antonio Pereira & Maria de Jesus by Anselmo Pereira
Wednesday 5:00 pm	March 24th † Michael Pasternak by Sandy Blank
Friday 9:15 am	March 26 th † Baltazare Almeida by Anselmo Pereira

Pastor's Message

"A Fool for Love »

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

On the 4th week of lent I'd like to encourage you to go further with whatever Lenten observances you have begun with by sharing few ideas of Jo Anne Taylor. Are you getting tired of Lent, yet? If this were the fourth Sunday of Advent, we'd be nearly done with the purple of penitence and preparation. We would be anticipating the celebration of Christ's coming in less than a week - Christmas Eve would be just around the corner! But this isn't Advent. It's Lent. We have ways to go before the end of this 40-day journey into the wilderness. There are still two more weeks before we can wave palm branches at the entry into Holy Week. We have three more weeks to fast and pray and prepare our hearts for Christ's resurrection on Easter morning.

Here in the middle of Lent, we could sure use some joy. I think that's why, centuries ago, someone thought it would be a good idea to make the fourth Sunday of Lent be Laetare Sunday, a Sunday when we get to 'rejoice in the Lord.' It's kind of like that third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we light a rose-colored candle instead of a dark purple one. And what better gospel passage to bring us joy, than the third chapter of John? This is where we find the famous verse that sums up the whole gospel message - "For God so loved the world..."

And this brings us to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a rabbi, who comes to Jesus under cover of darkness. Maybe Rabbi Nic comes to Jesus at night to keep his conversation a secret from the other Pharisees. Maybe he doesn't want to admit publicly that he is in contact with Jesus. Whatever motivation caused Nicodemus to wait until darkness had fallen, his appearance at night is unusual enough that later, when Nicodemus re-enters the story (Jn.7:50), he is referred to as "the one who came to Jesus at night."

It's pretty clear that Nicodemus comes to Jesus in a state of confusion and spiritual blindness, and he can't seem to grasp what Jesus is trying to teach him. Whether he's being stubborn or simply misguided in his lack of understanding, Nicodemus is completely in the dark when it comes to comprehending how God actually works.

If you don't get anything else out of John's gospel, be sure you get this: God loves you. These words of

HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 1st at 5:00 pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Church will remain open after mass for personal prayers until 8:00 pm

Friday, April 2nd

(Universal Day of Fast & Abstinence)

Church will be open from 9:00 am for personal prayer

3:00 pm: Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion

7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross

Reconciliation

Priest will be available for Reconciliation after all services on Thursday and Friday



Saturday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil Mass:

A candlelight beginning, listening to the story of salvation history, culminating in the Easter story.

(Please note there is no 5:00 pm. Mass today)

Sunday, April 4th

Easter Sunday at 10:00 am

*****Incense will be used at the liturgies on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday**

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Jesus go deep into describing the way God loves us - not "how much," but how. Why would God bother to love us in this way? Why doesn't God just write us off as a loss? It seems rather foolish of God to waste divine love on our sorry lot. But that's who God is. God loves us because of God, not because of our worthiness. God loves us because God is love. That's the primary identity out of which God operates.

God bless you all!
Fr. Eslin Pereira cmf.

WEEKLY CHURCH GUIDELINES

Wednesday Mass 9:15 am

Thursday Mass 5:00 pm

Friday Mass 9:15 am

Saturday Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass 11:00 am

Friday 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Confessions: call Fr. Eslin at 819-576-6255

Masks must be worn in the church. Records of attendance is also mandatory.

Remember in your prayers all who are in need of our prayers that God's healing and comforting presence may be with them, especially:



Mary Dawn Johnston, Andy Quan, Chris McEvoy, Joyce Lefebvre, Lisa Paquette, Deslyn Agard, Jacques & Isobel Arcand, Nicky LeBlanc, Yasmin Shivji, Anna Gaigg, Omar Ladouceur, Peter & Janet Perry, Sylvia LaFrance, Dennis McGrath, Jane & Bob Cameron, Patricia & Charles Jelley, Eddy Proulx, Terry Jolicoeur, Joseph Ritchie and Ken Trudel.

Please contact the parish office to inform us of those who are ill and in need of God's healing and comfort. Renewal of prayers for the sick is available by contacting Pat Gagne (613-523-0769)

CHURCH ENVELOPES 2021

There are still many boxes of envelopes at the back of the church that still need to be picked up. Phone the office at 613-738-1943 to arrange pickup if you are still concerned about attending the church.

COMMUNION 2021

Information about First Communion 2021 was forwarded to the schools last week. Registration for participants should be received by March 25th. When further information is received concerning the actual dates, all those who have registered will be advised by email.

The booklet *We Share in the Eucharist* is available at the church office for \$25.00.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - Caritas Canada's Share Lent 2021 Campaign

This year's campaign theme *Share Love, Share Lent* is focusing on Canadian Catholics discovering how the work of Development and Peace is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching and how we can heed the Pope's call for solidarity and love for our neighbor.

The collection date is **Sunday, March 21st**. You can contribute through the church or donate online at devp.org/sharelent, by mailing a cheque to 1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd. West, 3rd floor, Montreal, QC H3G 1T7 or by phoning 1-888-234-8533.

Lenten Resources on Diocesan Website: Visit the Lent Section and find information on *Online Retreats; Daily reflections; Ideas for families; videos; Catholic Bishop's Journey Through Lent; and messages*. See the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall website at: Archottawa.ca

PRAYER & WORSHIP The Real You - Faith Lenten Discussions: Hosted by Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, virtually via Zoom. Register in advance: www.tinyurl.com/5ehm66mv. Please sign into the discussion with your name. Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., Mar. 4, 11, 18. Info: ottawaholyrosary@gmail.com.

DONATIONS BY CREDIT CARD OR INTERAC to make weekly, monthly, or one time donations: Visit,



Visit, saintbernardparish.com, click on Canada Helps to give. Canada Helps will instantly issue you a tax receipt and will forward your donation into our parish account.

CRA CHARITY NUMBER - Our parish is registered with CRA as: PAROISSE ST BERNARD 128967353RR0020. This number is needed to setup payroll charity giving

We must fast with our whole heart, that is to say, willing, wholeheartedly, universally and entirely..

St. Francis de Sales