



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT
145 Victoria Ave
Chatham, ON N7L 3A7
bsacramentparish@dol.ca

OUR LADY OF VICTORY
490 St. Clair St
Chatham, ON N7L 3K8
ourladyv@dol.ca

ST. AGNES
52 Croydon St
Chatham, ON N7L 1L3
stagnes@dol.ca

ST. JOSEPH
180 Wellington St W
Chatham, ON
stjoseph@dol.ca

ST. URSULA
205 Tweedsmuir Ave W
Chatham, ON N7M 5N8
stursula@dol.ca

Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/bssaususj>

Our parish office is located at St. Agnes Church

52 Croydon Street
519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530

Our parish office is closed.

Please call and leave a message and we will return your call.

Please note:
Masks are mandatory
at all Masses.
(See announcement
inside bulletin.)

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday ~ 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church
Sunday ~ 8 am at St. Joseph Church
Sunday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church (live streamed)
Sunday ~ 10 am at St. Ursula Church
Sunday ~ 11 am at St. Agnes Church
Sunday ~ 11 am at Our Lady of Victory Church (Polish)

******To reserve for Saturday or Sunday Mass, registration will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays ONLY from 9 am to 5 pm both days. Register easily online (www.ccfp.dol.ca) or by calling the parish office.**

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday ~ 9 am at St. Ursula Church
Wednesday ~ 7 pm at Our Lady of Victory
Thursday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church (live streamed)

******There is no need to register for weekday Mass. It is on a first come first serve basis.**

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor - Fr. Jim Higgins
519-352-8530 ext 222 - jhiggins@dol.ca
Associate Pastor - Fr. Jude Ogbenna, C. S. Sp.
519-352-8530 ext 223 - jogbenna@dol.ca
Associate Pastor - Fr. Olivet Okoro
519-352-8530 ext 224 - ookoro@dol.ca
In Residence - Fr. Stan Izdebski
sizdebski@dol.ca
Pastoral Minister - Colleen Keane
519-352-8530 ext 225 - ckeane@dol.ca
Pastoral Minister - Karen Robert
519-352-9483 ext 226 - kr robert@dol.ca
Parish Catechist - Ali Chinnick
519-352-9483 ext 227 - achinnick@dol.ca

Deacon Steve Cartier - scartier@dol.ca
Deacon Jerry Lozon - jlozon@dol.ca
Deacon Chris Masterson - cmasterson@dol.ca
Deacon Morgan Treacy - mtreacy@dol.ca

SUPPORT STAFF

Secretary - Maureen Foster
519-352-8530 ext 221
mfoster@dol.ca

Financial Secretary - Lynda Cadotte
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lcadotte@dol.ca

Bookkeeper - Barb Butler
519-352-9483 ext 242
bbutler@dol.ca

Data Recorder - Cathy Zimmer
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czimmer@dol.ca

Business Manager - Rodger Luxton
519-352-9483 Ext 240
rluxton@dol.ca

Blessed Sacrament Plant Supervisor
Brian Elgie - 519-359-9051
belgie@dol.ca

St. Agnes Custodian
Andy Willburger
awillburger@dol.ca

St. Joseph Custodian
Patrick O'Malley
pomalley@dol.ca

St. Ursula Custodian
Dat Phan
dphan@dol.ca

Readings for March 7

Exodus 20: 1-17. I Corinthians 1: 18, 22-25.
John 2: 13-25.

FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

UPDATE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

Please note that as of January 29, Bishop Fabbro extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation until the end of the Easter Season; that is, up to and including Pentecost Sunday (May 23).



DEACON'S PEN

Welcome back. It is a great joy to have our churches open again for the Second Sunday of Lent. True, last week would have been better, but with 5 churches and 6 Masses to get people registered for, and volunteers to organise, it just was not possible to do it properly. But here we are; ready, willing, and able to serve the good people of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes.

Mountains figure into all three of today's readings. In his homily last week, Fr. Jim mentioned that Lent does not need to be about giving something up, it could well be taking something up. Finding more time to pray, do some Spiritual Reading. Deacon Jerry has good ideas of what people can read. If you are really desperate I could help you, my email is on the front page of the bulletin, bottom left corner, along with the emails of the other deacons, who could help you.

To be honest with you all, Covid and the isolation it brings has been difficult for me. I am retired so don't have the interaction of work mates. The ministries I am involved with are all very people orientated, and that was taken away. Our churches were closed and like most folks my age there were some health issues. All of which impacted my spiritual life. Live streamed Masses, virtual meetings and online gatherings just don't seem to work for me. I have given up enough, and now I am starting to do. I have my mountains to climb. I started Lent by going to confession; it was the first time in over a year. I make a conscious effort to pray more, and to pray for a particular person each day.

Do you have a mountain to climb to come closer to God and be changed deeply? Which of the three mountains in today's readings do you need to climb this Lent?

- Mount Moriah - leaving behind the gods of the past.
- Mount Calvary - embracing Christ as the only Saviour.
- Mount Tabor - trusting the glory that will be ours in Christ.

Which mountain do you need to climb this Lent?

Peace and May God Bless you all;
Deacon Morgan

INFORMATION ABOUT WEARING OF MASKS

We taking every reasonable precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our churches and protect parishioners. Those who attend Mass or other services without a mask and without a valid exemption are violating municipal and provincial COVID-19 restrictions and putting fellow parishioners at risk.



Per Bishop Fabbro, starting January 1, 2021, if you have a medical exemption for wearing a mask, you will be required to bring to the pastor evidence from your physician, nurse practitioner, social worker, psychologist or occupational, respiratory or physical therapist attesting to your condition. Once you do so, you will be provided a document to bring to Mass each time. When you register for Mass, please let them know you have been granted an exemption, so that you can be seated in a designated area.

We will still ask that you wear a mask briefly to enter and exit and to receive Communion, unless your disability prevents you from doing so. Those who refuse to comply with this diocesan regulation will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to attend Mass until they agree to wear a mask.

We are aware that this new protocol does go beyond the requirements in most health unit orders and local by-laws, but they are required to protect the safety of our parishioners, parish teams and volunteers while on church property. Infections continue to increase in our communities and small sacrifices like wearing a mask can slow the transmission of the virus, and are a sign of our love for our neighbours and help prevent people from taking advantage of the exemptions for personal reasons.

Footnotes: Above information was taken from December 1, 2020 COVID-19 Update from Bishop Fabbro (Update #13) - found at www.dol.ca.

Please note that face shields and/or plastic masks are not an appropriate replacement for a face mask. From the Ontario.ca website regarding face shields:

Face shields do not replace masks or face coverings.

A face shield is used to protect the eyes of the person wearing it. Using a face shield without a mask won't protect:

- *You from potentially inhaling infectious respiratory droplets exhaled by others*
- *Others from your infectious respiratory droplets, as they can escape around the face shield*

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions
for the week of March 1- 6

The following will be celebrated in a Private Mass:

Monday, Mar 1 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Intentions of Debbie Laforet

The following will be celebrated at 9 am Mass at St. Ursula:

Tuesday, Mar 2 - St. Agnes intentions
~ People of the parish

Tuesday, Mar 2 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Kathleen Labadie
~ Emma Matteis

The following will be celebrated in a Private Mass:

Wednesday, Mar 3 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Diane Harwood

Wednesday, Mar 3 - St. Joseph intentions
~ People of the parish

The following will be celebrated at 7 pm Mass at Our Lady of Victory:

Wednesday, Mar 3 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Marianna Bilski
~ Bogdan Wesolek

The following will be celebrated at 9 am Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church:

Thursday, Mar 4 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Angie Rupert & the intentions of her family

Thursday, Mar 4 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Audrey Kreamer

The following will be celebrated in a Private Mass:

Friday, Mar 5 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ People of the parish

Friday, Mar 5 - St. Joseph intentions
~ People of the parish

Saturday, Mar 6 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

*To Everything there is a season...
"a time to be healed..."*

Please pray for those who are currently sick in our parish family, especially Helen O'Brien.

"a time to die..."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased relatives and parishioners especially Patrick Burtch, Angie Sedge, Brian McMath, Bib Sterling and Lionel Richie.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan ministers: Deacon Steve Cartier; Mrs. Mary-Catherine Bishop, Pastoral Minister; Rev. John Pirt; Rev. Kazimieras Kaknevicius; Deacon Paul James; Deacon Dominic Vu; Rev. Phil Guimaraes.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mar 1 Daniel 9: 3, 4b-10. Luke 6: 36-38.
Mar 2 Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20, 27-28, 31.
Matthew 23: 1-12.
Mar 3 Jeremiah 18: 18-20. Matthew 20: 17-28.
Mar 4 Jeremiah 17: 5-10. Luke 16: 19-31.
Mar 5 Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13^a, 17b-28.
Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46.
Mar 6 Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20. Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
The assurance of faith

Reading I Genesis 22: 1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18
(the testing of Abraham)

Reading II Romans 8: 31-34
(God's love for humanity)

Gospel Mark 9: 2-10
(Jesus transfigured)

Key Passage: Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (Mark 9: 10)

Adult: How deeply do you believe that since God is for you, no can destroy you?

Child: What would you like to ask God to do for you and your family?



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Phil & Diana Gavin who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on February 27.

JANUARY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Jan-21	Current Jan 2021	YTD Jan 2021	YTD Jan 2020
Blessed Sacrament			
**Operating Revenue	25,164.78	25,164.78	24,914.66
Capital Revenue	191.95	191.95	684.66
TOTAL INCOME	25,356.73	25,356.73	25,599.32
Operating Expenses	22,348.12	22,348.12	30,671.39
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	140.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,348.12	22,348.12	30,811.39
* NET INCOME	3,008.61	3,008.61	-5,212.07
* Chequing & Mass Accounts			
** incl. CEWS	10,572.78	10,572.78	
Loan Fund Deposit		102,680.97	120,514.48

Jan-21	Current Jan 2021	YTD Jan 2021	YTD Jan 2020
St Joseph			
Operating Revenue	18,024.24	18,024.24	27,860.60
Capital Revenue	1,893.04	1,893.04	5,577.29
TOTAL INCOME	19,917.28	19,917.28	33,437.89
Operating Expenses	25,197.71	25,197.71	26,644.89
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	7,776.43
TOTAL EXPENSES	25,197.71	25,197.71	34,421.32
NET INCOME	-5,280.43	-5,280.43	-983.43
Loan Fund Deposit		284,092.45	537,561.52
CEWS DEPOSIT	5,503.24	5,503.24	Included in Totals
<i>(Emergency Wage Subsidy)</i>			

St Agnes			
**Operating Revenue (*)	32,125.47	32,125.47	74,770.06
Capital Revenue	64.52	64.52	477.14
TOTAL INCOME	32,189.99	32,189.99	75,247.20
Operating Expenses	27,386.70	27,386.70	25,792.04
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	162.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,386.70	27,386.70	25,954.04
* NET INCOME	4,803.29	4,803.29	49,293.16
* Chequing, Mass, Soup Kitchen & Refugee Accounts			
**incl CEWS	8,528.89	8,528.89	
Loan Fund Deposit		72,865.40	101,289.07
(*) incl Deferred Revenue:			
			11,810.08

St Ursula			
Operating Revenue	19,993.37	19,993.37	21,005.60
Capital Revenue	2,481.25	2,481.25	4,936.75
TOTAL INCOME	22,474.62	22,474.62	25,942.35
Operating Expenses	21,256.14	21,256.14	21,143.38
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	3,975.12
TOTAL EXPENSES	21,256.14	21,256.14	25,118.50
NET INCOME	1,218.48	1,218.48	823.85
Loan Fund Deposit		346,155.48	339,316.44
CEWS DEPOSIT	9,576.37	9,576.37	Included in Totals
<i>(Emergency Wage Subsidy)</i>			

JANUARY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT CONTINUED

Jan-21			
	<u>Current Jan 2021</u>	<u>YTD Jan 2021</u>	<u>YTD Jan 2020</u>
Our Lady of Victory			
Operating Revenue	940.00	940.00	8,344.85
Capital Revenue	<u>15.63</u>	<u>15.63</u>	<u>383.23</u>
TOTAL INCOME	955.63	955.63	8,728.08
Operating Expenses	4,579.85	4,579.85	6,281.76
Capital Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,579.85	4,579.85	6,281.76
NET INCOME	<u>-3,624.22</u>	<u>-3,624.22</u>	<u>2,446.32</u>
Loan Fund Deposit		57,305.33	56,331.06

WELCOME

It is with great joy that we welcome visitors and new parishioners to our parish family!

New parishioners please visit our parish website, ccfp.dol.ca and look under the "I'm New" tab. Or call the parish office (519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483) and we can arrange for you to obtain one of our registration forms.

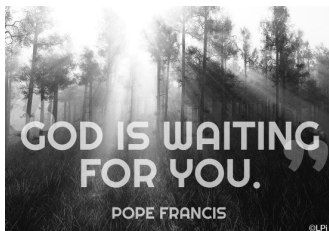
*Remember to welcome strangers
in your homes.*

Hebrews 13: 2



E-BULLETIN

Are you interested in receiving the bulletin by email. If so, contact Maureen at the parish office at 519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483 or by email at mfoster@dol.ca or you can view it on the Family of Parishes website at www.ccfp.dol.ca.



PRAYER CHAIN

We have people who want to pray for whatever request comes to them. If you need prayers, please contact Maureen at the parish office at 519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483 or by email at mfoster@dol.ca.

*I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;
turn your ear to me and hear my prayers.*

Psalm 17:6

CHURCH CHUCKLE



4-7
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"I'm having trouble with eagles in school — one plus one eagles two, two plus two eagles four ..."

OUR FAMILY LENTEN JOURNEY : WEEK TWO



GROWING IN



When you love someone, you usually want to spend time with that person. That is how you get to know each other. Jesus loves each one of us and wants you to spend time with Him every day, especially during Lent. One way you can do this is to find a quiet place to pray and invite Jesus to sit with you.

LECTIO DIVINA

Praying with God's Word in the Bible is a wonderful way to get to know Jesus. There is a special guided meditation called "Lectio Divina" which means 'divine reading.' To use this method of prayer you can follow these easy steps.

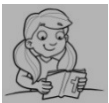


READ

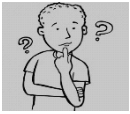
THINK

PRAY

LISTEN



Find a quiet place to sit away from noise and distractions. Choose a passage from the Bible to read. It might be the Gospel for Sunday. Read the passage slowly, at least three times. You might need someone to help you read. Sometimes it helps to read it out loud.



What is happening in the story? What do you see? What do you hear? What words or phrases jump out to you? What is this story saying to you? What do you think you are learning from God's Word? What do you think Jesus might be teaching you?



It's time to talk to God or Jesus. What would you like to say to God? What do you need help understanding? What would you thank God for? What questions do you have about this story?



Now it's time to sit quietly and rest while you listen to what God wants to say to you. You can ask God, "What change are you asking me to make after hearing Your Word? Write it down. Thank God!"



Maybe you can use this passage to try Lectio Divina....Mark 9:2-10

After six days, Jesus took Peter, James and John with him. They went up a high mountain. Suddenly, Jesus looked different. His clothes became so white they shone. Then all of a sudden, two prophets that had died long ago, appeared. They were Moses and Elijah. They began to talk with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three tents. One will be for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter didn't know what to say because he and James and John were so afraid. Then a cloud appeared and covered them. A voice came from the cloud, saying,

"THIS IS MY SON AND I LOVE HIM. LISTEN TO HIM."

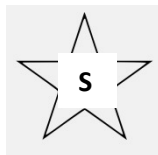
Peter, James and John looked around. Suddenly, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen. He told them to wait until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept quiet but they asked each other, what does 'rising from the dead mean?'

FAMILY LENTEN ACTIONS

Prayer is like having a conversation or chat with a good friend. God asks you to talk to Him about anything. The more you spend time with God, the more you become a prayer super STAR! You can use these kinds of prayers:



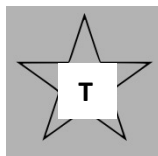
Show honour and praise to God.



God I praise you for _____
 Jesus, I adore you because _____
 Holy Spirit you are _____



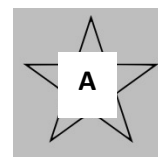
Thank God for your blessings.



God, I thank you today for _____
 Jesus, thank you for _____
 Holy Spirit I give thanks for _____



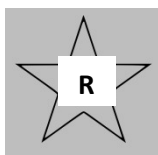
Ask God for your needs and others' needs.



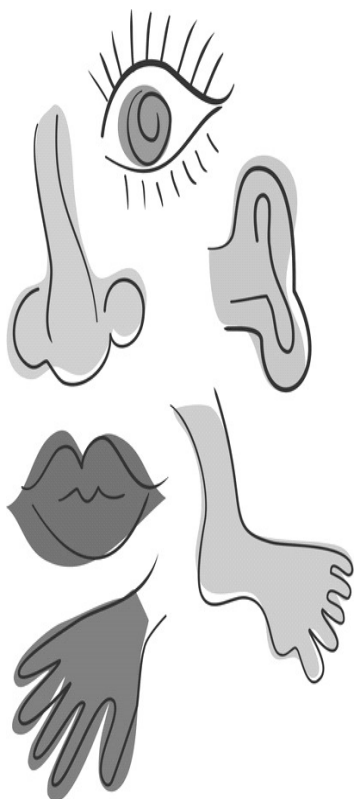
God, please help me _____
 Jesus, my friend needs _____
 Holy Spirit, hear my prayer for _____



Reconcile with God. Say you are sorry to God and others. Pray for your enemies.



God, I am sorry I _____
 Jesus, please forgive me for _____
 Holy Spirit, help me forgive _____



Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your true and proper worship."

Lent is a time for you to become the best you can be. You can make changes so you can be more loving and a better disciple for Jesus. One way is to pray with your body.

GOD, I GIVE YOU MY....

- EYES-** Let me see your face in others and recognize their needs. Help me use my eyes to learn more about the way you want me to live
- EARS-** Let me listen to your Word through my parents, my teachers and my church. Close my ears to gossip and lies.
- LIPS-** Let me always tell the truth. Give me courage to speak up for others who do not have a voice. Help me share your Word with others so they might learn about your love through me..
- FEET-** Let me answer your call when you say "Follow Me". Help me go to places where you need me to work with others. Help me stay away from situations that will harm me. Keep me on the right path.
- HANDS-** Let me use my hands to comfort, to help, to bless, to hold others. Let your hands be my hands to offer peace not hate.
- NOSE:** Let me breathe in your Holy Spirit and let your grace fill me with only You!

GIFT CARD OUTREACH PROJECT - THANK YOU!



'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.'
(Matthew 25)

Your generous support for our Gift Card Outreach Project has given us the funds needed to purchase 230 gift cards. These cards will be distributed, over the next few weeks by our St. Joseph and St. Ursula SSVP Brown Bag Lunch program, St. Agnes Soup Kitchen and St. Ursula Caring Kitchen to their guests. These cards will assist with the stretching of food dollars for the people served by these volunteers. We are grateful for the dedication these groups have shown as we continue to navigate the difficult situations COVID 19 has presented to many among us. God Bless You!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 5, 2021



Observed on the first Friday in March every year, World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women from many denominations who join together and observe a common day of prayer.

This year, on March 5, please join in the gathered prayers of many and pray for the global needs, especially in this trying time of COVID 19 and the sufferings it brings to so many.

Prayer for World Day of Prayer

*Loving God, Teach me the language of prayer,
Help me to hear prayers of thanksgiving
in the laughter of young children and old friends.
Help me to feel prayers of lamentation
in the silent tears of strangers and loved ones.
Help me to witness prayers of intercession
in small acts of kindness and service.
Teach me, God,
how to pray with my whole being.
Amen.*



MASS ON LINE



If you are not comfortable returning to in person Mass, consider watching the Mass on our YouTube Channel on Sunday and Thursday at 9 am or any time after that.

Simply search Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes.

For other options such as tv, phone and more, visit our parish website at ccfp.dol.ca.



CONFESSION

In person Confession will resume at Blessed Sacrament Church on Saturdays from 10 - 11 am.

General Absolution will offered following all the Masses on the weekends of March 6/7 and March 20/21

We will not be offering Confession on April 3 (Holy Saturday).

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This will be delayed until further notice. Watch our bulletins and webpage for the most current updates and changes.

OUR WEBSITE

Did you know the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes has a website? Take a look at www.ccfp.dol.ca. Wish to read the current or past bulletins? Looking for the Stations of the Cross? Curious when the sacraments for your children are taking place? Wondering how to donate? Looking for Mass times for our parishes? Lost your Liturgical Ministry schedule? Need prayers? Would like to volunteer in one of our many ministries? Need to contact one of our staff members? Our website has the answer to many questions - check it out!

*"Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Romans 8: 35, 37

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE UPDATE

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all the Knights of Columbus and Caring Kitchen volunteers who worked diligently to deliver the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes offertory envelopes to most of our families. Your diligence is most appreciated!

If you have not yet received your offertory envelopes for 2021, and would like to receive them, please call the parish office and leave a message. We will contact you to make arrangements for you to pick up your offertory envelopes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Please check our parish website (ccfp.dol.ca) to pray the Stations of the Cross with our Pastor, Fr. Jim. There is also a Stations of the Cross for children and families.

CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISH MASS INTENTIONS

We are now taking Mass intentions for Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes, St. Joseph, St. Ursula and Our Lady of Victory for April.

We will only be able to accept two Mass Intentions per household for this time frame. Anything above this we can certainly take and send on to the Diocese of London, which are then forwarded to priests that do not have Mass Intentions. We appreciate your cooperation with this. By using this method, the Mass Intentions you request will be said in a more expedient way.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO DONATE

As we are all forced to slow down in our current world, unfortunately some things continue along, such as our household bills and expenses. The same goes for our parishes as well, that operate mainly on donations received at Mass. If you normally donate with your offertory envelope when you attend Mass, there are some other options such as e-transfer, pre-authorized debit, and our new option, Plently. For more information please visit our website at ccfp.dol.ca and select the tab "Giving".

If you wish to drop off donations, please drop them into the white locked mail boxes at St. Agnes. The mail box is checked daily.

We are so thankful for your continued support throughout these changing times.



GENERAL ABSOLUTION

During the COVID Pandemic Bishop Fabbro has granted permission to our priests to celebrate the Rite of General Absolution since we are not all able to attend individual confession. **We will be holding a General Absolution Service after each Mass on the weekend of March 7 and March 21.**

In a general absolution service, Catholics are absolved from their sins without confessing them individually to the priest. It differs from the communal penance service held in many parishes every Advent and Lent, during which penitents gather together for common prayer, confess their sins individually to a priest, and receive absolution from him individually as well.

The Church permits general absolution in cases of danger of death or when "enough confessors are [not] available to hear the individual confessions properly within a reasonable time" (Rite of Penance, 31b). The Church has in mind a chronic condition here, for example in mission territories, where a priest may visit only occasionally, and penitents risk being without the grace of reconciliation for a long time. General absolution is not lawful "when nonavailability of confessors is based solely on there being a large number of penitents, such as may be the case at some great festival or pilgrimage" (RP. 31b).

Only the bishop may judge whether lawful conditions exist. The priest who wishes to hold a service of general confession and absolution needs the bishop's permission. If this is not possible, he should inform the bishop as soon as possible about the need and the absolution he gave (32)

Nevertheless, penitents who receive general absolution for mortal sin are obliged to confess it individually as soon as possible.

The liturgy begins with Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word. Then the people kneel or bow and make a general confession of sins, like the formula we use at Mass. "I confess to almighty God."

A litany or song may follow, and then all pray the Lord's prayer. The priest then gives absolution over the whole group of sinners, and all sing a song of praise.

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Written by Paul Turner

February 28, 2021

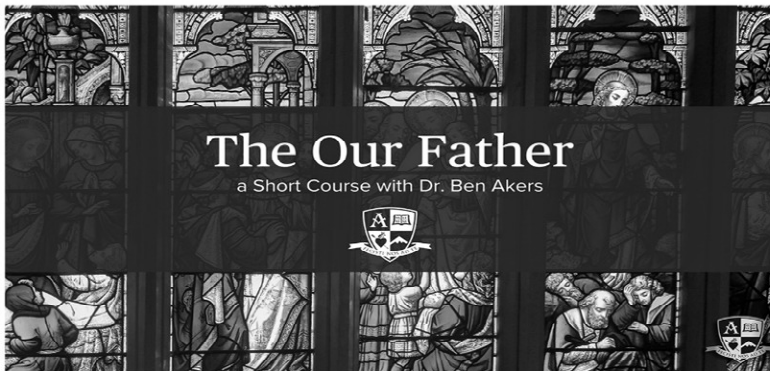
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Father Michael McGivney
An American Blessed



The Our Father

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JESUS: THE MODEL AND MASTER OF PRAYER

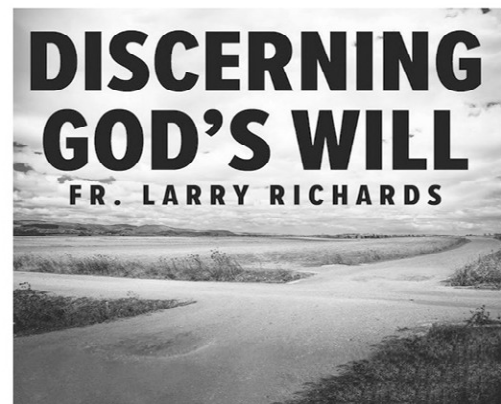
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WEEK TWO:

Prayer

**'Mark 9.2-10
This is my Son,
the Beloved,
Listen to Him'**

When I was a teenager, the experience of Catholic retreat basically changed my life. I wasn't lost or hurting, but the 3 days placed me on a path that led to where I am today. Certainly, my experiences of faith before and after that weekend also played a role in the person I have become. However, the power of God I felt in that short period of time had such a profound effect on me it became a type of lens through which I then came to see the rest of my life.

Sometimes we need to get away from it all to realize what really matters in life. We step back and see things more clearly. When we are fully in the world it is hard to get past the busyness and constant noise of modern existence. Distractions are all around us and our attention span can be so limited when it comes to truth.

This Lent, find the time to slow down, to get away from it all, and to rest in the peaceful arms of God. Go to the desert and work on surrendering all you are, and have, and will be to Jesus. Reflect on the many gifts you have been given and discern the best ways to cultivate those for God's glory. As this season begins, be mindful of the fact that this time will never come again. There might be a Lenten season next year, but God is calling you now.

Earl Welliver, MTS

Tracy

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Has Prayer or Sacrifice Become Mundane?

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind.*

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

Lord, I pray, move the Spirit more boldly in my life. I know that any sin can grieve and diminish the voice of the Spirit, and I pray against the temptation to sin. Help me crave your presence more than I crave sin. Help me grow in the fruit of the Spirit and so walk closer with Yourself. I pray for guidance from your Spirit- let your will and promises always be a meditation of my heart. In Jesus' Name, Amen

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