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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 26, 2017

“Jesus opens eyes that are shut”



Do you recognize the light of God’s truth and power in your life? God wants to remove every obstacle that might hinder us from recognizing the light of his truth and wisdom for our lives. Saul, the first king of Israel failed to recognize God’s light and power to save him from his enemies. God replaced Saul with David, the youngest of Jesse’s eight sons (1Samuel 16). God saw something in David which Jesse and his other sons did not recognize – a man after God’s own heart who delighted in doing what was pleasing to the Lord. (1Samuel 13:14). David was a man of courage and vision who defeated his enemies and united his people.

His strength and success came not from himself but from God who anointed him with the power and wisdom of his own Spirit. What can keep us from the light of God’s truth, wisdom, and strength for our lives? Sin blinds us and causes us to stumble and fall –

unable to rise on our own or walk in the freedom of God’s truth. Only God’s light can uncover the darkness of sin and free us to walk in the path of holiness and peace with God.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Mark your calendars for our Lenten Reconciliation service on **Tuesday April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** There will be nine priests present for individual confessions. Reconciliation is also available at:

- St. Joseph’s Parish** - Tues. March 28 at 7-9 p.m.
- Merciful Redeemer** - Wed. March 29 at 7:00 p.m.
- St. Ignatius Loyola** - Thur. March 30 at 9:30-11:30 a.m., 4:00-6:00 p.m. & 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- St. John of the Cross** - Mon. April 3 at 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- St. Francis Xavier** - Thur. April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

- Holy Thursday** - Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration until midnight.
- Good Friday** - Passion of the Lord at Noon and 3:00 p.m. with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Vigil** - The Vigil Mass will begin at 8:00 p.m. (Please note that this Mass is 2+ hours in length.)
- Easter Sunday** - Resurrection of the Lord 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 6:30 p.m. This is followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. and Holy Hour at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017 IS SHARELIFE SUNDAY PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.



Living the Gospel locally and around the world...

How do we “Live the Gospel” toward others when our daily lives are so busy? For some it is volunteering at a soup kitchen, or it may be caring for an elderly relative. If we do not have the time to actively participate, we can support the many ShareLife funded agencies within our community that bring the hands of Christ to those in need. Our annual appeal provides resources to 42 agencies, bringing much needed programs and services to those both here in our communities and around the world. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Over the next week, consider your ability to “Live the Gospel” by helping those who are vulnerable and in need, and make a contribution to ShareLife.

If We Ever Wonder... how ShareLife agencies are making a difference, here is one story from Catholic Family Services in Durham that demonstrates the impact of our generosity.” Our therapists sit with shattered souls everyday – sometimes the shattering is the result of grief or trauma or mental health challenges. Regardless of the cause, in response, our staff offer hope and healing and skilled intervention, so that while clients may start their journey with us feeling shattered, they finish with us feeling whole.”

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, MARCH 27 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 – 8:00 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 – 8:00 A.M.

S.I. In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Encarnacion Alvarez

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 – VIGIL MASS

5:00 P.M. + Marie Armstrong

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 A.M. *Intention Available*

9:30 A.M. S.I. Penny McCarney

11:00 A.M. S.I. Parish Community

12:30 P.M. + Petra Malabanan

CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN

Now that Canada has legalized assisted suicide/euthanasia, did you know that doctors in Ontario are forced to provide direct referrals for patients seeking to end their lives? Doctors who object feel a direct referral is akin to being an accomplice to assisted suicide. No foreign jurisdiction in the world that has legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide has forced health care workers or facilities to act against their conscience. In the coming weeks, members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament will review Bill 84 which deals with legal issues related to euthanasia/assisted suicide. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more about this issue, and to send an electronic letter to our MPP Charles Sousa - csousa.mpp@liberal.ola.org about this important matter. If you prefer to mail a letter to Mr. Sousa (mailing address 120 Lakeshore Road West, Mississauga Ontario L5H 1E8)

"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive. " -From Pope Francis' Message for Lent, 2017

ST. ELIAS UKRANIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Come and see the newly re-built St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brampton. On **SATURDAY, APRIL 8** from 12-3 check out hand decorated Easter eggs and breads at their Easter Paska Sale. On **SUNDAY, APRIL 9** at 4:30 the Sparrows Choir presents Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater" with the ICC Sparrows and the St. Elias Sparrows. For more information on tickets please call 647-403-3462 or go to their website: sacredmusicsociety.com .

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA LENTEN MISSION

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish invites you to come on out for a parish mission led by Fr. Ben St. Croix, CC. on Monday, March 27, Tuesday, March 28 and Wednesday, March 29 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The theme for our mission will be "**Behold, I make all things new!**" (Rev 21:5). Fr. Ben will speak on various topics that include knowing the love of God, surrender and knowing His will in our lives, the gift of faith, the importance of community, what is the new evangelization, and how you are called to be part of it. Come and discover, or rediscover, the love God has for you personally, and the beautiful plan He has for your life! Everyone is invited.

THE SOURCE WITH THE SISTERS OF LIFE

St. Peter's Church - 840 Bathurst St., Toronto
Join the Sisters of Life for an evening of prayer and fellowship from 7 to 8 p.m. Eucharistic adoration in the church with meditative music by the Sisters and confessions available 8 to 9 p.m. Social with refreshments in the parish hall. We hope to see you there! For more info call 416-463-2722 email: toronto@sistersoflife.org

LECTIO DIVINA WITH CARDINAL THOMAS COLLINS

Lectio Divina means "divine or sacred reading" and is the name given to a spiritual tradition among Christians in which they listen attentively and prayerfully read the word of God. One Sunday each month all are welcome to join Cardinal Thomas Collins St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. A schedule can be found at archtoronto.org/lectio.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Women's Lenten Retreat at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre on March 31 - April 2. The theme is: "The Call to Peace" and will be preached by the Centre team. For further info or to register, please call 905-278-5229.

LEARNING ABOUT THE PASSION OF JESUS

Immaculate Conception Parish
2 Richardson Ave., Toronto

On April 11 at 7:00 learn more about the Passion of Jesus. Clergy will lead discussion in the parish hall. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome. To register, CONTACT: Connie Volpentesta email: volpentestaconnie@gmail.com PHONE: 416-651-7875

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