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**2016 Parish Campaign**  
Next Sunday, March 13  
is ShareLife Sunday

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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 6, 2016

## "I will go home to my father"



What's worse than being separated from your home, loved ones, and friends? The pain of separation can only be surpassed by the joy of the homecoming and reunion. When God commanded his people to celebrate the Passover annually, he wanted them to never forget what he did for them when he freed them from oppression and slavery in the land of Egypt and brought them back to their promised homeland which he gave as a sign of his immense love and favor. At the end of their wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, Joshua, the successor to Moses, led the people in celebrating the Passover meal after they had safely passed over the River Jordan to their promised homeland (Joshua 5:9-12).

### The merciful Father who welcome home his lost son

Jesus illustrates this passover from slavery to sin and condemnation to freedom and new life in Christ with the longest parable recorded in the Gospels (Luke 15:11-32). What is the main point of Jesus' story about two ungrateful sons and their extravagant loving father? Is it the contrast between a grudging obedient son and a rebellious son who had wished his father was dead? Or the warm reception given to a spendthrift son and the cold reception given by the eldest son?

Jesus does contrast the eldest son's cold and aloof reception for his errant brother with the father's warm embrace and lavish homecoming party for his repentant son. While the errant son had wasted his father's money, his father, nonetheless, maintained unbroken love for his son. The son, while he was away, learned a lot about himself. And he realized that his father had given him love which he had not returned. He had yet to learn about the depth of his father's love for him. His deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed on the husks of pigs and his reflection on all he had lost, led to his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father. While he hoped for reconciliation with his father, he could not have imagined a full restoration of relationship. The father did not need to speak words of forgiveness to his son; his actions spoke more loudly and clearly! The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet symbolize the new life - pure, worthy, and joyful - of every person who returns to God.

### Forgiven and restored to new life

The prodigal could not return to the garden of innocence, but he was welcomed and reinstated as a son who had been missed much and greatly loved by his father. The errant son's dramatic change from grief and guilt to forgiveness and restoration express in picture-language the resurrection from the dead which Jesus makes possible to everyone who believes in him, a rebirth to new life from death. The parable also contrasts mercy and its opposite - unforgiveness. The father, who had been wronged, was forgiving. But the eldest son, who had not been wronged, was unforgiving. His unforgiveness turns into spiteful pride and contempt for his brother. And his resentment leads to his isolation and estrangement from the community of forgiven sinners. God's mercy and kindness knows no bounds. In this parable Jesus gives a vivid picture of God and what God is like. God is truly kinder than any of us. He does not lose hope or give up when we stray from him. He is always on the lookout for those who have a change of heart and want to return. He rejoices in finding the lost and in welcoming them home. Do you know the joy of repentance and the restoration of relationship as a son or daughter of your heavenly Father?

*"Lord Jesus, may I never doubt your love nor take for granted the mercy you have shown to me. Fill me with your transforming love that I may be merciful as you are merciful."*

### LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Please see LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSIONS poster on Bulletin Board.

**PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE  
WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 7:30 P.M.  
WITH 8 PRIESTS.**

***OTHER Lenten Reconciliation Services in our area:***

**Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – St. Martin of  
Tours**

**Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – St. Joseph's,  
Streetsville**

**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: 7 p.m. – Merciful Redeemer**

**Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>: 7 p.m. – St. Francis Xavier**

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016**

Regular Mass Schedule

**HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016**

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.

Adoration until midnight in the parish hall

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016**

Veneration of the Cross at 12 noon and 3 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

**HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016**

**(No Morning Mass)**

Blessing of Easter Baskets at 11 a.m.

Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. **(No 5:00 p.m. Mass)**

**EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016**

Masses at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and  
12:30 p.m.

Mass Intentions  for the Week

**MONDAY, MARCH 7**

+ Olga Otway

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

INTENTION AVAILABLE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9**

+ Judy Grant

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10**

+ Quaggiotto Family

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11**

INTENTION AVAILABLE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12**

Vigil Mass for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

5:00 P.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:00 a.m. INTENTION AVAILABLE

9:30 a.m. INTENTION AVAILABLE

11:00 a.m. S.I. Parish Community

12:30 p.m. + Nick Pizzitelli

Please call the parish office, 905-822-8132, Ext. 3, to arrange a Mass Intention.



Working wonders for people locally and round the world...

Pope Francis reminds us that this is the year of mercy. How do we extend the hands of Christ to others in our daily lives?

For some, it may be caring for an elderly relative, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or helping to collect food or raise funds for charity. In our busy society, many of us do not have the time to actively participate, and as such we rely on the many agencies within our community to provide love, care and support to those in need. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, our annual ShareLife appeal provides resources to over 40 agencies, bringing much needed programs and services to those both here in our communities and around the world. Collectively, through our support, we share in their success in making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Over the next week, consider your ability to help your brothers and sisters in Christ, and make a contribution to our annual appeal. You will be helping to make a difference – indeed you will be working wonders!

**Sunday March 13, 2016 is ShareLife Sunday**  
Please give generously. You can work wonders



**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**  
**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

**5. Forgive offences willingly**

Love of enemies is Jesus' most demanding requirement and often considered the hallmark of Christian life and conduct. During the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation: "So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace." - Misericordiae Vultus, 17

Lived out in the Archdiocese of Toronto:

Day of Confession in the Archdiocese of Toronto

For more information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, please check the Archdiocese of Toronto website: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

**2016 ACTS RETREATS**

St. Francis of Assisi is this year's parish for the upcoming 3-day retreats at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga.

**A – Adoration** – God's Call, your acceptance and answer

**C – Community** – love and caring for each other

**T – Theology** – "studying" through scripture and our faith

**S – Service** – to God and his people

Come to renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your Faith and to apply it to your daily life.

**Women:** May 12–15 and October 27–30

**Men:** May 16–29 and November 10–13

Priority registration until **April 12, 2016**. Register at the Parish Office or call Queen of Apostles at 905.278.5229

**FREE CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR**

**Saturday, March 12th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**

Catholic Cemeteries and the Archdiocese estate planning team will share:

- How to protect your loved ones with a proper Will
- How to ensure your wishes are legally protected
- About Powers of Attorney
- Estate Trustee selection
- Finding lawyers, estate planning advisors, and legacy planning
- Our Catholic traditions around wills, burial and funerals

An estate planning kit and DVD will be provided at no cost.

**Location:** Assumption Cemetery (located at 6933 Tomken Road, Mississauga). Refreshments will be provided.

**RSVP:** Frank Jannetta, Catholic Cemeteries

416.733-8544 ext. 2023 or [fjannetta@cc-fs.ca](mailto:fjannetta@cc-fs.ca)



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