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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

By Lisa Fernandes

Two weeks ago we all made the change to Daylight Savings Time. If you're like me you might find the dark mornings difficult to adjust to but, like me as well, you're probably looking forward to those light Spring mornings that will soon come.

The readings this week talk about how we, as Catholics, can move from our metaphorical darkness to the light with the help of God's love. In the Second Reading, for example, we're reminded that we all started in darkness: "For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light..." (Ephesians 5:8). By finding what is pleasing to the Lord we can find the light.

In the Gospel, Jesus cures a blind man, helping him to move out of his personal darkness. Jesus promises us our own journey out of darkness: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). Ironically, even though Jesus did a wonderful thing for the blind man he was criticized by the Pharisees; doing work on the Sabbath, even healing someone, was "against the rules". But, just as Jesus acted contrary to the accepted rules of his society to do a greater good, we may sometimes have to resist peer pressure or protest the actions of the majority to do good and walk in the light ourselves. The theme of darkness to light is echoed further in one of everyone's favourite Psalms: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me..." (Psalm 23:4).

At points in our lives we may all find ourselves in a valley of darkness but we get through it with God's help and by looking forward to emerging into the light. And if we focus on the presence of God's love we may get there sooner. As we move towards Easter and celebrating the Resurrection, we move through the light of Spring and to the light of the world, Jesus.

Sunday's Readings:

1 Samuel 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13

Ephesians 5.8-14

John 9.1-41

CHRIST MY HOPE

You are invited to the concert "Christ My Hope" on **Monday, March 27, 2017, at 7:30pm in St. Basil's Parish.** Plainchant and baroque music by Schütz, Tunder, Scheidt, and others.

The Musicians In Ordinary led by Christopher Verrette with Hallie Fishel, soprano, and St. Michael's Schola Cantorum directed by Michael O'Connor and Christina Labriola. Free admission. Donations welcome to the University of Saint Michael's College.

PRESENTATION ON RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

You are invited to a presentation offered by Associate Professor of the University of St. Michael's College Christianity and Culture Department, Dr. Reid Locklin, on **Wednesday, March 29.** Dr. Locklin will speak on how Catholicism dialogues with world religions by exploring the features of inter-religious dialogue. Our gathering begins at **7:00pm in the church** for evening prayer before moving to Charbonnel Lounge for the talk and discussion.

All are welcome! No pre-registration is required.

JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

Volunteers will be collecting non-perishable food and toiletry items next weekend on **April 1/2** after all Masses in the vestibule of the church. We are especially in need of the following items:

- Mayo, mustard
- Coffee, tea, sugar
- Cookies, granola bars, crackers
- Canned beans (red kidney, black, chic peas, fava), carrots, peas, pasta, tomato sauce
- Canned tuna, chicken
- Canned fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, pineapple
- Large juice containers
- men's and ladies deodorant

Thank you for your continued generosity!

**CREATE, SHARE, BELIEVE: STORYING
FAITH IN A POST-CHURCH WORLD**

On **Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00-9:00pm**, the Faculty of Theology invites you to attend a lecture by Dr. Mary Hess, the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Visiting Chair in Religious Education. The lecture will be held in **Charbonnel Lounge**.

SINGING THE PASSION OF CHRIST

On **Tuesday, April 4, at 7:30pm**, voice students of the University of Toronto Faculty of Music sing works from Mozart to Rossini, Mendelssohn to Beethoven, and Verdi to Donizetti in St. Basil's Parish. With Mia Bach, piano, Dr. Darryl Edwards, Director, and Christina Haldane. Free admission. Donations accepted towards the music program of Saint Basil's Catholic Parish.

In celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation on Saturday, March 25, a parishioner has submitted a poem about creation.

Creation

In the beginning
 was chaos.
Slowly
 life began to form,
 to become ordered,
 to grow.
Pregnant with expectation,
 she guarded the life
 within her,
 nurtured it,
 watched it grow,
 dreamed dreams...
When, at last,
 in the fullness of time,
 her newborn child
 cried out,
 there was laughter
 and rejoicing.
Did God feel
 the same ecstasy
 when Man,
 the newborn of His creation
 drew his first
 breath of Life?

~Carole Thomas

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY

Sunday, March 19, 2017 \$6,165.55



MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 19th - 25th

- Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent**
9:00am-
10:30am- Pro Populo
12:00pm- Paulo and Grazia Scoppio
4:30pm-
- Monday**
7:30am-
12:10pm- Nympha Vibar (+)
- Tuesday**
7:30am- Fr. Harold Gardner (+)
12:10pm- Frank and Mike Gregoire (+)
- Wednesday**
7:30am- The Thalheiner Family
12:10pm- Stefan and Anna Papez (+)
- Thursday**
7:30am-
12:10pm- Anne Crowder (+)
- Friday**
7:30am- Anne Gregoire (+)
12:10pm- Vocations
- Saturday**
5:00pm-

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Lucille Mirvish, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Filomena La Rocca, Joseph Troncone, Hai Luen Liu, Neil McCormack, Jack Gervais, Sue Lockwood, and Barbara MacMahon-Firestone.


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