

LENT

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



J. Kirk Richards, "The Temptation" (1999)

For 160 years (1856-2016), St. Basil's Parish has been home to people of all ages and needs. For those who need hearing assistance, devices are available at the front desk. Simply leave a photo ID to borrow one during your visit.

Mothers are welcome to nurse their children in church or provide them snacks as needed. As Pope Francis has said, children's voices, even when crying, make "the most beautiful choir of all." If you need to, feel free to walk with your child in the back of the church or in the hallway off the side aisle. We are blessed because you are all here!

50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4
www.stbasiltoronto.org * 416-926-7110

Office Hours: Monday - Friday:
(9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30pm)
Saturday & Sunday: (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

SUNDAY MASSES

5:00 pm (Sat); 9:00 am; 10:30 am;
12:00 pm; 4:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday-Friday: 7:30 am; 12:10 pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Saturday: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 5:10 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details.

INTO THE WILDERNESS

By Emily VanBerkum

This past Wednesday, our parish's Catechumens and Candidates (those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil) assembled on Ash Wednesday for a special scripture reading exercise of Matthew 4: 1-11, Jesus' temptation in the desert. We hear this Gospel today on the first Sunday of Lent.

During Jesus' forty day sojourn in the desert he was ridiculed and tempted by the devil in three ways- the promise of total fulfillment for all bodily desires, power, and pride. These temptations denote powerful ways that the devil diverts and confuses us from desiring God. Lent is a time to reorient our priorities, minds, and hearts in ways that draw us closer to God and allows us to grow in our own holiness. We wear ashes as a public symbol that we are made for God. Ashes signify that, because we refuse to be mastered by sin, we die to our own egos and worldly wants so that we can live more fully for Christ. Just like Jesus, we too can reject the devil's temptations and opt

for a more fulfilling path.

The experience of sharing this story with those journeying in the R.C.I.A program has allowed me to pause and read it with fresh eyes. One participant rightly shared that if we are to be truly transformed by Easter and the promise of Christ's resurrection, then something must be different about us over the next forty days. Something about our actions, thoughts, deeds, and mindsets must reveal that we *live for Christ*. And to live eternally for and with Him, we must first be guided by the Spirit into our own spiritual wilderness.

Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 2:7-9, 16-18, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Congratulations to our parish's newly received "Elect." This weekend at the 9:00am Mass in the 'Rite of Election,' R.C.I.A Catechumens and Candidates entered a new phase of the program: the period of Purification and Enlightenment.

This rite acknowledges participants' intense period of formation in the Catechumenate and asks Godparents and Sponsors to affirm their readiness to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. The Church believes that these participants have been "elected" by God and their names are enrolled in the 'Book of the Elect.' Please keep all Elect in your prayers so that they may encounter Christ more deeply during this Lenten season as they prepare to be received into the Church with great joy.

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**. Please email inquiry.usmctheology@utoronto.ca for more information.

USMC ANNUAL LENTEN TWILIGHT RETREAT

You are invited to attend the University of St. Michael's College annual Lenten Twilight Retreat, entitled "On Earth as it is in Heaven..." led by Fr. Norm Tanck, C.S.B. on **Tuesday, March 7**.

Registration opens at **5:00pm in Charbonnel Lounge** (on the USMC campus) followed by dinner then Mass and the retreat in the Mary Ward Chapel in Loretto College at 7:00pm. The cost is \$30.00. For more information or to register, please call (416) 926-7260 or email smc.alumniaffairs@utoronto.ca.

PRESENTATION ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

You are invited to a presentation on Catholic Social Teaching and the Beatitudes offered by parishioner and Business Ethicist, John Dalla Costa on **Wednesday, March 8**. John will explore how we live a life of authentic Christian witness as we care for the poor and vulnerable as well as all of creation. Our gathering begins at **7:00pm in the church proper** before moving to Charbonnel Lounge for the talk and discussion. All are welcome! No pre-registration is required.

SERRA CLUB LUNCHEON TALK

Join Serra Club members on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017 immediately following the 12:10 pm Mass** for lunch and an opportunity to hear from our honoured guest, **The Most Reverend Bishop Robert Kasun, C.S.B.** Bishop Kasun will be speaking on "Why Would Anyone Want to be a Priest (or Religious Sister) in The World and Church Today." This talk is sponsored by the Serra Club. *What we do as Serrans? We pray for and promote Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life.* We will meet at the back of the church directly after Mass and proceed to the Senior Common Room in Brennan Hall. All are welcome. If you wish to join us, please notify the parish office by Wednesday, March 8 so that we can finalize numbers.

JOIN THE "CALL FOR CONSCIENCE"

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? Many doctors object to this, feeling that a direct referral makes them morally complicit in the act. Visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more.

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator, Mariann, has invited children participating in the atrium to consider doing something special together with their family to grow in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during this Lenten season. Below we offer a few suggestions to get you started. This week, we focus on almsgiving.

ALMSGIVING

*Use the money that you saved from not dining out or buying more "stuff" and donate it to a charity that the family picked together.

(Note: It's important to create a visual for the children. Each time the family desires to eat-out or buy something new, take the money it would have cost and place it in a clear glass jar located in a visible place in your household.)

*Lent and Easter mirror the end of Winter and start of Spring. Have the each family member pick a day where they "spring" clean a particular area of the house (e.g toy chests, closets, kitchen cupboards etc.) and donate items that can better serve the needs of others.

(Note: Keep the activity contained to one small space per week and encourage the children to discuss why they should consider giving the item away and to whom. Don't force children to part with items that they are not ready to part with. Repeat weekly.)

*First Sunday of the Month is the John Ford Food Drive. Take the children to the grocery store and have them select their favorite meal items to give to the drive.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY

Sunday, February 26, 2017 \$6,111.40



MARCH 5th-11th

Sunday
9:00am-
10:30am-
12:00pm-
4:30pm-
First Sunday of Lent
Charito Piamonte (liv.)
Pro Populo
Frank and Mike Gregoire (+)
Anna and Cosimo Scoppio (+)

Monday
7:30am-
12:10pm-
Catherine Sandrasagra (liv.)

Tuesday
7:30am-
12:10pm-
Saints Perpetua and Felicity
Protection of unborn children,
Anne Gregoire (+)

Wednesday
7:30am-
12:10pm-
Victor Britto (+)

Thursday
7:30am-
12:10pm-
Lina Ciavarella (+)

Friday
7:30am-
12:10pm-
Elizabeth Chin (+), Mary Betty King
Wan Yeung (+)

Saturday
5:00pm-
Honesto G. Nicandro (+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Bohdanna Kovals'kyj, Mary O'Brien, Sharon Han, Ancoreta Amigleo, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Clare deMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath, Marina Kazakis, Luz Manalo, Betty Hill, Hsien Tang Pan Wong, Robert Benn, Claire Fidler, Helen Lau, Gloria Lau, Sr. Mary Sibbald, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, and Joe Torres.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially Kenneth Heath.

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