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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: MARCH 26, 2017**  
**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY**

**Pastoral Reflections**

**By: Rev. Wilson Andrade, CSC**

In this fourth Sunday of Lent we reflect on the Theme: Jesus is the Light of the World. In the Gospel we hear the story of healing of the blind man. The testimony he gives about that *Jesus is from God “one who opened the eyes of born blind man.”* The irony of this gospel story is that blind man could recognize that Jesus is the “*man from God,*” but the Pharisees who could physically see, think and teach the Laws of God were not able see that Jesus is the true light of the world. Jesus is the presence of God, “who leads us in right paths... to dwell in the house of God.”

St. Paul, a born Pharisee, when his eyes were opened on the road to Damascus, becomes a strong believer in Jesus. He proclaims Jesus as the true light of the world and invites people saying “*once you were darkness but now in the Lord you are light, so live as the Children of the light.*” (Eph. 5.8) We are called to shine with Christ, radiating God’s love in the world.

Today Jesus challenges our pharisaic attitude of self-righteousness and judging others. We need to open our eyes and look at the presence of God that we experience in the person of Jesus who becomes real to us in listening to the scriptures and in breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup. Let the Eucharist be a time for us to celebrate love of God.

We are the children of the light, cleansed and opened our eyes through the waters of Baptism; we pray that we may be able to see from the eyes of our hearts – the goodness of God and Glorify God saying: **Jesus is the Light of the World.**

**World Water Day: March 22**

Pope Francis writes: “Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet access to safe drink able water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.” (*Laudato si* #30).

“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them.” (Isaiah 41:17)

Did you know that 884 million people live without access to safe clean drinking water? Water is a tangible expression of the good news we share. In the developing world, nothing is a better expression of God’s love than safe drinking water and the life it offers—nothing, that is, except the love offered to us by Christ. Clean drinking water is good news for the health of children, the lives of women, education of the young, and the economies of the poor. A community transformed by the good news of life-giving water in Jesus’ name is an easy place to embrace the good news of God’s salvation.

Did you know? The Government of Ontario has proposed a two year moratorium on water taking permits that could help protect Ontario's water supply from bottled water companies like Nestlé. Let’s put the pressure on and ensure that local water resources are protected, all proposals for new and expanded water-bottling facilities are rejected, and local indigenous leaders are involved in all decision-making concerning local water resources. Contact your local MPP or The Ontario Minister of the Environment, Glen R Murray, and speak out about the access of multinational corporations to water in Ontario! Water is not a commodity to be sold but is a human right for all! We can all help by refusing to purchase bottled water!

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: MARCH 26, 2017

## CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY

### Mass Intentions (March 24 – March 31, 2017)

**Friday, March 24:**

**7:00 p.m.: Thanksgiving for Special Intentions**  
Req.: Fabian Tan & Family

**Saturday, March 25: *Annunciation of the Lord***

**5:00 p.m.: + Matthew, Mary & Wilson Cherian**  
Req. David Cherian  
**: Thanksgiving for Special Intentions**  
Req.: Fabian Tan & Family

**Sunday, March 26:**

**6:00 p.m.: + Alejandrina Sierra**  
Req. Amie Planas  
**: Thanksgiving for Special Intentions**  
Req.: Fabian Tan & Family

**Monday, March 27:**

**8:00 a.m.: Thanksgiving for Special Intentions**  
Req.: Fabian Tan & Family

### ShareLife

**“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.

**Next Sunday, April 2, 2017 is ShareLife Sunday  
Please give generously.**

### Parish Spiritual Activities for Lent

#### *Fridays in Lent*

Adoration: **6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**  
Stations of the Cross: **6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
Followed by Holy Eucharist



#### *Lenten Days of Confession*

**Sun., March 26<sup>th</sup>:** 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
**Fri., March 31<sup>st</sup>:** 5 p.m. – 8p.m.  
**Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup>:** 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

#### *Parish Reconciliation Service*

**Monday, April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

### The Year of the Family: March, 2017

#### *Praying for the Sick and Suffering*

During this year of the Family in the month of March, we would like to highlight the importance of the sacrament of Anointing and pray for Pray for those who are physically, emotionally and spiritually suffering.

**March 26:** Presentation on **In Good Company:** After the 10:30 am Mass, we invite you for a special presentation on visiting the suffering and a breakfast by the Handmaids of the Lord.

*“I was sick and you visited me” (Mt. 25:36)*

### Faith Formation Materials

During this Year of the Family we will begin a program for faith formation in the parish. There are materials available at the back of the church on different topics. You are most welcome to take the materials and read it with your family and friends. We have 3 *Catholic Update* issues

- 1. Your Daily Lenten Journey with Fulton Sheen.**
- 2. Pope Francis and the Environment.**
- 3. Spirituality of Marriage.**

The cost of material is \$0.50 each. We accept donations towards the purchase of more materials.

### 2017 Solidary Calendar

This Lent, Development & Peace has published the 2017 Solidarity Calendar. Its focus is “*Women at the Heart of Change*”. Copies of the Calendar are available on the information table at the back of the church. Please use this calendar to learn more about Development & Peace’s initiative, and pray throughout your Lenten journey

### Fish and Chips

St. Ann Parish is hosting Fish and Chips Fridays. Join us at the parish hall every **Friday of Lent until Friday, April 14**, from 5:30 p.m. onwards. Suggested price: \$5.00. Proceed go towards the new Sound System project.



### Stations of the Cross schedule

**Lenten Fridays      Time: 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

March 31, 2017: Holy Family Prayer & Novena Group

April 7, 2017: Development & Peace

April 14, 2017: Native Peoples Parish



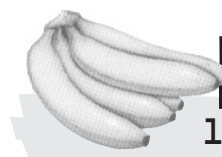
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