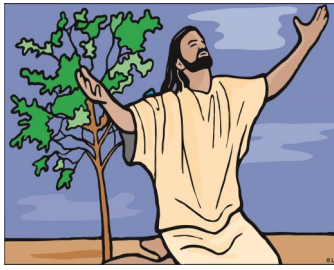


Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
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 Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Sunday, February 28th, 2016
Third Sunday of Lent

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'" — Lk 13:6-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1978 CCD

Sat. Feb 27	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Feb 28	5:00pm 9:30am 11:00am	Intention Available Missa Pro Populo ✠ Teresa Sporbeck (Mary Ann Biggar)
Mon. Feb 29	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. March 1	9:30am	Intention Available
Wed. March 2	9:30am	Intention Available
Thurs. March 3	9:30am	✠ Margaret Amero (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. March 4	9:30am	✠ David MacDougall (Gwen MacDougall & Family)
Sat. March 5	7:00pm 10am-2pm 4-4:45pm	Stations of the Cross Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Marko Kotar (Family)
Sun. March 6	9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo ✠ Eric Egert (Mary Ann Biggar)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday masses.
Offertory February 20th & 21st, 2016

84 Envelopes	\$1,858.00
Loose Collection	\$ 146.00
Total Offertory	\$2,004.00
Syrian Refugee Family	\$5,695.00

Pope's Prayer Intentions Month of March:

Universal—Families in Difficulty: That families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments.

Evangelization—Persecuted Christians—That those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.

Third Sunday of Lent

"But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" Who wants to repent? Who wants to change habits, make sacrifices, or chart a more challenging course? Repentance isn't the easy road. Few of us are naturally drawn towards it. Perhaps that's why Jesus had to speak with such boldness in today's Gospel. Repent, or perish. Change, or suffer and die. Not what we like to hear. Not what we like to do. But we would be foolish not to listen.

The entire Gospel message is certainly one of mercy and compassion. Jesus was the first to show forgiveness to sinners, and he always called others to do the same. He suffered and died so that WE wouldn't have to suffer eternal death. But the fact remains that we can still CHOOSE to "perish." We can choose to stay rooted in our favorite sins and to cling tightly to the comfortable vices that stifle a virtuous life. When we won't let go of them, then we don't truly repent. But Jesus urges

us to change so that we can enjoy the eternal benefits of his mercy. He doesn't want us to perish! As we hear in today's psalm, "He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion." Repenting--turning back to God--puts us in the right position for this spiritual coronation.

Lent is a time especially built for repentance. It is a season that calls us not only to recognize where we need to change, but to actually set those changes into motion. Lent isn't just a pious liturgical ritual. These forty days are a response to Christ's stern warning that we need to repent in order to save our souls. Let's not pretend to be exempt from the message. Lent is meant for ALL of us.

Lent 2016: Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for offending God in what we have done and failed to do, to seek God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession and to be generous to those in need.

Third Sunday Lent Daily Meditation:

Form a new heart within. This Sunday brings us closer to the font of renewing our baptismal commitment. It is also the first of three Scrutinies for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We are deeply aware that there is a struggle going on in us. We turn to God, that we might not become discouraged. We rely on God's compassion and love for us. We acknowledge who we are - sinners who experience the consequences of our selfishness - but we know we are loved and we desire to be filled with hope. We go into this week renewed in our desire to continue our prayer, fasting and generosity toward others.

Living Lent With Mercy- Pope Francis Third Sunday in Lent – Always Forgiving: Mercy will always be greater than any sin and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. *Misericordiae Vultus N. 3*

Lord, you are merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion. My efforts to imitate you are often sad failures because I am not a very patient and understanding person. I am quick-tempered and often hurt others unintentionally. In my insecurity, I make unreasonable demands on people and cause undue stress in their lives. It seems much easier to point out the faults and failings in others rather than to affirm their gifts and talents. Lord, help me to recognize the sin of pride in my heart. Forgive me for being an obstacle to your abounding love and mercy. Amen.

Man of the Shroud Exhibit: St. Alfred Church will be hosting the Man of the Shroud Exhibit during Lent (March 2-8, 2016). For further information go to www.stalfredcatholicchurch.ca.



The Jubilee Year of Mercy : In response to our Bishop's request, St. Ann's has a Prayer Hour for Mercy with Eucharistic Adoration every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Confession is available during that time until 7:55 p.m. when we will have Benediction. In addition, Confession is available before each weekday Mass from 9:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. Tuesday to Friday. Confessions on Saturday are available from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in addition to the usual 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is my hope that this Year of Mercy will be a time of increased prayer and increased reception of the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, so that we may grow much closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ and better appreciate and put into practice the great love and mercy He shows us. **Also, at any time you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you may come to the rectory or phone to make an appointment.**

On Saturday March 5th, 2016 in every parish church across the diocese, a priest will be available from 10am-2pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. **We need volunteers to commit to a time in Adoration so that the four hours are covered. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church where you may sign up for as long as you like.**



Share Lent 2016

Share Lent Pilgrimage—Building community in Indonesia
 The third week of our pilgrimage finds us in Indonesia. The word *kampung* has come to mean "slum" in the local language, but its original definition is "community". Your support for Share Lent means that Try Mopurto, who lives in *kampung*, has been able to renovate his home for his family, despite suffering from mental illness. The community is coming together to support him and his family. "My home is my heaven," he says, "because here we feel the meaning of brotherhood in the social life of the *kampung*." **The Share Lent collection will take place on March 13th, Solidarity Sunday.**

Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee & Fundraising:

A very special thank you to those who attended the first meeting this past week. Nineteen parishioners met with Fr. Chad and Deacon Jim for an information session to learn about the options available for us to proceed with the sponsorship of a Syrian Refugee Family. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 9th at 7pm in the church hall.** **Our guest will be Marilyn Nabisi, the diocesan representative who has been assigned to assist parishes who have made a sponsorship commitment.** Our financial goal is to raise \$30,000 to sponsor a family with 5-7 members. To date, a total of \$5,695 has been donated. We thank you for your tremendous support! We will continue to accept donations in the coming weeks. Please use a separate envelope labelled "Syrian Refugee Family" with your name and address on it. If donating by cheque, please make it payable to "St. Ann Parish". There are many details involved with this initiative. As time progresses, the committee will keep you informed and up to date about these decisions and other ways you may assist. Once again, we are thankful and very grateful for the interest shown in re-locating a refugee family and assisting them to acclimate to our culture.

Parish Calendar

March.....

March 4th....	World Day of Prayer—St. Alexander Parish See information below
March 4th....	Visitation of the sick and homebound
March 9th....	Next meeting Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee, 7pm church hall.
March 13th....	Solidarity Sunday
March 20th....	Palm Sunday
March 22nd....	Chrism Mass, Cathedral (St. Catharines) 7:30pm
March 24th....	Holy Thursday
March 25th....	Good Friday
March 26th....	Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
March 27th....	Easter Sunday
March 31st....	St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am

The Way of the Cross: Join us each Friday during Lent at 7pm including Good Friday, March 25th.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held at **St. Alexander Parish, Fonthill on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm.**
Cuba 2016 "Receive children. Receive me." Join us on March 4 for the 2016 worship celebration written by WDP Cuba. Maybe that is what Jesus would have liked to hear from the disciples when the little children were brought to him for a blessing! Instead, the disciples spoke sternly to them. Then Jesus challenged the disciples to see God's love in the face of those children and to care for them. Let them come, and you will learn how to receive the Kingdom of God! Receive children. Receive me! Which of those attitudes has been yours? Who are the children whom Jesus embraces and blesses while challenging us to receive them like the Kingdom of God? How would you with the worldwide WDP community continue to share this blessing? In silence, we listen to the voice of women and children in Cuba, meditate and embrace as we pray with them. **Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.**



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St. Ann's needs new members. The SVDP is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message of serving Christ through the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. The society is open to all those who seek to live their faith, loving and committing themselves to their neighbors in need. By turning concern into action Vincentians see Christ in anyone who suffers and come together as a family to have personal contact with the poor and help in all possible ways. **The motto is that no work of charity is foreign to the society, and assistance is provided in many areas such as:** Low-cost food outlets; Budget counselling; Children's activities and holiday programs; Prison visitation; Drug and alcohol rehabilitation; Home and hospital visitation; Emergency food, rent, utilities, clothing; Comfort and where applicable spiritual guidance. The ultimate goal is for members to give hope to all the people we assist and if you can help please speak with Father Chad, Deacon Jim or Liliana.

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (March 19/20) or Good Friday (March 25)**, your binders will be available for you **next weekend** at the back of the church, with your name on it. Two readers are scheduled. Please contact each other and assign yourselves the parts for the long gospel reading (Luke—for Palm Sunday) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions. Following your reading date, please return the binders to the back of the church. Thank you.