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Sunday, February 14th, 2016
First Sunday of Lent

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." — Lk 4:1-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 02001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Feb 13	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Deceased Family & Friends of the Podolyak Family (Mary & Bill Podolyak)
Sun. Feb 14	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Armand & Betty Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek) ✠ Mary Wood (Joan & Tim Crowther)
Mon. Feb 15	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Feb 16	9:30am	Mass Cancelled
Wed. Feb 17	9:30am	Intention Available
Thurs. Feb 18	9:30am	✠ Mary Voogt (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Feb 19	9:30am	Intention Available
	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat. Feb 20	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Marko Kotar (Family)
Sun. Feb 21	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Jenny & Mary Lenik (Mary Ann Biggar)

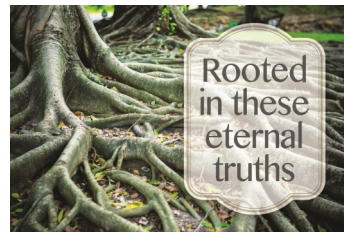
Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday masses.
Offertory January February 6th & 7th, 2016

80 Envelopes	\$1, 949.45
Loose Collection	\$ 120.25
Total Offertory	\$2, 069.70
Maintenance (18 Envelopes)	\$ 243.30

Bulletin Sponsors: There is one spot available for advertising in the church bulletin. If you are interested, please phone the church office soon. The size would be 2 X2 inch, cost \$100. Ads run for minimum one year and usually longer.

First Sunday of Lent

"The devil said to him... 'All this will be yours, if you worship me.'" Jesus faced temptation, like we all do. His forty-day fast in the desert wasn't full of supernatural consolation and delight. He was subject to "every temptation" and when the forty days were over, "he was hungry." In other words, he was human. Jesus' divine nature didn't cancel out his human nature. He faced struggles just like we do--both physical and spiritual--in his body and his soul.



As we see in today's Gospel, the strategy Jesus used to fight these physical and spiritual battles was to immerse himself in God's word. To silence the devil during this fast, Jesus quoted Scripture. He rooted himself in these eternal truths, relying upon them in his moments of

trial. And these sacred words had a dramatic effect. Every time Satan tried to seduce him with a new promise, Jesus responded with a Bible verse. And each time, Satan was silenced and had to try a new angle. Finally, when all the devilish angles had been tried, "the devil departed from him for a time." Jesus won the victory using the weapon of God's word.

As we enter into the season of Lent, we can be armed in the same way. We now embark upon a battle against our own pride, sloth, and greed as we commit to prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. Ultimately, we are working to put God first, instead of bowing down to our selfishness and our desire for comfort. The devil would like nothing more than to see us "worship" him in these ways. But, instead, let's be equipped to proclaim--and to live--the words Jesus himself used: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve."

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.



First week of lent Daily Meditation: Bring us back to you.

This week we pray for a renewal of our lives. We are beginning to be more attentive and alert. We are trying new patterns. The difficulties we encounter keep us humble. Our desire is clear. We want the "self-sacrificing love of Christ" – in our lives." In our journey, we seek to savor the meaning of Jesus' self-less love, that we might reflect that love to others. At the end of our journey, we will renew our baptismal promises. Dying with Jesus in baptism, we have a new life in him. Today, we desire nothing less than God's re-creating us - breathing new life into us.

Living Lent With Mercy- Pope Francis

First Sunday in Lent- Journey of Conversion

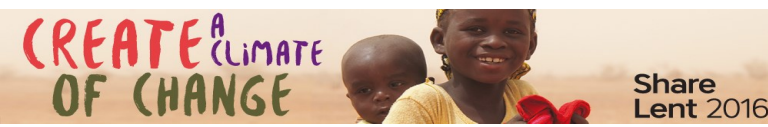
God's Justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Misericordiae Vultus, N. 21

Lord, your mercy shows no partiality and is offered to all who call upon you. Your death and resurrection reveals your unconditional love for all people. Help me to stand firm in my faith, aware of your saving presence and the subtle ways in which you transform my inner self. Help me to be mindful of your life-giving Spirit working in and through me. Help me to trust that your mercy will protect me from harm and keep me whole. Amen.

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.

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. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can simply come to pray before the Lord.



Share Lent Calendar 2016

A Climate of Change pilgrimage starts in Haiti

This year for Share Lent, Development and Peace invites you to join a Climate of Change pilgrimage. Together we will journey through Lent with people whose lives are being changed with your support. Please read today's insert, a copy of the Mini-Magazine. This is your pilgrimage guide. In Wee 1 we meet Adonis Medjine from Haiti. A survivor of the 2010 earthquake, she is benefiting from a social enterprise project to raise chickens. "I have a husband and two children. Thanks to this job and the wages I receive, I can take care of my family, send my children to school and complete a few projects." **The Share Lent collection will take place on March 13th, Solidarity Sunday.**

Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee & Fundraising:

Our parish commitment to sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family with 5-7 members will move forward with **thanks** to those parishioners who have volunteered to assist with this project. Those who have come forward will be contacted soon regarding a meeting date. Our next step is to **secure funding** for this project. Financial resources are crucial to the success of re-locating a family. The goal is to raise \$30,000. If you would like to assist financially, we will be taking donations next weekend, Feb 20/21st. 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".

Man of the Shroud Exhibit:

St. Alfred Church will be hosting the Man of the Shroud Exhibit during Lent (March 2-8, 2016). The Exhibit illustrates the history, significance and scientific aspects of the original Shroud of Turin. There will be a full-size replica of the Shroud of Turin as well as reconstructed artifacts of the Crucifixion. In addition there are lectures offered by prominent Shroud scholars. For further information and schedules see the posters on the Church bulletin board or go to www.stalfredcatholicchurch.ca.

Parish Calendar

- Feb 14th....** Anointing of the Sick following the 11am mass
- Feb 16th....** Mass cancelled
- Feb 17th....** Liturgy Committee meeting 7pm
- March.....**
- March 4th....** World Day of Prayer—St. Alexander Parish
More to follow
- March 4th....** Visitation of the sick and homebound
- March 13th....** Solidarity Sunday
- March 20th....** Palm Sunday
- March 24th....** Holy Thursday
- March 25th....** Good Friday
- March 26th....** Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
- March 27th....** Easter Sunday
- March 30th....** St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am

The Way of the Cross: For Roman Catholics throughout the world, the **Stations of the Cross** are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week and, especially, Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the "Way of the Cross", the "Via Crucis", and the "Via Dolorosa." It commemorates 14 key events on day of Christ's crucifixion. The majority concern His final walk through the streets of Jerusalem, carrying the Cross. When the Way of the Cross is commemorated in Catholicism this is done by a sort of prayer wherein the faithful imagine the various tableaux of the journey, known as The Stations of the Cross. The word 'station' stems from Latin 'statio', meaning: I stand. As far back as the 16th century these stations could be seen along the street Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, a well-known voyage for pilgrims. **Beginning February 12th, join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.**

CWL Diocesan Retreat:

"Living A Merciful Life" - Sat. March 5th or Wed. March 9th. Mt. Carmel. \$40 per person. If you are a CWL member, you will be reimbursed half the cost. **Phone office to register by Feb. 17th.**

Mass Intentions:

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul. There are a number of spots available for Mass intentions, particularly during the week. If you would like a Mass celebrated for a loved one, phone the office or you may use the envelopes at the back of the church.

The 13th Annual Bishop's Gala

will take place on **April 1st, 2016, 5:30 p.m at Club Roma**, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines. The cost of tickets is \$75 per person and can be ordered through the Niagara Catholic website or by contacting Sherry Morena, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 905-735-0240, ext. 213 or sherry.morena@ncdsb.com.

Thinking about Separation or Divorce?

—Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is designed to help marriages regain their health. It helps spouses re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 11, 2016**, in Niagara Falls please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.