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**Sunday, January 28th, 2018**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. — Mk 1:27-28

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Sat. Jan 27	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	☩ Deceased Members of the Csukerda Family (Bill & Mary Podolyak)
Sun. Jan 28	9:30am	☩ Lewis Tremeer (Andre, Therese, Katy & Holly Czychun)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. Jan 29	9:30am	☩ Dolores O'Riordan (Walters Family)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Jan 30	9:30am	☩ Robert Vaillancourt (Shirley Milo & Family)
Wed. Jan 31	9:30am	Intentions of Jeff Bezos (Walters Family)
Thurs. Feb 1	9:30am	Intentions of Sharon Glass (Walters Family)
Fri. Feb 2	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Sat. Feb 3	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Feb 4	9:30am	☩ Martin Kolenko Jr. (Stefan & Maria Hozjan & Fam)
	11:00am	☩ Robert Vaillancourt (Josie tenDen)

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**

**Offertory January 20th & 21st, 2018**

91 Envelopes	\$2,246.00
Loose Collection	\$ 20.00
Total Offertory	\$2,266.00
Initial offering	\$ 5.00

**Thank You FOR GIVING GENEROUSLY** Offertory boxes 2018: If you have not picked up your boxes, they are available in the church hall. **2017 tax receipts will be available next week-end. Please pick them up at the back of the church to avoid mailing costs. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 "The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Those gathered in the synagogue where Jesus taught had never heard anything like this before. They were used to the preaching of the well-educated scribes, but Jesus possessed something that those men lacked: authority. Instead of merely interpreting the laws of the prophets, Jesus presented a new vision, indeed, he shared the good news of the Gospel with his listeners.



We do not have the opportunity to stand in the presence of Jesus in the same way that those first-century Jews did, but nonetheless we can also stand in awe of his authority. His teachings are available to us through the sacred Scriptures that the Church has preserved and through the Sacred Tradition that the Church carries on. And in a special way, Christ's authority continues to inspire and guide us through the ministries of the papacy, episcopacy, and priesthood that Jesus established on our behalf while he was yet on earth.

As Catholics, we have a special share in the astonishing authority of Jesus through the hierarchy of the Church. Although this structure is often misunderstood or misinterpreted, it is actually an authority rooted in service and modeled after Christ who told his apostles, "The greatest among you must be your servant" (Mt 23:11).

This humble exercise of authority is contrary to the worldly search for power. And whenever we find ourselves in a position of authority, we too should strive to lead and direct others in the true spirit of Christian love and service. Chances are, if we truly imitate Christ in this way, people will be astonished at what they see.

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK** Jesus had a way of amazing the crowds. There was something very different about not only what he taught but how he taught it. He brought an authority to what he said that gave it a credibility that was not experienced elsewhere. His words were not only prophetic but rang true to the experience of the people, especially those who were poor, marginalized, victimized, lost, or forgotten. Do Jesus' words ring true to you? The Gospel message transcends time and space and has a profound relevancy in every generation. Jesus is still trying to point us toward truth and have us see and accept who we are in God. Are you ready to hear this? We are asked to bring credibility to this same Gospel message by how we live our lives.

**Prayer Intention Month of February:**  
 Universal—Say "No" to Corruption: That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

**World Day for Consecrated Life—February 2nd:** The purpose of the day is "to help the entire Church to esteem over more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels" as well as "to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord." (Saint John Paul II, 1997)

**St. Catharines Diocese Share Lent Launch:** All are invited to St. Alfred's Parish, 272 Vine St. St. Catharines, Saturday, February 3rd, 2018. Mass with Bishop G. Bergie presiding at 9:30am to pray for the success of this year's Share Lent Campaign. Workshop to follow in the parish hall. As usual, a complimentary light lunch will be provided at the end of the workshop. For information contact Frank Fohr 905-356-6079.



**Feast of St. Blaise—Blessing of Throats**  
 The special blessing of throats associated with St. Blaise is due to a miracle attributed to him. While in prison, he miraculously saved a boy choking on a fish bone. Early in the sixth century, evidence exists in the Eastern Church that Blaise was prayed to for ailments of the throat. To this day, his feast is a holy day in the Eastern Church. In the ninth century, veneration of St. Blaise came to the Western Church and became very popular. Blessing of the throats with crossed candles began in the 1500s, the height of devotion to St. Blaise, and that blessing is still part of the devotion of the Catholic Church.

**If you would like to participate in this tradition, Fr. Chad & Deacon Jim will bless throats following all weekend Masses of Feb 3/4.**

**The 26th World Day of the Sick** will be celebrated on February 11, 2018. The World Day of the Sick focuses on three themes. It reminds the faithful to pray for the sick; it invites us to reflect upon the meaning of human suffering; finally, it recognizes and honours all persons who work in the health care field. Please find attached the English and French texts of the Holy Father's Message, "Behold, your son... Behold, your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (John 19:26-27). **An invitation is extended to all parishioners who are elderly and/or suffering from a serious illness or disease to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th FOLLOWING THE 11AM MASS.**

**Recipients of the Anointing of the Sick:**  
 Those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament. The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after being anointed and then again falls ill or if during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious. A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery. Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present. Sick children may be anointed if they sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament.

**On Sunday, February 11, 2018,** the World Day of the Sick, Bishop Bergie will celebrate Mass with the communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. All are welcome to attend, especially the sick and those who care for the sick.

**40 Days for Life –** Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14-March 25. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life." To sign up: [www.wpcprolife.com](http://www.wpcprolife.com), and follow the link. You may sign up at your church – or contact Angela: [angelabraun@live.com](mailto:angelabraun@live.com) or Annette: [loeffenlife@gmail.com](mailto:loeffenlife@gmail.com) or phone 905-931-0363.



**CWL Annual Diocesan Retreat: Theme: Come Rest in Christ.** Saturday, March 17th or Wednesday, March 21st., 8:30-2:30pm, Registration 8:30-9am. \$35 per person. Gethsemane Ministries, Wellandport. Deadline to register, Feb. 21st. Guest Speaker: Fr. Stephen Bruzzese. Phone the office. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**Parish Calendar**

Jan 30th....	Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee Meeting 7pm, Fenwick Lions Hall
<b>February</b>	Youth Ministry Bingo Lookout Ridge
<b>Feb 2nd....</b>	Visitation of the sick and homebound
<b>Feb 2nd....</b>	World Day for Consecrated Life
<b>Feb 2nd....</b>	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
<b>Feb 3/4....</b>	Feast of St. Blaise—Blessing of Throats of following all Masses
<b>Feb 3/4....</b>	Charity Tax Receipts ready for pick up.
<b>Feb 10/11....</b>	Youth Ministry Bake Auction
<b>Feb 11th....</b>	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—World Day of The Sick. Anointing available following 11am Mass. More info to follow.
<b>Feb 11th.....</b>	St. Vincent de Paul meeting following 11am Mass
<b>Feb 14th.....</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY.</b> Masses 9:30am & 7pm
<b>Feb 20th....</b>	<b>Mass cancelled</b>
<b>Feb 25th....</b>	Youth Mass 9:30am
<b>Feb 28th....</b>	St. Ann School Lenten Reconciliation

**St. Ann Youth Ministry Presents: The Second Annual Winter Festival!**  
 Our youth are hosting the second annual Winter Festival in the parish hall on the weekend of **February 10th and 11th after each of the Masses.** We will be auctioning off delicious baked goods and running various games for the whole family to enjoy! All funds raised will go towards youth ministry at our parish. Bring your family and join us for this great cause that is sure to be lots of fun for all! Our home-made baked goods will be a delicious Valentines treat for your loved ones! Any members of the parish community who wish to donate baked goods for our auction, or volunteer to help out, please contact Genevieve at: [gbroadley@branchestheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchestheword.org) Please drop off your baked goods Feb 9th during office hours or before Masses on the weekend.

**Thursday, February 8th is the fourth International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.** It is celebrated on the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. Let us pray for the victims and for those who work to end human trafficking. For more information about this issue that affects victims in our own local community, please go to the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre website <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>.

**A Prayer for an End to Human Trafficking:** God of freedom, beauty and truth, may all creation might know your abundant life. We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers, women and girls, men and boys, who are modern day slaves; They are your beloved daughters and sons, exploited sexually or forced to work because of human violence and greed. Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice; that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion; that all of us might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience. Hasten the coming of the day when all people and our precious Earth itself will be treated, not as a commodity, but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth. Amen. May it be so. (Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.)



