

Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor  
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com  
 Deacon Jim McLaughlin  
 (phone office for appointment)  
 Liliana Haynes  
 Office Administrator



**The Diocese of St. Catharines  
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**  
*“Put out into the deep water and let down your  
 nets.” (Lk 5:4)*  
**Sunday, February 18th, 2018**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee  
 proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of  
 fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent,  
 and believe in the gospel.” — Mk 1:14-15

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

Sat. Feb 17	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Feb 18	5:00pm 9:30am	Missa Pro Populo ✠ Martin Kolenko Jr. (Maria Jerebie)
	11:00am	✠ Mike Gorka (Biggar & Mikolasek Families)
Mon. Feb 19	9:30am	Intentions of Andrew Mullin (Walters Family)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Feb 20	9:30am	<b>Mass Cancelled</b>
Wed. Feb 21	9:30am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Millie & Joel Wunderlick)
Thurs. Feb 22	9:30am	✠ Marion Mullin (Walters Family)
Fri. Feb 23	9:30am	Michael Wilson (Karen Kennedy)
Sat. Feb 24	4-4:45pm 5:00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation ✠ Mario Forte (Family)
Sun. Feb 25	9:30am 11:00am	✠ Louis Marshall (Mike & Anne Young) Missa Pro Populo

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.  
 Offertory February 10th & 11th, 2018**

64 Envelopes	\$1,498.00
Loose Collection	\$ 70.00
Total Offertory	\$1,568.00

**2017 tax receipts are now available at the back of the church.**

**Special Request:** If you have jigsaw puzzles at home you no longer use (150-300 large pieces—scenery/buildings etc), please consider donating them to the parish to be forwarded to the Welland Hospital Exendicare Unit.

**First Sunday of Lent**

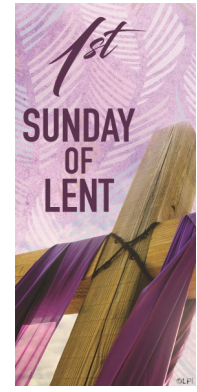
Why do we always go to the desert? We see this example in Scripture time and time again. The Israelites wandered in the desert. King David and prophets were driven into the wilderness. And now Jesus is in the same place. Lent after Lent, we too are invited into a barren, desolate place. Why do we always go to the desert?

Throughout Scripture, the desert is a place of testing. It's also a place of hiding and withdrawal. In the Old Testament, David fled into the wilderness to hide from Saul, Elijah from Jezebel, and Jonah from God! In other words, the desert is a place of “retreat.” In Christian circles, we use the word to describe a spiritual weekend away. But its meaning comes from warfare, as we well know.

To retreat means to draw back, to separate oneself from the fighting. Of course, a military retreat brings its own kind of “battle” – the internal assessment of why the fighting went so poorly.

As we enter into this Lenten season, we are invited to retreat into the desert with Jesus. Attending a day or weekend of reflection is a wonderful spiritual practice. This “desert spirituality,” however, can fill all forty days. We can fulfill our Lenten resolutions with a purpose – writing daily notes to family and friends can inspire new gratitude, every time we pass up that specific food item can be cause for intercession for deeper sufferings and privations of others.

The Gospel tells us that “the Spirit drove him out into the desert.” In other words, God wants us to be here. What feels uncomfortable is actually part of our spiritual journey. To be stretched, to be challenged, to confront our own areas of weakness – these things are essential in our walk with God. This Lent, will you go to the desert?



**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Repent and believe in the gospel! This is the message that is found on Jesus' lips after forty days in the desert. As the forty days of Lent come before us, we are asked to create a desert experience in our lives so that we can learn anew the ways of God. This Lent, find the time to slow down, to get away from it all, and to rest in the peaceful arms of God. Go to the desert and work on surrendering all you are, and have, and will be to Jesus. Our daily cares and concerns can distract us from truth and cause us to become absorbed with the world and secular priorities. Lent is an opportunity to free ourselves from illusion and focus us on what really matters. In doing so, we open up new possibilities for our relationship with God, others, our world, and ourselves.

**Seasonal Agricultural Worker Ministry**

Most seasonal farm workers will start to arrive early March and will not come prepared for our colder temperatures. **To better support and welcome our seasonal workers to St. Ann's Church, we are in need of the following new or gently used items: sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks, bicycles, luggage, toiletries (e.g. new toothbrush/toothpaste/soap, etc.). Please drop off items in church basement. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT!** Also, volunteers are needed to assist with a light meal provided for the workers following the Spanish Masses which will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month beginning in April (April 8th—week after Easter) to November. Food donations are welcome or if you can assist in preparation and clean up, that would also be very helpful. Call the office soon if you can assist.

**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 (For our Parish—Thursday Feb. 22nd) 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.



For this year's Share Lent, Development and Peace is encouraging us to come together for peace! You will find inspiring testimonials in the mini-magazine insert in today's bulletin. During this first week, our search for peace takes us to Cambodia to meet ICSO, a Development and Peace partner that works with minority Indigenous communities to help them have their rights recognized by the government, defend their land against corporate interests, and develop sustainable economic activities that enable them to live with dignity.

**The Catholic Women's League** will meet on **Wednesday, February 28th** following morning Mass. All ladies are welcome to attend.

**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!

**World Day of Prayer 2018**

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Through the World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of the other countries and cultures and no longer live in isolation. They are also encouraged take up the burdens of other people, to sympathize with the problems of other countries and cultures and pray with and for them. They are further encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society. The World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. The host country for WDP 2018 is Suriname. The focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation, with the theme “All God's Creation Is Very Good!”. Universal issues of climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and human abuse of the environment—all affecting God's good Creation and God's people—will be explored.

**Join our neighbours in celebrating World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2nd, 2pm at Kirk on the Hill Presbyterian Church, 1344 Haist Rd., Fonthill. All are welcome!**

**Parish Calendar**

- Feb 20th....** Mass cancelled
- Feb 20th....** Vacation Bible School meeting
- Feb 25th....** Youth Mass 9:30am
- Feb 28th....** St. Ann School Lenten Reconciliation
- Feb 28th....** CWL meeting following morning Mass
- March.....** World Day of Prayer
- March 2nd.....** First Friday Holy Communion to the sick and homebound
- March 2nd....** Youth Ministry Bingo Lookout Ridge
- March 11th.....** St. Vincent de Paul Meeting following 11am Mass
- March 12-16...** March Break
- March 17th....** Diocesan wide day of Reconciliation 10am-2pm
- March 18th.....** Solidarity Sunday
- March 19th.....** Feast of St. Joseph
- March 25th....** Youth Mass 9:30am
- March 25th.....** Palm Sunday
- March 29th....** Holy Thursday (Bingo Cancelled)
- March 30th....** Good Friday
- March 31st....** Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
- April 1st.....** Easter Sunday

**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. **Join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.**

**Kindergarten at Niagara Catholic: Nurturing Souls and Building Minds. Winter/Spring Open House,** February 28, 2018, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Online registration available year-round. [niagaracatholic.ca/join-us](http://niagaracatholic.ca/join-us)

**Vacation Bible School 2018**

This summer St. Ann Parish will be hosting Vacation Bible School from August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>. A volunteer meeting will be held in the parish hall on **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 6:45pm** for anyone interested in being an adult leader, or a junior leader (grade 7 to 9) please join us. Please contact Genevieve Broadley @ 289-219-4233 or [gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org)

**A big thank you** to everyone who helped with our St. Ann Bake sale and Winter Festival this past weekend! We had a wonderful turnout and so many delicious baked goods to sell. We earned over \$650.00 in profit for St. Ann's! Thank you to all you hard working bakers, and volunteers. A job well done!



**Roof Fundraiser:** Through the generosity of our parish community, we are able to meet our day to day expenses and provide a beautiful worship area and hall to celebrate Mass, host social occasions, conduct meetings, and participate in parish ministry. From time to time though, major repairs require extra funds needed to complete them. The most pressing maintenance issue at this time is our roof. It was last replaced in the mid 1990's and is showing wear and stress and needs to be replaced. The finance committee has been working on a fundraising project to assist with this major issue. On the weekend of **February 24/25**, we are asking all parishioners to meet in the parish hall and consider making a donation for this much needed project. Volunteers will be available to assist you with information on how to complete the donation process. If you have any other questions, we would be happy to answer them. Thank you!



