

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2009

40/3/50  
THE PASCHAL SEASON

John 3:14--15

- Jesus is lifted up on the cross, and it is that same lifting that carries him into glory.
- As I look back on the bad times in my life, I can see how they brought me closer to you, Lord.  
No cross, no crown.



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Annunciation of the Lord</b>
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
	7:00 p.m.	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Bob Lusignan 13 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. by Mary & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Patrick Murphy by Fran & Family
	11:00 a.m.	Lynn-Marie Debanne by Sue & Joe

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:** \$2,406.90 Thank You!

### Lent: We Climb the Holy Mountain of Easter

Yes, there is an end to Lent! And it is fast approaching. But the end of Lent is the very purpose for which we observe Lent: to make us ready for the annual celebration of the central mystery of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus, our Saviour.

And this is not simply a remembering of an event that took place almost 2000 years ago. Rather, it is a bringing into focus and celebrating what is taking place: Christ's dying and rising in us who are His Body; ever so slowly we are on our way to full sharing in Christ's glory.

Of course, it is still a few weeks away, but why not make plans now to make sure that the Three Great Days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday) do not simply pass us by. If at any time of the year it should be visible that we are Christians, it is on these Three Great Days with their special services:

<b>Holy Thursday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper
<b>Good Friday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
	7:00 p.m.	Reflection/Meditation
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	9:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Eucharist
	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist

Let us make sure to be part of these services, because they concern the very meaning and purpose of life as we Christians see it.



### The 25-hour *Think Fast!* Of Last Saturday: Beautiful!

At last Saturday's evening Mass, a good number of our Confirmation candidates and some others concluded the 25 hours that they had spent in the hall and in the church: they had fasted and prayed, they had engaged in a variety of activities, they had listened to very good presentations of speakers; all this to increase their familiarity with justice and development issues. A tough day, but also a beneficial one. Congratulations! It was quite noticeable how hungry they all were, when after Mass they went downstairs to share in a sumptuous meal prepared by volunteers.

Special thanks to those who organized the 25 hours and who guided the participants through this gesture of solidarity with the developing world. Yes, this **Think Fast** project is sponsored by **Development and Peace**. It is a very concrete way of familiarizing ourselves with justice and development issues, something that is not optional to the Christian life, but very much part of it.



### **The Development and Peace “Share Lent!” Collection: Next Few Sundays...**

In the course of the year we have a number of special collections for a variety of causes. The **Development and Peace** collection in Lent is different. Yes, the special envelope is part of this Sunday's bulletin. But ideally, what we put in there is what we have accumulated during all of Lent by our fasting.

So handing in that envelope at the next few Sundays is a real Easter gesture. Imagine the new life we can bring to people in the developing world by our Lenten effort. That is what Easter is all about: new life!

Have you seen the movie *Babette's Feast*? The old pastor has an interesting thought there that may be applicable here: *“The only things we take with us from our life on earth are those which we have given away.”* Solidarity helps us to see the other, whether a person, people or nation as our neighbour on par with ourselves. Solidarity is a firm and preserving determination to commit oneself to the common good: Pope John Paul “on social concerns”. Remember the poor are most affected in any economic downturn.

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!**

### **Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday) after the 11:00 Mass: *The Lent Event***

Remember the Advent Event in December? That was such a positive and faith-building experience for all who participated. How about doing something similar at the start of Holy Week? Let us face it - Holy Week is precious for us as Christians because of what we celebrate at the end of that week, during those **Three Great Days**. Let us do something extra to get us in the right frame of mind. A number of activities are being planned that adults, youth, and children can take part in. In other words, this is not something for children only. We would like it to be intergenerational. We could all benefit from it, and it could serve as a good example of ongoing faith formation.

### **Those Services on the *Three Great Days*:**

#### **Are you interested in knowing more about them?**

Those services on the **Three Great Days** (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) are quite different from our regular Sunday Mass. In some way, one could say they make up one Service with some lengthy intermissions. What makes them a unit is the central mystery of our Christian faith, the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate in those services.

Next **Sunday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.**, we'll take some time to walk through them and explain what makes these services so special. All are welcome.

### **The Season of Lent is about Conversion, Repentance, Renewal - All this to open our hearts for the wondrous gift of God's Forgiveness!**

#### **We Celebrate it in two Penitential Services:**

**Thursday, March 26 - 7:00 p.m.** for First Communion candidates and their families

**Tuesday, March 31 - 7:00 p.m.** for the Parish Community

**God's Mercy and Forgiveness**, we cannot do without it. Until recently, we have given expression to that by going to confession. That was in fact a unique feature for us as Roman Catholics. That is no longer the case for many of us for a variety of reasons. Still, our need for God's forgiveness is no less real. That is what we want to give expression to in the **communal Penitential Services** mentioned above. In both services we reflect together on how we as individuals but also as a faith community stand in need of God's mercy and

forgiveness. And as a community we celebrate in thanksgiving God's unmerited grace and forgiveness. It is a beautiful way of preparing for Easter.

### **God's Forgiveness celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

In addition to the **Penitential Services** where we celebrate **God's Mercy**, some time slots are set aside where we may want to celebrate **God's Reconciliation** in what is popularly called:



#### **Individual Confession:**

<b>Thursday, March 26</b>	after Penitential Service
<b>Tuesday, March 31</b>	after Penitential Service
<b>Saturday, April 4</b>	2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, April 6</b>	4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, April 7</b>	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### **Looking Ahead: English Zone Pastoral Council, Saturday, April 18**

Twice a year representatives of the English parishes in our diocese meet and we call ourselves **the English Zone Pastoral Council**. It is open to all parishioners, but the ones we really would like to be there are those who have a leadership position in our various parishes, such as members of our **Parish Pastoral Council**, members of **the Fabrique**, members of various committees in our parishes. This **Zone Pastoral Council** is the only forum we have to speak as English parishes in our diocese. So let us make it work. That is especially important for us at St. Mark's as we are the largest parish among the English parishes in our diocese.

This time there are two items on the agenda:

- The role and place of the English parishes in the **Diocesan Fund for Pastoral Works**;
- How are the English parishes dealing with the 5-year old document **Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom**? This is in preparation of a diocesan conference the Bishop is organizing for August of this year where he wants to assess what we have done with that document: the successes, the failures, the hesitations, the frustrations etc.

Surely, we want to have a say on both these items.

**Saturday, April 18 - Our Lady of the Annunciation Church (Hull Sector), from 9:00 a.m. until noon**

**MEETINGS: Baptism Preparation:** Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

#### **FAITH BOOK CLUB:**

As a way to promote fellowship, and to broaden our horizons regarding faith and world issues, we would like to start a "faith book club" at St. Mark's. The reading material for discussion would be in the form of books or articles and would be suggested by members of the book club. Anyone interested in joining can contact Teresa Clarke at (819) 684-0990 or email [teresa-clarke14@hotmail.com](mailto:teresa-clarke14@hotmail.com). Hope to hear from you!

**AMITIE RELIGIOUS ARTICLES:** We invite you to come and visit us if you wish to purchase souvenirs for First Communion, Confirmation and Baptism. We have rosaries, plaques, medals, books, statues and crucifixes. For seniors, if you are unable to come to us we will come to you. **We Do Not Charge Taxes.**

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**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Kindly remember Claude Lavigne, Gilles Benoit, Hilda Preslawski and their family in your prayers.

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