



Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: As announced in schedule

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Check the bulletin or website for the current schedule

COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

Contact the parish office for assistance

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Friday 3:15 p.m., Saturday 4:00 p.m.
and/or as announced or by appointment

PARISH BULLETIN

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

March 3, 2019

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 sharon@johnxxiii.ca

Ministry Coordinator/Office Volunteer: Lynda Hunt

204-832-7175 lynda@johnxxiii.ca

Trustee: Loris Vendramelli

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Trustee: William Gould

204-990-3011 william.d.gould@gmail.com

Parish Stewardship Committee**Facilitator: Loris Vendramelli**

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason

204-832-7175 joanna@johnxxiii.ca

Head Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt

204-898-1893 cfp3899@gmail.com

Fundraising and Development Committee

204-832-7175 call if interested in serving

Parish Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee**Facilitator: Laurette Burch**

204-885-6988 burchd@mymts.net

FAITH FORMATION: Catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings, September through May, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults. Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information and/or to register.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact the parish office for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

NOTE OF THANKS: *Father Robert and his sister Susan, on behalf of their entire family, extend sincere thanks to parishioners and friends for their support, prayers and expressions of sympathy extended on the occasion of the recent passing of their beloved father, Albin Joseph Polz. We are grateful for the many Masses offered for the repose of Dad's soul, the donations made in Dad's memory, the baking provided and volunteers for the reception. We thank the Knights of Columbus for serving as pall bearers and ushers and the 4th Degree for providing a colour guard. We are indebted to the music ministers, altar servers, those who led the Rosary and all the faithful who participated in the Vigil, the Funeral Mass and the Rite of Committal. Thank you for coming together with our family to bid Albin Joseph a fond Christian Farewell. It truly was a celebration of our faith in Jesus Christ and in the promise of Resurrection to New Life!*





COUPLES FOR CHRIST
WEST 3 CHAPTER

FAMILIES IN THE HOLY SPIRIT RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH

Invites you to a spiritual journey through

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM (CLP)

Open to all adults
(Single and Married)



MARCH 10
SUNDAY
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN XXIII
Roman Catholic Church
3390 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3K 0Z3

For more information please CONTACT:
Peter & Tina (204) 232-9820
Dan & Shiela (204) 720-8503

Registration is FREE. Child minding is available for those who have children.



COUNTDOWN FOR LENT...

Ash Wednesday this year
is on March 6, 2019

*Please bring last year's palms
to church before Tuesday
so these may be collected
and burned in preparation
for Ash Wednesday.
At Saint John XXIII Church
Ash Wednesday Mass
will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m.*

THE WORD AMONG US *Daily Meditations for Catholics:* Copies of the Lent 2019 issue are available at the counter in the parish office. Price \$5.00 each. Canadian Edition with CCCB approved Mass readings.

CONFERENCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH, AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Be a part of this one of a kind opportunity to hear first-hand about the results of the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome! Our conference speakers, Bishop Lionel Gendron (Synod Father and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops), and Miss Emilie Callan (Synod Auditor) will share from their own experience as members of the Synod of Bishops. They will journey with us to see how this Synod invites our local Church to grow in our work and ministry with young people. This day-long conference will offer times of reflection, prayer, and small group discussions. Participants will be encouraged to network and discern together where God is calling local initiatives to grow and continue to serve young people.

THIS EXCITING CONFERENCE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE! Investment is \$30 per participant (\$40 at door) includes lunch, snacks, and all conference fees and materials. The conference will take place on **Saturday, March 30, 2019 at Saint John XXIII Church** in Winnipeg.

Register online today at EVENTS.CATHOLICWAY.NET or by phone 204-347-5396. For more information, you may contact Kevin Prada, kevin@catholicway.net or go to the website www.catholicway.net Presented by the Catholic School of Evangelization and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3 – 10, 2019

N.B.: As circumstances suggest, the schedule below may be subject to change.

Sunday, March 3	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
3:00 pm Saturday	CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM – Moses Angelo Ramirez & Benjamin Apollo Antazo
4:00 pm Saturday	LIVING ROSARY – all are welcome to participate <i>(Sponsored by CFC Gift of Life Ministry)</i>
5:00 pm Saturday	MASS – Nick and Gladys Gural+, requested by Cindy and Rick Grabowecky
9:00 am	MASS – Monique Armstrong+, requested by Eileen and Lorne Kloepper
10:15 am	CATECHISM CLASSES <i>(begin in the parish hall)</i>
11:45 am	MASS – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners
1:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Confirmation Preparation Session <i>(in room 12)</i>
Monday, March 4	FERIAL
	<i>Parish office closed Monday</i>
7:00 pm	MASS – Albin Joseph Polz+, requested by the St. James Knights of Columbus
7:30 pm	Knights of Columbus General Meeting <i>(in the parish hall)</i>
7:30 pm	CWL Executive Meeting <i>(in room 10)</i>
Tuesday, March 5	FERIAL
10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Office open in the morning
10:00 am	Al-Anon Meeting <i>(in room 12)</i>
10:30 am	<i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to attend a meeting of the Council of Priests at the Catholic Centre</i>
Wednesday, March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY – THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT BEGINS
	*** UNIVERSAL DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT ***
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Office open
10:30 am	MASS at Golden West Centennial Lodge, 811 School Road
	<i>Mass this morning will include the blessing and distribution of ashes</i>
1:00 pm	Knitting Group Gathering <i>(in room 10)</i>
6:45 pm	Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm	MASS – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners
	<i>Mass this evening will include the blessing and distribution of ashes</i>
Thursday, March 7	THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
	<i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>
4:30 pm	<i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to attend a Board of Directors Meeting at St. Paul’s High School</i>
Friday, March 8	FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
9:00 am	Recitation of the Rosary
9:15 am	MASS – Linda Burch (health), requested by Laurette and Doug Burch
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Office open
10:45 am	MASS at Sturgeon Creek II Retirement Residence, 707 Setter Street
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy <i>(in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)</i>
6:00 pm	FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION <i>(for children also preparing for First Communion)</i>
7:00 pm	WAY OF THE CROSS at Saint John XXIII Church
Saturday, March 9	SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
5:00 pm	MASS – Monique Armstrong+, requested by Colette and John Mozol
6:00 pm	CFC West 3 Chapter Prayer Assembly <i>(in the parish hall)</i>
	REMEMBER: Tonight be sure to “SPRING FORWARD” one hour to Daylight Savings Time!
Sunday, March 10	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
9:00 am	MASS – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners
10:15 am	CATECHISM CLASSES <i>(begin in the parish hall)</i>
11:45 am	MASS – Jacqueline Camier+, requested by St. James Assiniboia CWL
1:00 pm	CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM Session 1 – Couples for Christ <i>(in the parish hall)</i>
2:30 pm	RITE OF ELECTION at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 353 St. Mary Avenue

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2019

"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rm 8: 19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God "gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ" (*Preface of Lent I*). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery – "for in hope we were saved" (*Rom 8:24*). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (*Rom 8:19*). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a priceless gift of God's mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 8:14*) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, *we also benefit creation* by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticum of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. *2:1-11*). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans "*I want it all and I want it now!*" and "*Too much is never enough*", gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. *Gen 3:17-18*). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. *Mk 7:20-23*) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (*2 Cor 5:17*). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, *creation itself can celebrate a Pasch*, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. *Rev 21:1*). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Rom 8:21*). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. *Prayer*, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. *Almsgiving*, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the "lenten" period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the *desert* of creation had the goal of making it once more that *garden* of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. *Mk 1:12-13*; *Is 51:3*). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be "set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Rom 8:21*). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

From the Vatican, 4 October 2018

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Francis

© Copyright - Libreria Editrice Vaticana

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27.4-7

Do not praise a man before hearing his message.

Psalms 92.1-2, 12-13, 14-15

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1 Corinthians 15.54-58

God has given us the victory through Jesus Christ.

Luke 6.39-45

From what is in the heart, the mouth speaks.



REFLECTION

Talking The Walk

A cluster of traditional sayings exists, underscoring the insight that the character of a person shows itself most truly in deeds more than in words. "Talk is cheap," we say, meaning that what a person actually does is far more important than the promises that person makes. "She doesn't just talk the talk; she walks the walk," we say, meaning that the woman lives out what she professes. These sentiments are particularly strong during political campaigns.

This is true enough, and there are plenty of biblical passages to show that the insight is perennial. But the first and last of this Sunday's readings focus on another aspect of our "talk life"—the utter importance and power of our words. Talk may well be cheap in the case of an empty promise or sly flattery. But both Sirach and Jesus give us words today that remind us that some of our most significant deeds are in fact the words we say.

For better or worse, our speech reveals who and what we are. Sirach demonstrates this in three sharp images. The act of speech is like sifting wheat through a sieve: as the sifting sorts out the husks, so our speech exposes the otherwise hidden faults of our character. And just as the hot fire of a kiln tests the craft of the potter, so the give and take of conversation tests the integrity of the interlocutors. Finally, just as the quality of a fruit tree indicates the care of its cultivator, so our speech reveals everything that has gone into our formation.

One could meditate on that imagery and draw the fatalistic conclusion, “well, you are what you are, and your speech is going to show it no matter what you try to do about it. Maybe it's best to keep quiet.”

Jesus of Nazareth, mediated today by the evangelist Luke, puts the reality of our speech in a fuller context. “A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of the store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). By itself, that teaching seems to leave us with Sirach: for better or worse, your speech is going to show you up. But Jesus' words come attached to the rest of the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-49).

Jesus' sermon presents a bracing challenge to our “talk life.” Jesus addresses his teaching “to you who hear,” meaning those poor enough to be responsive to his words. He then proceeds to urge love of enemies, nonviolence, selfless giving, and a compassion that imitates God's own mercy. The heart that the mouth reveals is supposed to be that kind of heart! This might sound more discouraging than Sirach, except that Jesus' teaching on prayer throughout the rest of the Gospel of Luke reminds us that the power to imitate Jesus in these matters is not our own. It comes from the gift of the Spirit given in prayer, which in turn enables us to become those who listen to Jesus' words and act on them.

When we put all this in the larger setting of the story of Jesus and the story of the Church in Acts, we recognize that full discipleship is not only a matter of walking the talk; it also entails “talking the walk.” That is, some of the most important Christian deeds will in fact be acts of speech, challenging injustice, encouraging the downhearted, asking and giving forgiveness, blessing with praise those who need to be affirmed.

As Paul reminds us, the heart that produces the goodness revealed in speech is the heart that is rooted in the risen Lord Jesus. “[Know] that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor 15:58).
— Dennis Hamm, S.J.

Copyright © 2001, Dennis Hamm, S.J. All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use.



SHARE LENT 2019

For this year's Share Lent, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada encourages us to reach out to forcibly displaced persons and to share their journey. How?

(1) **Donate online at devp.org/give or give during the Solidarity Sunday Collection on the Fifth Sunday of**

Lent, April 7, 2019. The funds collected are used to support over 162 projects in 37 countries around the world!
(2) Take part or organize a solidarity walk in solidarity with forcibly displaced persons: devp.org/walk (3) Read the Development and Peace Share Lent materials as a way to encounter children, women and men who have been forcibly displaced and to learn how their partners are making a difference. **www.devp.org**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT:

Max Armstrong, Darrell Aucoin, Bill Camier, René Defries, Lynda Dodd, John Foucart, Darryn Hellofs, Rosario Jequinto, Tracy Kingsland, Amanda Klaasen, Joanna Mason, Deb McEnturff, Cynthia Patterson, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, James Polz, Owen Robertson, Janice Skene and Helen Yankoski.

TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

Week of March 3 – 9, 2019

Week of March 10 – 16, 2019

Deceased members of the Precioso family, requested by Nina Turner

Intentions of Linda Burch (health), requested by Laurette and Doug Burch

IN MANITOBA, THE NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY TRI-DIOCESAN COMMITTEE promotes several events and actively works to enrich faith and community throughout the National week in May, but also extends the celebration to both before and following the National week (May 12-19, 2019). The theme for 2019 is: "Listening to the Gospel as a Family". The tri-diocesan committee seeks to offer events, activities and initiatives that promote the strengthening of families, the unity of the Church community and takes on the challenges that families face in our world today, especially with regard to the unborn, children and the elderly. This year's focus will be on “renewing the family bond” and will have two main elements – “Receiving the Gospel” and “Sharing the Gospel”. **To help with this work, the committee has launched a new website: lifeandthefamily.com** It will serve as a "hub" for the NWLF in southern Manitoba, involving the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Archdiocese of St. Boniface, and Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg.

For news and events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, please see information posted on bulletin boards at the north and south entrances of the church and/or go to the website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

WAY OF THE CROSS DEVOTION
Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m. in Saint John XXIII Church

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF WINNIPEG

*On the Implementation of our Archdiocesan Synod
and the forthcoming National Week for Life and the Family*



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

1495 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6 • Tel: 204-452-2227 • Fax: 204-475-4409 • Web: www.archwinnipeg.ca

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I bring you greetings as we prepare to enter the Holy Season of Lent. Pope Francis has asked us to reflect on being a Church of Missionary Disciples, not only during this Lenten Season, but throughout our lives as Catholics. This is very timely as our Archdiocesan Synod centered on being Missionary Disciples in our modern world. The Synod Theme expressed that we are *Established, Anointed and Sent in Christ* not only to live lives of Discipleship, but to be the Lord's agents in the New Evangelization of the world.

Our Synod Implementation Commission has begun its work in bringing together the proposals and applications from our Synodal process. While this work is ongoing the Commission suggests we begin to implement the 14 Global Initiatives stemming from the Synod. These Global Initiatives are opportunities which serve as key points of reference in creating a Synodal environment in our Local Church. They will prepare the way for the specific proposals reached by consensus in the Synod.

Keeping this in mind, I am asking each Deanery and every parish in the Archdiocese to consider ways of implementing Global Initiative #3, namely: ***"We encourage all the Baptized to acquire a familiarity with Sacred Scripture."*** It became very clear in our many Listening Sessions that the People of God in our Archdiocese are very concerned about our spiritual formation, and Holy Scripture is key in this, both for individuals, for groups and most especially for families. The Scriptures reveal to us the path to living as Disciples of Jesus and help us to know him personally. Pope Francis talks about this in his Apostolic Exhortation, *"The Joy of the Gospel."* How can we, as Disciples of Christ, spread the Joy of the Gospel to others unless we ourselves have been more deeply formed in Holy Scripture? St. Jerome once said: *"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."* There are many ways in which Scriptural prayer and study can be encouraged in our Christian communities. Discernment, creativity and perseverance will be required as we work towards this goal. The Implementation Commission is recommending *Lectio Divina* as a starting point. *Lectio Divina* is a particular way of prayerfully reading Sacred Scripture and can also be called: *Breaking open the Word*. Pope Francis has spoken much about *Lectio Divina* and strongly encourages its practice. Allowing the Holy Spirit to be active in our hearts as we study and pray with Scripture is very much the attitude we cultivated in our Synod. I include with this letter our Commission's simple guideline on how this can be accomplished. An important part of *Lectio Divina* would include families preparing for the Sunday Liturgy by reflecting on the upcoming Sunday Gospel during the week.

Each year in Canada, the Catholic Church celebrates what is known as the National Week for Life and the Family. This year it begins on May 12th and the theme is, **Listening to the Gospel as a Family!** This theme very much complements our Synod's desire for each of us to not only be more familiar with the Gospel, but to really listen to what the Gospel is saying to us. The traditional idea that "a family that prays together stays together," is worth remembering – good fruit indeed comes through formation in Scripture. I would refer you to our Archdiocesan Website (www.archwinnipeg.ca) for more information on the National Week for Life and the Family as well as for a discussion on *Lectio Divina*.

In conclusion, time spent in listening to Sacred Scripture and sharing Scripture together as a family or with others, generally allows us to be stronger Disciples of the Lord and in so doing share "the Joy of the Gospel". Please join me in beginning to implement this important Synod Initiative in our community: **"We encourage all the Baptized to acquire a familiarity with Sacred Scripture."**



Yours in Christ,

✠Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg

ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG SYNOD IMPLEMENTATION Global Initiative #3

"We encourage all the baptized to acquire familiarity with Sacred Scripture"

This Lent, as part of the implementation of our Archdiocesan Synod, we are invited to connect with family and friends in a very special way using *Lectio Divina* or "Breaking open the Word." This ancient method of praying with sacred texts dates to the fourth century. The four simple steps of *Lectio Divina*: reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation take about 20 minutes.

***Lectio* Made Simple for Families**

- Settle in a cozy spot.
- Read the Sunday Gospel, slowly, 2 or even 3 times. (encourage children to use their imagination – can you see yourself in the story?)
- One of the following questions can be discussed after each reading of the scripture passage.
(allow everyone an opportunity to speak)
- Encourage a response. "What did you like in the story?"
- God speaks to us through this story. "What do you think God is saying?" Listen deeply.
- "What might God be asking you to do?"
- Close with the Our Father. Share a healthy treat.

***Lectio* Made Simple for Small Groups with the Parish**

- Create a welcoming environment and settle comfortably.
- Invite the group to listen deeply, use their imagination and to listen for a word or image that stands out as Sunday's Gospel is read 2 or 3 times slowly. (If it is a long Gospel passage, choose a portion or selected verses for reflection.)
- Invite the group to deepen their consideration of the word or image that stood out. Consider what this image or word means for you and how it is important right now.
- Invite the group to share briefly any new insights or meaningful experiences. Listen to each other without comments or interrupting. Close with the Our Father. Share some hospitality.