



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 26 FEBRUARY 2023

*“It is written, ‘Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*



### *Announced Mass intentions ...*

Sat., Feb. 25

5:00PM Mass

Sun., Feb. 26

#### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners

10:00AM Mass – Baltazar Almeida+

Anthony Bangit+

Stan & Catherine Curtis+

Clinton MacNeil+

Wed., March 01 12:15PM Mass – Roger & Gerta Patry+

Thurs., March 02 12:15PM Mass – Fr. Lukose (Ivg)

Fri., March 03 11:00AM **ADORATION** until 12 noon

12:15PM Mass – Barbara Costanza (Ivg)

Sat., March 04 5:00PM Mass – Julie Watkinson (Ivg)

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners

10:00AM Mass – Tessie Mendes+

Fesseha Fre+ & Zafu Kuflu+

Banbit Roy+

Mieka Mahood+

### *Events Calendar ...*

Sun., Feb. 26

10:00AM Children's Liturgy

#### **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE** after all Masses

Wed., March 01

7:00PM K of C Executive meeting

7:30PM Choir (10:00) practice – Church

Thurs., March 02 1:00PM Club 55 – Hall

Fri., March 03 7:00PM **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICES TO PARENTS**

#### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** For those students and families who are registered for First Holy Communion and **have completed the online course work and have attended the first 2 Masses/Preparation sessions** are invited to receive their Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation for **Holy Cross School will be on Monday, March 06 at 6:30 pm** and for **Holy Family School on Wednesday, March 08 at 6:30 pm**. For those students who are registered and attend Public or another School, you are asked to contact the Parish Office (613-731-7834) and inform them which date you will be attending. This also applies for those who cannot attend the date already set for the schools. Please be there 30 minutes early to check-in.

**THE THIRD PREPARATION SESSION / CHILDREN'S MASS** for those students and families registered for **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will take place on **SUNDAY, MARCH 26 at 2 pm**. Please plan to be there 30 minutes early to check-in. The Preparation teaching video will be sent out via Flocknote on March 09 for you to watch prior to the session. **Attendance is mandatory**.

### *Message from our Pastor ...*

#### **LENT IS SPRINGTIME**

We begin Lent, a season to re-commit ourselves to our baptismal commitment and to prepare our hearts for Easter through acts of penance, especially prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The word “Lent” comes from an Old English word meaning springtime and this is what Lent should be for us. In the spring, farmers prepare and plant their fields. They will tend those fields with care over the long summer, looking forward to the harvest.

In the same way we can use Lent to prepare our souls. We fast to remove the obstacles that keep us from sharing Christ's mission like a farmer removes stones that might hinder his planting. We give alms to help unite our hearts with the less fortunate, as a farmer gently plants and nourishes the seeds. We pray that we may know God's will and have the courage to pursue it, as a farmer conditions the soil to receive the seeds.

If we use this season to prepare our souls, our hearts, and our lives, we can come to Easter ready to live more fully our baptismal call to follow Christ and to share in the harvest banquet of heaven.

This week is the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The sufferings of the innocent victims are unimaginable. The Claretian Missionaries are continuing to do their best to reach out to them from Poland. We stand together with Pope Francis to pray for peace and to raise our voices against oppression and violence in the spirit of Lent.

I was so happy to see the new members of the Knights of Columbus participating in feeding the children from Holy Cross school on Shrove Tuesday. Congratulations to our Holy Cross Council for recruiting the highest number of candidates. We may not be able to do so many big projects alone, but we can do them as a team.

I wish the same for our other ministries as well, as we are looking for more volunteers for our Liturgical needs as Lectors, Mass Coordinators, Sacramental Preparations etc.

I also wish to thank everyone for your financial support in 2022. I am grateful to God that we were blessed to have some bequests from the Estates of a few parishioners which helped balance our yearly budget.

Wish you a grace filled Lenten journey.

Fr. Lukose CMF

#### **OUR PARISH LENTEN JOURNEY**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS—LENTEN FRIDAYS at 7 p.m.** led by the different ministries of the Parish. All are welcome. **PLEASE NOTE:** On Friday, March 31 the Stations of the Cross will begin at 11:00 am. On **Good Friday (April 07)** Stations of the Cross will begin at **7:30 p.m.**

**“FORMED”** Don't forget to check it out.

## ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2023

The great family of Christians will soon begin its annual Lenten pilgrimage. Forty days are offered to us to follow Jesus our Lord, to be instructed, to be transformed from within, and to find new life. Are you interested?

The experience is offered to all sinners. We do not need to be perfect to follow Jesus as his disciples. We simply need a sincere desire for a better life and a complete surrender to the path he will lay out before us. It may seem daunting or make us question ourselves. Are we ready to put all our trust in Jesus?

This is the essential first step for all those who seek happiness, a better life, or a renewed sense of hope. We must be converted to Christ Jesus. Whoever says conversion, intentionally chooses the path that leads only to Christ. We must therefore choose not to take other paths. We must be ready to sacrifice, to let go of something we love in order to embrace something better, even if at first glance we may feel doubt or an unwillingness. We must accept that the path proposed will be narrow, unpopular, sometimes arduous, and demanding, but it will fill us with a new life. Darkness will give way to light and to the truth that will set us free. A deep peace will inhabit our hearts even during difficult times.

Following Jesus requires attentive listening to his word which will sometimes be inspiring and will lead us to wonder and to the supernatural; sometimes it will be difficult to hear because it will take us out of our comfort zone, challenge us to detachment, to charity, and to forgiveness. Let us have the courage to persevere with his words so that they may transform us from within and lead us to greater trust and faithfulness in our Creator.

The disciple of Christ who lives a profound conversion not only chooses to listen to him, but he commits to configuring himself to Him and to live in Him in order to act in Him. When we are filled with his divine Love, Jesus heals wounded hearts, sows hope, and strengthens our faith. We gradually become worthy children of the Father and are renewed in his image. From that moment on, a burning fire within us compels us to witness our faith, to build Church together, and to launch out on a mission to build the Kingdom of God.

So, this Lent, do you feel like following Jesus? Know that he invites you to do so!

Marcel Damphousse  
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall

### *Parish News and Community Life...*

**CLUB 55:** Has it been a while since you had a smoked meat sandwich? If so, come and enjoy one when "Delicious Deli" will be the lunch theme at our next gathering this coming **Thursday, March 02, following the 12:15 noon Mass.** The menu will feature smoked meat on rye bread, potato salad, coleslaw, dill pickle and dessert! Share time together afterwards playing cards or engaging in some good conversation. We hope to see you there.

**2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** are still available on the table at the back of the church. When using your **Initial 2023 Offertory Envelopes** please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us keep information up to date for tax receipts.

**2022 TAX RECEIPTS** are available for pick up at the back of the Church. We would like to thank all our Parishioners for their generosity throughout 2022.

## COLLECTION REPORT

19 February 2023 – \$2,403.50 (env) / \$537.60 (loose)

~ **THANK YOU** for your generosity and support ~

**YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS** are critical for the financial health of the Parish and make a difference!

There are several methods in supporting the Parish:

- Offertory Envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Payment (PAD). PAD forms may be found on the table at the entrance of the Church.
- Canada Helps on-line donations.
- E-transfer use: [office@holycrossparish.com](mailto:office@holycrossparish.com)

**Please note:** Our Parish is operated only by your donations!

**NOTE:** If you have moved or changed your phone number, please call the parish office with your new contact information so that our records are updated.



Direct Your **United Way Contributions** to Holy Cross Parish: Did you know that you are able to direct your United Way contribution to Holy Cross? Simply mark the appropriate section on the reverse of your form to direct your monies to Holy Cross Parish, 685

Walkley Rd., Ottawa, ON K1V 6R8. You not only give to United Way but you help your church as well. Charity Name: Holy Cross Parish/Registration Number: 12896 7353 RR0012

### *Other interests...*

**New Communication Tools:** While we wait for the new diocesan website's big reveal, we invite you to take advantage of our new social media platforms. You will find prayers, inspiring messages, photos, videos, and even quizzes! Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are updated several times a week in both official languages. We invite you to share your comments on the posts, send us your stories, and encourage you to register.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ottawacornwall/?hl=en>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OttawaCornwall>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ottawacornwall>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@archdiocese-archdioceseot854>

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/ottawacornwall>

### *Food for Thought* ✝

*"God wants you. He wants you to open your heart to Him, and what is more, He wants you to open your heart to your neighbour, to your brother, to your sister, for we are all brothers and sisters before God." – The Gospel Without Compromise by Catherine Doherty*

**Have you considered a gift in your WILL to provide for the faith life of future generations?**

**IN YOUR GENEROSITY, please consider a donation or bequest to Holy Cross Parish.**