



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 17 MARCH 2024

“Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

(Today's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; 10; John 12:20-33)

Announced Mass intentions

Sat., March 16 5:00PM Mass – Herb Bergen+

Sun., March 17 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
 10:00AM Mass – Nina Chung (Ivg)
 Benedicta Ireobhude (Ivg)
 Vivian Braganza+
 Tom Shields+
 Al Aguiñe+

Wed., March 20 12:15PM Mass – Roger Patry+

Thurs., March 21 12:15PM Mass – Alice Dolan+

Fri., March 22 11:00AM **ADORATION** until 12 noon
 12:15PM Mass – Bernard Eberley+
 Paule Mercier+
 Gardner & Thibault Families+

Sat., March 23 5:00PM Mass – Jim Wylie+

Sun., March 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
 10:00AM Mass – Fressa Fre & Zafu Kuflu+
 Benedicta Ireobhude (Ivg)

Events Calendar ...

Sat., March 16 3:00PM K of C Exemplification – Church
 4:40PM Rosary - Church

Sun., March 17 10:00AM Children's Liturgy
DEVELOPMENT & PEACE SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN

Mon., March 18 7:00PM **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT WITH HOLY MASS**

Tues., March 19 7:00PM **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT WITH HOLY MASS**

Wed., March 20 7:00PM **PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE**
 7:00PM Choir practice – Rm. A

Thurs., March 21 1:00PM Club 55 - Hall
 7:00PM Faith Study – Hall
 7:00PM Parish Pastoral Council meeting

Fri., March 22 1:00PM Faith Study - Library
 7:00PM **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Sat., March 23 9:00AM Choir practice
 4:40PM Rosary - Church

Sun., March 24 10:00AM Children's Liturgy



DONATIONS TOWARDS EASTER FLOWERS:

Special envelopes are available in the pews and at the entrance of the Church for donations towards Easter flowers. Donations of \$20 or more will be issued a tax receipt if you enclose your information and envelope number.



† OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS:

For the departed soul of

Yolande Flansberry+ (sister of Ray Flansberry)

May her soul rest in peace.

Pastor's Message...

LOSING ONE'S LIFE TO FIND LIFE

We are eager to grow plants after the winter. It starts with planting the seeds. When the climate is right, everything comes to life with a surprise. A few months later everyone is so happy to see flowers and vegetables all over the place. A wonderful reminder of the purpose of Lent.

This week's Gospel says, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains the same, but if it dies it will bring life. St Paul after his conversion, realized that military power, titles, wealth, etc cannot make one's life meaningful. For him "No one lives for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord and if we die, we die for the Lord. So if we live or die, we belong to the Lord". Our Lenten observances should lead to that realization and our goal should be to give life to others. It is possible only when we know Jesus personally as one who came to give life abundantly by dying for our transgressions.

Let us also remember St. Joseph whose feast we celebrate on March 19. He is the protector of the Universal Church and Patron Saint of Canada. May St. Joseph inspire all our families.

I also like to thank all who made our Parish Lenten Soup Sunday a great success to show our solidarity with the poor. Special appreciation to the Hospitality Committee and all who volunteered to make the soup.

Don't forget to come and be enriched by our upcoming Lenten Retreat starting on Monday, March 18. Thanks to Bishop Yvan Mathieu who will be guiding our retreat.

God bless.
 Fr. Lukose CMF



WE PRAY for our children preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation and for our RCIA candidates.

On LENTEN FRIDAY'S we will have the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** at 7 p.m. Please note that on **Good Friday, March 29 Stations of the Cross** will be at **7:30 pm**. All are welcome.

Parish News and Community Life...



BELLS, BELLS, BELLS are welcome to be brought at the **Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30** to accompany the singing of the "Glory to God" which was silent during Lent. **The more the merrier!**



HOLY CROSS' 2024 LENTEN RETREAT

Preacher: **Bishop Yvan Mathieu s.m.**

Theme: "**Becoming Missionary Disciples.**"

Monday, March 18: To follow Jesus through the waters of Baptism (Mk 1:1-11) with Holy Mass

Tuesday, March 19: To follow Jesus on the path of the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-16) with Holy Mass

Wednesday, March 20: To welcome the Father's Mercy (Lk 5:1-3, 11-32) – **Parish Reconciliation Service**

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Come and experience the '**DIVINE TOUCH OF GOD**' and refresh your body and soul with this Lenten (RE)TREAT. All are welcome. A free will offering will be generously accepted.

CLUB 55: Our next lunch will be on **Thursday, March 21, following the 12:15 Mass.** It will have a casual Spring theme, with smoked meat on rye sandwiches, Caesar salad, potato salad, dill pickles and dessert. Board games and cards will be available after lunch, for any who would like to socialize some more. Bring a friend – lunch is free for first time guests!

Social Justice ...

A big "**THANK YOU**" to all soup contributors, all helpers and all donators who helped make Soup Sunday a HUGE SUCCESS. We are so pleased with the overwhelming generosity of time and effort.

THIS WEEKEND IS SOLIDARITY SUNDAY: We would remind you to consider donating to Development and Peace to help the poor and oppressed in the Global South. Donation envelopes are available in the pews, at the entrances to the Church and on the table by the Social Justice Committee bulletin board. Thank you for your generosity.

The **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (SJC)** is an umbrella group composed of representatives of all Parish Ministries and Committees who try to address poverty and injustice locally and abroad through material and financial collections in the Parish. Over the 7 years since its formation, the SJC has included, Care for Creation, Club 55+, the Debra Dynes Family House Partnership, Development and Peace, Elimu, Food Drives, Indigenous Initiatives, Pro-Life, Recycle eyeglasses, and St Vincent de Paul. We are always interested in new social justice projects, so if you have ideas, please contact us at mikej.brady@sympatico.ca

Information from the Diocese...



DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: For those celebrating 60 (or more), 50, 40, 30, 25 and 20 years of marriage. At Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on **SUNDAY, APRIL 14 at 2:30 pm.** The registration form is available at <https://forms.office.com/r/jpBDLwD0Kg>.

Please **register before Easter** to ensure your spot (note the earlier date).

COLLECTION REPORT

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

YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS: Our Parish is operated only by your donations! By bringing your offertory envelopes or making your pre-authorized offertory gift (PAP), you are providing crucial support to care for your parish. May God bless you!!

There are several methods to support the Parish:

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

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS (PAP)

Did you know ... Once-a-month Pre-Authorized Payments (PAP) is the same as a cash or cheque offering for the collection basket! It helps us by providing a regular, dependable flow of contributions.

PLEASE 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.

EASTER TRIDUUM

Our three most holy days:

****HOLY THURSDAY – 28 March at 8:00 p.m.** – Mass of the Lord's Supper with the washing of feet.

****GOOD FRIDAY – 29 March** – Children's Service at 10 a.m.; **Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 p.m.** A Universal Day of fasting and abstinence. The collection is taken for the Holy Land.

NOTE: STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:30 p.m.

****HOLY SATURDAY – Easter Vigil Mass – 30 March at 8:00 p.m.** – A candlelight beginning, listening to the story of salvation history, culminating in the Easter story.



BRING BELLS to ring out our joy during the Gloria. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES – 31 March – 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

****NOTE: Incense will be used at these liturgies.**

DON'T FORGET to visit our parish website at www.holycrossparish.com.