

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023

Tuesday, March 7 Einar & Nola Nielsen Mass
7:00pm

Wednesday, March 8, Int. Dian Smith 9:00am

Thursday March 9, Lori Jean 9:00am

Friday March 10, Theresa J. 9:00am

**Saturday March 11, Brian Nielsen, Kelly
Bennett, Meghan & Bhava Adlaka, Daniel
Pace, and Helen Moczulski**

Sunday March 12;

9:30 am **Our Faith Community**

11:30 am **Fernando Costa**

SANCTUARY LAMP

Requests accepted by placing an envelope with the name of your loved one, your contact information and \$10 in the collection basket.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

**Exodu 17.3-7, Romans 5.1-2, 5-8, John
4.5-15, 19-26, 39a, 40-42**

THE SEASON OF LENT HOW TO DONATE TO

DONATE

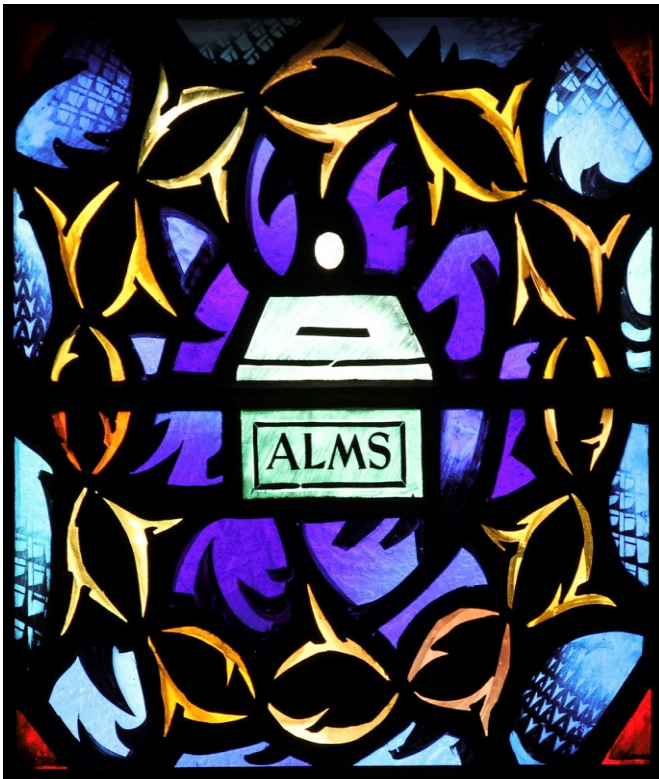
ST. BASIL'S

The Diocese of Hamilton has helped all their Parishes set up a giving page whereby parishioners can support their Church during this difficult time.

The link for this giving page is on the first page of our website. You can visit our website www.stbasilparish.ca. and just hit the red donate button on the home page and it will take you to the Canada Helps secure donation. Just complete the St Basil's Parish Donation form and you are finished. Thank you for your support!

EVENINGS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY-

Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for "Evenings with His Excellency". An opportunity to learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the second Friday of each month 7 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Ann Church, Ancaster. No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith, all are welcome!



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023



PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

In your charity, please remember in your prayers all those who have died, especially Leone Moniz may they rest in the peace of Christ and rejoice in the glory of heaven.

Weekly Collections

February 25/26, 2023

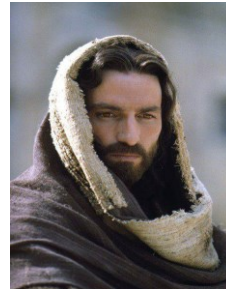
Envelopes:	2477.35
Loose:	639.35
Maintenance:	15.00
Other Fund	10.00

Total	\$3,141.70
-------	------------



You're invited to "Lift Jesus Higher" Rally, happening Saturday March 4th! A great experience for both adults and youth! More info: <https://www.ljhr.ca/>

EASTER FOOD DRIVE **Saturday April 1st**



Dear Parishioners, please mark your calendars to give for the St. Basil's, Knights of Columbus Upcoming food drive at St. Basil's Church!



There will be a CWL meeting in the parish hall on Tuesday February 28 at 7:30pm. Elections will take place at the

meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the executive positions or would like to nominate some one please contact

Sheila Roberstson at

robertsongscn@rogers.com or

Leeanne Vreugdenhil at

leeannemcphie@hotmail.com



TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

On February 6th, parts of Turkey and Syria experienced a devastating earthquake. It is estimated that over

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023

46, 000 people have lost their lives and 40,900 reported injured. The earthquake has left both countries in a state of crisis that is made worse by exposure to aftershocks and winter storms. Those wishing to support the relief effort are encouraged to contribute to one of the following Catholic entities currently mounting humanitarian responses on the ground. CNEWA Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) has been a lifeline for the poor throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe for 90 years. They are currently serving 2,000 families specifically in Syria seeking emergency shelter.

<https://cnewa.org/ca/work/emergency-syria/> Caritas International The International Caritas team is rallying to support Caritas Turkey whose facilities, staff and volunteers have all been impacted by the earthquake. Caritas Turkey has begun working with local authorities to raise shelters, medical supplies and communication pathways between survivors and support services. <https://www.caritas.org/>. Catholic Relief Services: CRS is partnering with Caritas Turkey, Caritas Syria and Caritas Anatolia, all hardest hit by the earthquake. https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes?ms=agicrs2023eqk00her00&_ga=2.58454440.387174977.1675953053-1953421407.1675953052 ACN Aid to the Church in Need, like CNEWA is serving impacted Christian communities specifically in Syria: <https://acn->

canada.square.site/ A special collection will be taken up this weekend and envelopes will be provided from the Diocese for you to donate over the coming weeks. Let us continue to pray for the suffering communities in Turkey and Syria and to commend the dead to God's mercy. Bless you.

THE SEASON OF LENT

By Fr. Kevin D'Souza

Stations of the Cross: After 7 pm Mass every Tuesday evening throughout the Lenten Season.

Sacrament of

Reconciliation: Throughout the Lenten Season, kindly approach Father after Stations of the Cross on Tuesday evenings or Saturday: 4 to 4:45 pm and immediately following the 5 pm Mass until everyone's confession has been heard.

Everyone is welcome!

Lent has two major purposes: It helps catechumens prepare for celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil and it invites those who are already baptized through penance and prayer to prepare to renew their promise of baptismal faith at Easter. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer and penance believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

The highest point of the Church's year

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023

of prayer is the Sacred Paschal Triduum celebrating the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. We prepare for this three day period during the Season of Lent and prolong it for the great 50 days of the Easter Season.

May you have a fruitful and grace filled Lenten Season.

PENANCE: During Lent, penance is an important requirement of the Christian life. Fulfillment of this duty involves prayer, works of piety and charity, and self-denial by fulfilling one's obligations more faithfully and especially by observing the prescribed fast and abstinence.

ASH WEDNESDAY and **GOOD FRIDAY** in the Roman Rite, are days of **FASTING*** and of **ABSTINENCE*** from meat. And I encourage you to do such special penance on these days.

*The law of "abstinence from meat" binds those who are 14 and older; the law of "fasting" binds those from 18 to 59 years of age.

All Fridays (throughout the year) are days of abstinence from meat as well, but Catholics may substitute special acts of charity or piety on these days. (However, there is absolutely NO such substitution on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday)

ENVELOPES FOR 2023

Envelope boxes for 2023 are available in the Church Hall, if your name or address

is incorrect, please notify the office. Also, if you don't have envelopes and wish to begin using them, please fill out your name and address on the clip board at the back of the Church or contact the office and a box will be prepared for you. **When you begin using your 2023 envelopes, please put your name and address on the first few envelopes.** Please consider switching to "**Pre-Authorized Debit**"- less paperwork; less work for our counters; more security for our Parish! Forms can be picked up at the office or found on our website.

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER

for Lent 2023

Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey

Dear brothers and sisters!
The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected

his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023

firmly rebuked him: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!” (*Mt* 16:23). Following this, “six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain” (*Mt* 17:1).

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend “a high mountain” in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – *ascesis* – as God’s holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need

to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience. In his “retreat” on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus.

Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is “synodal”, since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus “was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light” (*Mt* 17:2). This is the “summit”, the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in

the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God’s will and our mission in the service of his kingdom. The disciples’ experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. *Mt* 17:3).

The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God’s history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church’s tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation. The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two “paths” to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal. The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: “Listen to him” (*Mt* 17:5). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023

of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (*Mt 17:6-8*). Here is the second proposal for this Lent:

do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus

to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid". Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul.