

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:** The theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God, given to us sinners through Jesus, His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion and remind us of the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ. The Scripture lessons: In the first reading, we learn the compassion and patience of God. God allowed Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy and salvation to His chosen people who were in exile in Babylon. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus. Today's Gospel has a parallel theme, but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, became the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Jesus explains to Nicodemus God's plan of salvation by referring to the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Nm 21:1-9). Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite through the bronze serpent, He is going to save mankind from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus because the love of God for mankind is that great. Life messages: 1) We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love: the crucifix invites us to more than generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image and carry our own daily cross with joy, while helping other to carry their heavier crosses. 2) We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving and merciful. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others during Lent.

<b>MASS SCHEDULE MARCH 10 - 18, 2018</b>		
Saturday, March 10	5:15 p.m.	Our Parishioners
Sunday, March 11	8:30 a.m.	Bill and Marguerite Clifford
	10:00 a.m.	Rita Riley
Tuesday, March 13	6:30 p.m.	Deceased members of the Keith family
Wednesday, March 14	9:00 a.m.	Unannounced Mass
Thursday, March 15	9:00 a.m.	Deceased members of the Prayer Group
Friday, March 16	9:00 a.m.	Unannounced Mass
Saturday, March 17	5:15 p.m.	Our Parishioners
Sunday, March 18	8:30 a.m.	Tom Barr
	10:00 a.m.	Barb and D'Arcy Nolan
<b>The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for: <i>Michael Ginis</i></b>		

Weekly Target: \$3500.00	Actual Offering – March 4: \$3658.35	Operating Surplus: \$ 158.35
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**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Remember in your prayers: Reggie Bernardo, Armand L'Anglais, Fr. Martin, Hilda Armstrong, Gerard Parker, Valerie Cooper, Mary Lambert, Denis & Norma Savage, Dorothy Meaney, Stella Alberry, Heidi Reid, Gerald & Irene Moriarty, Bibin John, Leone McIntyre, Justin Lefave, Ann Ruigrok, Maurice Belec, Margaret Smith, Grant Marshall, Margrite Dezainde, Gerry Hermer and John Beriau.

**LENTEN PENANCE CELEBRATIONS:**

All celebrations start at 3:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, March 11                      St. Mark's, Prescott  
 Sunday, March 18                      St. Francis Xavier, Brockville  
 Sunday, March 18                      St. Mary, Morrisburg  
 Sunday, March 25                      Holy Cross, Kemptville

**RCIA:** Please pray for our Catechumens Ella Walker and Jessie Franklin and our Candidate, Darren Stadig, their families and sponsors at this time as they prepare to be received fully in the Catholic Church

**LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOCIAL AT**

**SJB:** During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross before every Daily Mass. **Every Friday at 12:10 p.m.**, there will be Stations of the Cross followed by a Lenten Social. Please see the sign-up sheets in the atrium. Contact Margaret Cameron at 613-498-1702.

**ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH MISSION**

**“RENEWING THE JOY OF LIVING IN CHRIST”**

**March 19, 20 & 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

*Retreat Master: Fr. Abraham Orapankal is the pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Califon, NJ, and Theological Consultant to the Office of Family Life in the Diocese of Metuchen. He has served as National Presenter and Retreat Director for RENEW International for six years. Ordained in 1983, he has a Masters in Theology and a Ph.D. from Fordham University, NY. He has served as a professor of Theology and spiritual director for seminarians at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and a High School principal and Pastor in Nagaland. Fr. Abraham is a joyful person who is known for both his deep spirituality and pastoral compassion.*

**“God sent his only-begotten Son so that the world might be saved through him.” – John 3.14-21**

## MARCH 11, 2018

MINISTRY SCHEDULES				
MASS TIMES	HOSPITALITY	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, March 17 5:15 p.m.	Josie Bracamonte Anne Peace	Clancy and Sarah McDonald	Deacon Shawn Souder Paul and Cynthia Mantha Sylvia Shackles	Samantha Glashan Allie White Grace Kelly
Sunday, March 18 8:30 a.m.	Heather Charbonneau Donna Brewer	Theresa Iddon Marc Dennis	Deacon Shawn Souder Judith Hart Susan Visneski Phyllis Dennis	Grace Whiteland Evan Duffy
Sunday, March 18 10:00 a.m.	Donna Cody Carmen Hampel	Mark Grant Robin Reil	Deacon Shawn Souder Doug Roughton Mary Gilliard Peter Verhoeven	Christopher Logstrup Joshua O'Keefe

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday, March 13	1:30 p.m.	Bible Reflection Group
	7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus
Wednesday, March 14	9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 p.m.	Brockville Catholic Men's Group
Thursday, March 15	9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Prayer Group in the Chapel
Friday, March 16	12:10 p.m.	Stations of the Cross followed by Soup
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Movie Night
Monday, March 19 Wednesday, March 21	6:30 p.m.	PARISH MISSION

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:** This year, Development and Peace is making its focus on peace and dialogue with people around the world. In a world where a multitude of cultures, religions, and beliefs co-exist, one of the first requirements for peace is to look within ourselves in order to speak with kindness and establish a sincere and genuine dialogue with "the other." This year, and in the future, let us make a commitment to be artisans of peace, engaging in an approach based on openness and respect. Let us meet each other half way and establish a dialogue. The collection this year will take place on **March 18**.

**PARISH MOVIE NIGHT:** Our next parish movie night is on **Friday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.** and we will be showing a "Travelogue of the Holy Land".

**RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST:** The faithful may receive the Eucharist in both Species at all Masses next weekend – March 17-18.

**THURSDAY LENTEN FAITH FORMATION:** This is a five week study about the biblical roots of the Mass so we may appreciate the splendor of the sacred liturgy and prepare to encounter Jesus at every Mass on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.**

**Thurs, Mar 15 Liturgy of the Eucharist Part 1**  
**Thurs, Mar 22 Liturgy of the Eucharist Part 2 and Concluding Rites**

Each week there will be a 30 minute presentation followed by discussion. Please bring your Bible!

**ST. PATRICK DINNER / ENTERTAINMENT: Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark Parish Centre, Prescott.** Doors open at 4:30 p.m., Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Celtic style entertainment to follow. Adults: \$15.00; Children under 12: \$6.00; under 5 - Free. Limited number of tickets available. **NOTE: Tickets available by advance sale only.** Please note that alcohol will not be available. Tickets may be purchased by calling **Klaas deVries at 613-925-2207.**

**ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISM MASS:** Archbishop O'Brien and the clergy of the Archdiocese will celebrate the Chrism Mass at **St. Mary's Cathedral, on Tuesday, 27 March 2018 at 7:30 p.m.** This Mass is a manifestation of the communion of the clergy with their Archbishop; and, at this celebration, all priests and deacons will renew their ordination promises. Everyone is called to pray for our clergy that they may remain faithful ministers of Christ. In addition, at this Mass, the oils used for the Sacramental life of the Church will be blessed by Archbishop O'Brien and distributed to each Parish and Institution in our Archdiocese. A reception will follow at École Cathédrale. All are invited to participate in this special celebration.

**GIVE UP OF THE WEEK FOR LENT: TV** one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time!

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