



Building Bridges

During Lent, we are encouraged to change our ways and grow closer to God, to work towards “a clean heart” and “a new and right spirit.” Here is a story of two brothers.

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labour and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbour. In fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us, he took his bulldozer to the river levee, and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence - an 8-foot fence - so I won't need to see his place anymore. Cool him down anyhow."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day.

The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge - a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all; and the neighbour, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done." The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand.

They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

Author Unknown

Every day we are faced with choices of building fences or bridges. One leads to isolation and the other to openness. Let's prayerfully attempt to build more bridges this Lent.

Lent is a time to being open to the ways in which God can bring us salvation. It is a grace given opportunity to immerse ourselves in the collective pain of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We cannot escape the suffering, poverty and trouble that surrounds us. We see it in infants deprived of the innocence of childhood and in young people who are feeling rejected and worthless. Parents struggling to raise their families and make ends meet are as desperate as seniors now feeling alone and isolated.

The gospel points out that God is present in people's agony as much as he is in their ecstasy. He is there in the unseen, behind the ordinary appearances of people and places. If we look closely enough we can discover that God's presence is waiting to be revealed in the hidden depth and ordinary events of our day, in the face of the suffering and in the compassion of caring friends. We need only to open our eyes to witness these daily happenings.



Mass Intentions

Monday	Intentions of Susan Hannan
Tuesday	Soul of Denny McCusker
Wednesday	Soul of Eugene Pereira
Thursday	Departed Souls
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250

Antoinette



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us in praying the Stations of Cross each Friday evening during Lent at **7:30 p.m.** in the church. All are welcome.



**MARTYRS' SHRINE LENTEN
RETREAT**

**Journey with the Canadian Martyrs'
St. Luke's Parish**

April 9, 10 and 11th
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Fr. Ahil Raj

Let the lives of the Martyrs' deepen your relationship with Christ as we journey with them during this Lenten season.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

See the bulletin board for more information.

(Light refreshments will follow in the parish hall)

Share...Life!

2019 PARISH GOAL - \$147,000

Living the Gospel by helping young mothers

Anika became a mother at the age of 19. Soon after, her finance became increasingly controlling. Feeling isolated, she reached out to a ShareLife Agency called Rose of Sharon. She and her son attended almost every program offered, including one called Healthy Relationships. Anika realized she did not have to tolerate her partner's behavior. Rose of Sharon helped her find an affordable apartment so she and her son could move out. "I never thought I could make it on my own," says Anika, "but with the help of Rose of Sharon, here I am doing it."

March 31st is ShareLife Sunday
Please give generously

**SHARELIFE - PRE-AUTHORIZED
GIVING (PAG)**

Pre-Authorized Giving is now available for ShareLife donations. Please contact the parish office for ShareLife - PAG information.

For the 2019 campaign, cheques made out to St. Luke's Parish-ShareLife can be post-dated until July 31, 2019. Online donations can be made at www.sharelife.org and please remember to select St. Luke's Parish, Thornhill to credit our parish with your donation.



**St. Vincent de Paul
EASTER FOOD DRIVE
March 30-31 and April 6-7**

"When I was hungry you gave me to eat, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink....." (Matthew 25:35).

You can help feed the hungry by bringing non-perishable food (canned foods, cereals, pasta, rice, baby food, etc.) to the church the weekends of **March 30/31st or April 6/7th.**

Your donations will be sent to the Georgina food bank. Every month, they distribute around 300 hampers of food, helping an average of 800 people.
THANK YOU!!!



**THORNHILL MINISTERIAL
LENTEN SERIES 2019**

Answering God's Call: to Love

Sunday March 17th at 4:00 p.m.

Thornhill Lutheran Church,
149 Bay Thorn Drive
Speaker: The Rev. Henry Poutiainen,
(Offering to: Evergreen Hospice)



LENTEN CONFESSIONS

**Wednesday, April 3rd
6:30 - 7:30 pm**