



It is difficult for us to imagine what it is like to be blind and to live in an isolated world of overpowering darkness. This gospel story featuring a blind man who has been doomed to darkness since the day of his birth is one of the most spectacular miracles of its kind in the New Testament. We don't even know the blind man's name but until his encounter with Jesus he was reduced to a monotonous life of poverty. Sitting daily in the same spot he pleaded for alms and stretched out his hand for bread whenever the sound of passing footsteps reached his ears. Healed of his physical blindness, the man's mind and heart were gradually opened to the power of God at work in his life. Spiritual blindness is common and there are none so blind as those who do not wish to see. Darkness is around us and within us when the window of our soul is closed to the needs of others or when our vision is limited by jealousy, clouded by hatred and distorted by political, religious or racial bigotry.

There are a large number of charitable works that can be carried out within our immediate reach; feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and caring for the sick. Let us rise up, overcome our spiritual blindness, and live in the light of Christ.



### Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of <b>Jerry Ambrozic</b>
Tuesday	Soul of <b>Steven Huta</b> Soul of <b>Americo Gorizzan</b> Soul of <b>Antonio &amp; Ines Gorrizan</b> Soul of <b>Victoriano Lecaros</b>
Wednesday	Soul of <b>Margaret Nosworthy</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Alcides Batista</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>Maria Carvalho</b>

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE**  
905 881-2786 ext. 250

## Lent - Scrutinies

As the Church celebrates Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, the Catechumens in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) begin the Purification and Enlightenment period, which starts on the first Sunday of Lent and ends at the Easter vigil. This is a special time for the "Elect" (catechumens become "elect" after the Rite of Election celebrated the first Sunday of Lent before the Bishop). It is a time for prayer and inner reflection; a time for a closer look on priorities in life; a time for transformation; a time for conversion of the heart. It is a time for laying a strong foundation rooted in the life and love of Jesus in anticipation of the reception of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. During this period, the focus becomes not so much on teaching as to more on reflection and meditation as they encounter Jesus in the scripture readings celebrated during the three weeks of the Scrutinies.

What are the Scrutinies? A quote, from the RCIA book, best define the meaning of the Scrutinies. The Scrutinies are mainly for the "Elect". But the faithful are encouraged to join in the Scrutinies to also benefit from them. We are all in need of conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the "Elect" in scrutinizing our lives and pray for the grace to overcome the power of sin that infects our hearts. The Scrutinies are not something new in the life of the Church. They have a long history, which began, in the early Church. The Scrutinies, which are celebrated on Sundays with the participation of the church community, are rites of self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, and heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. They are celebrated in order to help the Elect against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ. These rites, therefore, complete the conversion of the Elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.

The "scrutinizing" of their (the Elect) lives takes place outside the ritual. They have the opportunity to take a long look at their lives with the view of Jesus' teachings and example and examine their behaviors and habits. It is a time for deep reflection on the meaning of life and what is truly important, a time to be open to conversion and a change of heart that brings closer to Jesus. The themes of the scripture readings used for the Scrutinies are integrated into the scrutiny prayers and play an important role.

.....continued next week

*Antoinette*

# PARISH NEWS



## 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



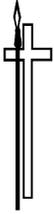
*Answering God’s Call: to Justice*

**Sunday March 31st at 4:00 p.m.**

Holy Trinity Anglican Church  
140 Brooke Street

Speaker: Natalie Doucet  
(Offering to: Evergreen Hospice)

## 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 11<sup>th</sup>

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)



## LENTEN CONFESSIONS

**Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**6:30 - 7:30 pm**

## 

*Helping the whole community  
through Catholic agencies*

### **ShareLife Sunday**

**2019 PARISH GOAL - \$147,000**

*Living the Gospel locally and around the world*

“It is important that we continue to support the ShareLife appeal to provide for the needs of the marginalized both here in our communities and around the world. Sometimes the results are obvious and sometimes they’re invisible, but always they make a tangible difference in the lives of the people we are helping.

Please prayerfully consider how you can be supportive today on ShareLife Sunday.” Cardinal Thomas Collins

**Please give generously**

## **BABY CLOTHES NEEDED**

A family is in need of gently used baby clothes – sizes newborn and up. The baby is due in early June.

Please drop donations off in the hall with a note indicating they are baby clothes.

If you have any questions please call Natalie at ext 235