

Living the Gospel



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St. Luke's Parish

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LENT

The Gospel today is from Saint John: the story of the man blind from birth who is given sight by Jesus. The challenge, as so often in the Gospel of John, is that Jesus performs healings on the Sabbath, the day on which no one is supposed to work. First of all, people think that someone blind from birth had to be involved in sin, either the parents or the person himself. Jesus is clear that this is not the case. Then the Pharisees enter into the picture and get upset with Jesus for this healing on the Sabbath. No one wants to cross the religious authorities!

The focal point of the Gospel, however, is when Jesus says to the formerly blind man: "You have seen the Son of Man, the one speaking with you is he." This is the same point from last Sunday when Jesus told the woman at the well: "I am the Messiah, the one speaking to you."

At some point, each of us must come to believe that Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus is the Son of Man. Only then will we see that, like David, we are chosen. Only then can we see what is really pleasing to God. And only then will we see.



Mass Intentions

- Monday Soul of Janina Gendecki
For the Intention of **Archbishop Prendergast**
- Tuesday Soul of **Carlos Dela Rama, Carina Drillon, Elda Walton and Arturo Suero**
- Wednesday Soul of **Dennis So Chan**
- Thursday Soul of **Cecila & Agripino Manalo**
- Friday Soul of **John Frederick Jack Wilson**

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250

THE MIDPOINT OF LENT

What if I'm at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on? Can a six-week journey be completed in the remaining next two or three weeks - waiting for my heart to be open? Of course, the answer is "yes." It doesn't take long for God, when we are ready.

The first step to beginning again has already begun if I have the desire for something real during Lent. A therapist once said that "we get better when we get tired of not being better." What we need is a real desire - a real sense of expectation that God has something for me to hear, to learn, to change, and I want to be ready to listen.

This desire can co-exist with fear, with resistance, with bad habits that have been obstacles in the past. God doesn't need much of an opening to begin to free us and show us a transforming love. A little desire is enough to shape deeper desires so we can start by naming some specific desires.

For some of us, it is obvious. There is a big, glaring self-defeating pattern staring us in the face. Often though it takes a little reflection to see what is getting in the way of my being a follower of Jesus.

After some reflection, I might admit that there is a streak of impatience that keeps putting me at odds with people. Maybe I am obsessed with how I look - how others see me - and my choices each day are guided by what others think. I might know that I'm compensating for some emptiness by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction – over-eating, over-watching or escaping in sexual fantasy.

Perhaps I know that conflicts with my spouse are getting to a bad place, or that I really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor. After some reflection, I may just realize I'm not very grateful.

Lent begins when I can say "Help me Lord!" Now I can turn to the Lord, with some real, concrete desires. Now I can practice waking up each morning and naming a desire - while eating breakfast or getting dressed: "Lord, it feels so good to be honest with myself before you. Let me know your presence today. Help me face the challenges that will be there today. Give me some more freedom to make different choices, and act on the graces you are giving me, to refrain from escaping, but rather to give myself to loving, as you have loved me." Imagine how such short prayers could shape our day! With these desires to let God's grace transform me, then I can pause before going to bed each night and look back through the day to thank God for the places I felt God's presence and help.

Creighton Online Ministries

March 11, 2018



St. Luke's Parish will be celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation on **Wednesday, March 14th at 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**



THORNHILL MINISTERIAL **LENTEN SERIES 2018**

The Thornhill Ministerial is marking **50 years** of Ecumenical Lenten Services. This year the theme is **Celebrating our Common Faith:**

Sunday March 11 at 4:00 p.m.

I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church

Thornhill Presbyterian Church
271 Centre Street
(Offering to Evergreen Hospice)

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

*of dessert or other finger food for
the reception after the Lenten Series at
St. Luke's on Sunday March 18 at 4:00 p.m.*

If you have **any questions** please call Natalie at 905-881-2786 ext 235

EDGE CAMP 2018 REGISTRATIONS **NOW OPEN**

Edge Camp 2018 registrations are now open for **students in grades 5-8**. Edge Camp is an overnight camp held at **Camp White Pine in Halliburton, Ontario from August 18-22, 2018**.

The cost is **\$400** if your child is registered by April 15th. The cost will increase to **\$450** after April 15th.

For more information and registration please pick up an Edge Camp form at the back of the church. You can also contact Greg Garda with any questions at SaintLukesYM@Gmail.com **OR** 905-881-2786 ex.232.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to join in praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at **7:30 p.m.** in the church. All are invited to come and spend one hour in prayer.



St. Vincent de Paul **EASTER FOOD DRIVE** **March 17-18**

“When I was hungry you gave me food to eat, when I was thirsty you gave me water 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 next weekend March 17/18. 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!!!

Share...Life!

A New Start for Brittany and Her Young Family

“I first came to Rose of Sharon as a pregnant 17 year old mom thinking this would never happen to me,” explains Brittany, now with her five year old son Ethan and one year old daughter Sarah, “I was the only pregnant girl in my high school, so needless to say, there wasn't much acceptance or peer support.” Brittany and her children's father Jarrod soon discovered that their parental support for their new situation was limited. Jarrod enrolled in university at Waterloo and Brittany and Ethan eventually joined him. This was after Brittany came to the Rose of Sharon to enroll in the mother baby programs designed to assist her and her new family to get on their feet. Everything from diapers, food, clothing, cooking classes, completion of high school courses, Ontario Works applications, resume assistance and more was available to her. Within a year, she was able to use her new-found skills to adjust to her new life. With the help of Rose of Sharon, she has become a patient and understanding mother, capable of dealing with a lot of life's trials and her growing family. Together, Jarrod and Brittany thank ShareLife donors for their financial part in helping them deal with the challenges they have faced as they learn to enjoy life with their young family.

ShareLife Sunday is Sunday, March 18th

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