



Mass Intentions

Mar. 8 Saturday - Saint John of God

5:00 For All the Deceased of the Parish
For the Needs of All Parishioners

Mar. 9 Sunday - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9:00 Domenico Cameli – by moglie Angelina
Gerardina Annichiarico – by Mary Mauriello
Maria Vaccaro/Frank Nero – by Florence Nero
Efisia Orsini – by Joe & Maria Orsini
Rosina & Pasquale Costantino – by Maria/Frank
Caterina/Giovanni Sgarrella – by Maria/Frank

11:00 Ed Desson – by daughter Sandra
Giuseppe Polletta – by Angela/Tony Romano
John & Joseph Tirabasso – by T & N Mazzei
Deceased Merante family – by Merante family
Giovanni & Maria Bove & figli – by Emily Leo
Giaconda Merante – by Calabrese family

Mar. 10 Monday - N O M A S S

Mar. 11 Tuesday - Saint John Ogilvie

8:00 Antonio Elia – by Elia family

Mar. 12 Wednesday - Blessed Angela Salawa

8:00 Bartolo Escobar – by son Vicente

Mar. 13 Thursday - Saint Leander of Seville

8:00 Cosimo Girolamo – by son Rocco & family
Antonietta Fiello (Madonna Addolorata) –
by Olga Fiello

Mar. 14 Friday - Saint Maximilian

9:00 Michael Iorio – by family
Gildo Luvison – by friends & family
Anna Maria Hoa – by Duy Nguyen
Antonio Elia – by Valentino & Kathy Cintione

9:30 Stations of the Cross – Via Crucis

7:00pm Stations of the Cross – Via Crucis

Mar. 15 Saturday - Saint Louise de Marillac

5:00 Antonio Rizzo – by wife Maria & family

Mar. 16 Sunday – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9:00 Benedetto DiRienzo – by moglie Angelina
Nick & Rose Grosso – by Mary Mauriello
Maria Girolamo – by son Rocco & family
Luigino Maruca – by family
Francesco LaRosa – by moglie Carmela/family
In Onore della Madonna Addolorata – by
Maria DiRienzo

11:00 For All the Deceased of the Parish
For the Needs of All Parishioners

GOSPEL MESSAGE

“One shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God!” ... are the strongest words against the devil. True life, is not simply physical survival or accumulating material wealth, but a deeper connection with God. The “Word of God” is the divine truth, wisdom and guidance, that provides the soul with nourishment and direction. Faith, spiritual growth and connection with God are just as vital as the physical.

MESSAGGIO DEL VANGELO

“Non solo di pane vivrà l'uomo, ma di ogni parola che esce dalla bocca di Dio!” ... sono le parole più forti contro il diavolo. La vera vita non è semplicemente la sopravvivenza fisica o l'accumulo di ricchezza materiale, ma una connessione più profonda con Dio. La “Parola di Dio” è la verità divina, la saggezza e la guida, che fornisce all'anima nutrimento e direzione. La fede, la crescita spirituale e la connessione con Dio sono tanto vitali quanto quelle fisiche.

WEEKLY QUOTE

“...silence the sounds of arms,...overcome division,...tear down walls of division and dispel hatred...”

(Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbe 2024)

*Speaking kindly and truthfully
shows our faith and love for others!*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The primary purpose of Lent is spiritual preparation for the celebration recalling Jesus' death on Good Friday and his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to “repentance”. It is a type of conversion – the reordering of our priorities and the changing of our values, ideals and ambitions – through fasting, prayer and mortification.

Lenten observances are also intended to lead us to our annual solemn renewal of Baptismal vows on Holy Saturday. Through Baptism, we are called to live justly, to love God with all our being, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to build the kingdom of God by our acts of charity.

After his baptism Jesus spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him. Jesus resists.

Each temptation that Jesus faces offers insight into the spirituality we hope to develop as we keep the forty days of the Season of Lent. Jesus' rejection of the devil's temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Jesus rebukes the devil by his confidence in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start OUR journey through Lent, let us adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation.

LENTEN FRIDAYS – Days of Abstinence

In Canada, by decree of the Canadian Bishops, first preference is abstaining from meat but *“on Fridays it is permitted to substitute abstinence or fasting with other forms of penance, especially works of charity.”*(c.1253) The law of abstinence binds those who have attained their majority (age 18 ...until the beginning of their 60th year).

LENT 2025 – OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach another season of Lent, there is no question that our world faces many challenges. In our own country of Canada, there is high anxiety and uncertainty. It seems so easy to feel overwhelmed, however, we don't have to feel this way.

We are also in the midst of a Jubilee Year that focuses on the virtue of hope. I believe that this is precisely what we need at this moment in time. We need to be 'pilgrims of hope'.

In his letter of introduction to the Jubilee Year entitled "Hope Does Not Disappoint", Pope Francis states, "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring."

There are some pundits who say that the threats facing our nation are not all bad. They believe that there is also a positive side to what we are experiencing. It seems that people are coming together as we focus on what unites rather than divides. Relationships are being strengthened on many levels.

In a similar way, Lent is able to do the same for us, although not in a threatening way. As people of faith, we enter these forty days unified in our hope that, in the end, relationships will be strengthened. This happens when we focus on the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Lent promotes greater union with God, ourselves, and others. In Prayer, we focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We allow ourselves to be immersed in divine love. In Fasting, we discipline ourselves so that we can say no to self and yes to Christ. We grow in discernment and self-knowledge. In Almsgiving, we focus on others in a spirit of love and generosity. We use our time, talent, and treasure to assist those in need.

Ultimately, the forty days of Lent enkindle hope as we spiritually consider 'the good things to come'. Those good things are found in what we celebrate at the end of Lent: the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It is St. John who reminds us that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life". This is the mystery of salvation, and it provides the greatest hope in this life and in the life to come. We are loved, so we need not be afraid.

During these challenging times let us make this Lent a true 'pilgrimage of hope'. **Bishop Gerard Bergie, D.D.**

**PILGRIMS OF HOPE – JUBILEE 2025
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE SITES**

Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria -
St. Catharines

St. Vincent de Paul Church – Niagara-on-the-Lake
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Shrine–Welland, ON
Gethsamane Ministries – Wellandport, ON
Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre-Niagara Falls, ON

MESSAGES OF HOPE – SPEAKER SERIES

March 18th 2025 – Speaker: Nick Ali, Director of Evangelization
April 30th 2025 – Speaker: Fr. Peter Rowe, Pastor of

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Please visit the 'Around the Diocese' page of the diocesan website or Facebook page for more information.

RABBIT DINNER – March 27th 2025

Presented by Chef Mike & Co.

St. Ann Hall Hosts

MENU: *Antipasto – Polenta with Rabbit –
Roasted Rabbit with Vegetables & Potatoes
Salad / Fruit & Dessert Station - Coffee*

\$50/pp. – RESERVATIONS ONLY – Please Call:

John M: 905-374-1757 Moe V: 905-329-209

Monthly Pasta Dinner

This past Thursday we held our monthly Pasta Supper. Our deep gratitude goes out to Joe Covelli and his kitchen crew as well as all of the other Hall volunteers who selflessly show up every month to ensure the success of this event.

*We are grateful to Paul & Theresa Forte &
Ferruccio Forte for this month's sponsorship*

MONTHLY SPONSORSHIPS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

COFFEE SUNDAY – MARCH 15TH & 16TH

All parishioners and visitors are invited the weekend of **Saturday & Sunday – March 15th & 16th** for Coffee and Refreshments in the Parish Hall. This Coffee Weekend is being sponsored by **Gianpaolo, Christine & Marina** in loving memory of **Claudio Andreis**. Please join us after each Mass for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

ST. JOSEPH TABLE – March 16th

On Sunday, March 16th after the 9:00am Mass, Fr. Kessete will be blessing a Table dedicated to St. Joseph (Feast Day March 19th). Anyone wishing to bring in breads and/or baked goods to be blessed, for their own use, may do so by dropping them off in the Parish Hall prior to the 9:00am Sunday Mass. We are also accepting **DONATIONS** of baked goods from our many talented bakers, which we will be selling as a church fundraiser during **COFFEE SUNDAY**.

NIAGARA FOUNDATION for CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA -27th March 2025

CLUB ROMA – 6:00pm - \$100.pp

Email: linda.marconi@ncdsb.com

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK
& THE HOMEBOUND**

Ronald Bennett, Angelina Cameli, Rita Cameli,
Domenic Calabrese, Angelina DiRienzo,
Maria DiRienzo, Beatriz Disch,
George Ellis, Carmen Fabiani,
Sam Fiore, Jenny Green, Virginia McConnell
Agueda Maria Melo, Patricia Millington,
Vincenzina Pascuzzi,
Don Taddeo, Marianna Weber

If possible, please remember St. Ann Church when directing donations in making funeral arrangements for oneself or for a loved one. Your thoughtfulness and consideration during a difficult time is much appreciated.