

4th Sunday of Lent - Mar 14, 2021

ST. MARY PARISH MASSES

Tues. Mar 16 - 9:00 a.m. Braedon Coburn by Adell Mueller

Wed. Mar 17 - 9:00 a.m. Leo Cox Req'd by Jo-Anne & Frank Mc Kenna

Thur. Mar 18 - 9:00 a.m. Ted Lucas Req'd by Ron & Marian Flanigan

Fri. Mar 19 - 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Mass Betty Davidson Req'd by Joan Jeffery

Sat. Mar 20- 4:00 p.m. Dec'd members of the McCormick Req'd by Phyllis & Barry McCormick Families

Sun. Mar 21 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Mar 20- 4:00 p.m. Evelyn Collins
Sun. Mar 21 - 9:00 a.m. Maxine Schmidt

CONFESSION only by appointment, call Fr. Joe at : 519-323-1054 ext.7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Mar 20- 5:30 p.m. Kyle Req'd by Gerrit Jan Kempers

ST. PETER'S, Avton

Sun. Mar 21 - 11:00 a.m. Loretta & Jim Murray Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

The causes for the Israelites' captivity in Babylon are described.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137:1-2,3,4-5,6

A lament from exile for the loss of Jerusalem

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

In grace we have been saved, so that we may do the work of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John's observation that darkness is preferred

to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God's great mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

John's Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the Act of Contrition.

<https://www.loyolapress.com>

LENT

Every Friday in Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass at 7 p.m.
All are encouraged to participate.



'Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.' **Psalm 31:24**

Prayer: I need lots of strength today. Actually, most days! More strength please, Lord.

An attachment can empty you of both holy solitude and the spirit and joy of God.
-St. John of God.

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just. - Pope Francis

No one heals himself by wounding another.
-St. Ambrose

Mary's Meals - Children are...

A reflection for the 4th Sunday in Lent

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.

Mark 9:36-37

This week, our prayers turn to the children who receive Mary's Meals at school. Each one has their own unique story to tell.

Around the world, poverty and hunger prevent 59 million children from gaining an education. Sometimes, when we see a number this vast, the individual child can get lost in the enormity of the problem.

Making the shift from numbers to people allows us to move from what we know in our heads to what we feel in our hearts.

This change starts with resting on the realization that our heavenly Father knows each one of us by name. No one is too small, too far away, too isolated, or too hidden for His love to reach.

Together, let's pray for some of the individual children that receive Mary's Meals – each one with their own names, families, friends, and dreams.
<https://www.marysmeals.ca>

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Mon.-Rev.Msgr.I.Vuksic Tue.-Rev.J. Scherber,L.C.
Wed.- Lay Parish Ministrers
Thurs.- Rev. L. DeVaugelas, L.C.
Fri.-Rev.P.Caouette,L.C. Sat.-Rev.I.Tharayil,C.M.I.

God our Father,

you sent Saint Patrick to preach your glory to the people of Ireland.

By the help of his prayers,

may all Christians proclaim your love to all men.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Scriptural Way of the Cross
or Biblical Stations of the Cross
Introduced by Pope John Paul II



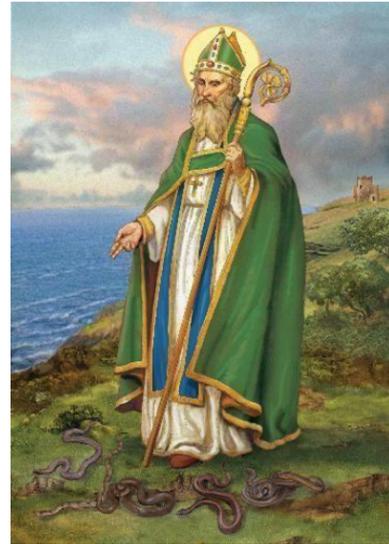
Before each station: Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because of your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

After each station: All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-41
2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested Mark 14:43-46
3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin Luke 22:66-71
4. Jesus is denied by St. Peter Matthew 26:69-75
5. Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate Mark 15:1-5, 15
6. Jesus is scourged at the pillar and crowned with thorns John 19:1-3
7. Jesus Bears the Cross John 19:6, 15-17
8. Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross Mark 15:21
9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem Luke 23:27-31
10. Jesus is crucified Luke 23:33-34
11. Jesus promises his kingdom to the good thief Luke 23:39-43
12. Jesus speaks to his mother and the beloved disciple John 19:25-27
13. Jesus dies on the cross Luke 23:44-46
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb Matthew 27:57-60

March 17- St. Patrick



I pray to God to give me perseverance and to deign that I be a faithful witness to him to the end of my life. -St. Patrick

Before the end of the 7th century, Patrick had become a legendary figure, and the legends have continued to grow. One of these would have it that he drove the snakes of Ireland into the sea to their destruction. Patrick himself wrote that he raised people from the dead, and a 12th-century hagiography places this number at 33 men, some of whom are said to have been deceased for many years. He also reportedly prayed for the provision of food for hungry sailors traveling by land through a desolate area, and a herd of swine miraculously appeared.

Another legend, probably the most popular, is that of the shamrock, which has him explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, three persons in one God, to an unbeliever by showing him the three-leaved plant with one stalk. Traditionally, Irishmen have worn shamrocks, the national flower of Ireland, in their lapels on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Don't think of the things you didn't get after praying. Think of the countless blessings God gave you without asking.

March 19- St. Joseph



An Ancient Prayer to Saint Joseph

O ST. JOSEPH, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage.

O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me.

From FAVORITE PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH, TAN BOOKS

Consecration to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. Amen.

Dear Jesus, we believe that You are here, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament: that You see us, that You hear us. We adore You with profound reverence. We beg pardon for our sins and the grace to make this time of prayer fruitful.

Prayer Before Adoration, Invoking St. Joseph

Dear Jesus, we believe that You are here, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament: that You see us, that You hear us. We adore You with profound reverence. We beg pardon for our sins and the grace to make this time of prayer fruitful.

Our Immaculate Mother, St. Joseph our Patron, our guardian angels, our patron saints, intercede for us during this time of prayer and adoration. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.