

3rd Sunday of Lent - Mar 7, 2021

ST. MARY PARISH MASSES

Tues. Mar 9 - 9:00 a.m. Leo Cox Req'd by Bill & Linda McKenna

Wed. Mar 10 - 9:00 a.m. Ted Lucas Req'd by Dan & Doris Tone

Thur. Mar 11 - 9:00 a.m. Marry Cunney Req'd by Kevin & Joyce Dinneen

Fri. Mar 12 - 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Mass Living & Dec'd members of Jack Hawkins family Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

Sat. Mar 13- 4:00 p.m. Terry Mc Cabe

Sun. Mar 14 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Mar 13- 4:00 p.m. Pauline Mills

Sun. Mar 14 - 9:00 a.m. Debra Ross

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Mar 13- 5:30 p.m. Kyle Req'd by Gerrit Jan Kempers

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar 14 - 11:00 a.m. Living & Dec'd members of Jack Hawkins family Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17 (or shorter form, *Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17*)

Moses is given the Ten Commandments.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8,9,10,11

A prayer of praise to God who gives us his commandments

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Paul preaches Christ crucified to the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-25

Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect upon our worship of God. For Jesus and his Jewish contemporaries, the Temple was an important, holy place where they gathered to worship God. The Christian understanding of worship was transformed in light of Jesus' Resurrection. In the Christian understanding, God is worshiped in a person, the person of Jesus Christ. As we read in today's Gospel, Jesus is himself the Temple that will be destroyed, but in three days God will raise him up again.

Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that he is God's presence with us. Thank God for Jesus' presence with us, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

<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.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Mon.- Rev. J.S.Selvanayagam Tue.- Rev. S. Gilbert

Wed.- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny (S.J.C.)

Thurs.- Rev. M. Puljic, O.F.M.

Fri.- Rev. R. Kavelj, O.F.M. Sat.- I. Petkovic



Mary's Meals - Perseverance is...

A reflection for the 3rd Sunday in Lent

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

This week, we pray for the dedicated local volunteers who make our work possible. They are strong, empowered, passionate and perseverant.

These incredible men and women walk for miles carrying heavy pails of water and sacks of food. They wake before dawn to stir giant pots of porridge or serve up thousands of plates of rice and beans.

For many, this sacrifice comes at the start of a long and tiring day spent digging fields or tending market stalls. But it is a sacrifice they are happy to make because they believe so passionately that the children in their community should have a daily meal in their place of education.

Together, let us walk humbly alongside the people who make these journeys on behalf of their children by joining one another in prayer.

www.marysmeals.ca

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.

- Pope Francis

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

1/ **GIVE UP SIN.** Show your love for God by keeping his commandments, especially by loving others as he has loved us. Turn away from sins, laziness in prayer, and unwillingness to do better.

2/ **FAST** – cut down on the amount and richness of food and drink. An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Give the money saved on food to others in alms.

3/ **PRAY** – Be in constant prayer. Pray in the morning, evening and mealtimes. Pray alone and share in the liturgy. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.

4/ **DO GOOD WORKS** – help those in need, pray for other people and be ready to serve them in their time of need; help Jesus by helping others.

5/ **GIVE ALMS** – Help the poor and support the good works of the Church. Give cheerfully to God, who has given us everything we have.

6/ **ABSTAIN** – Give up meat or other desirable foods during Lent, especially on Friday, the day of Christ's saving death on the cross.

7/ **DO MEDITATIVE READING** – Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day opens our hearts to the Spirit, and let's God's thoughts and ways influence ours.

8/ **CONTROL DESIRE FOR POSSESSIONS** – Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Cut down on material possessions, eliminate frills, lessen wants, share yourself—your time and your talents – with others.

9/ CONTROL DESIRE FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Too much entertainment – TV, movies, radio, spectator sports and other distractions—can lead to less or no time for the works of the Lord.

10/ **CARRY OUT DUTIES IN LIFE** – Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day. Be a good mother, father, teacher, worker, student, religious, minister, priest....God is calling each of us to be a living sacrifice. Offer your daily life through Christ!

<https://www.catholic.org>



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 2021

The Reel Justice Film Festival is back for another year! A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the *Reel Justice Film Festival* shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustice. Films are screened once a month and provide an opportunity for community discussion about ways we can all support actions for change. Details and the full schedule can be found at: reeljusticefilmfestival.wordpress.com. This year the festival is going virtual! All of the films will be available online. **Special family friendly screening March 25th 6:30pm – 8:00pm - *To the Arctic***, narrated by Oscar winner Meryl Streep. The film takes audiences into the lives of a mother polar bear and her twin seven-month-old cubs, as they navigate the changing Arctic wilderness they call home. RSVP online or by email at library@hamiltondiocese.com. Join the discussion!

Pornography: The Threat, Impact and Catholic Remedy - Pornography is one of the most important issues to understand in our world today. With the ease of its availability on the internet, it affects people of all ages and backgrounds, whether male or female. Pornography today is violent and degrading and often involves young people who have been sex-trafficked. **Join us on Zoom (by internet or phone) March 25th from 7-8:30pm** and hear more about the threat and impact of pornography on children and adults, how we can educate ourselves and our children to counter its negative influence and how our Catholic faith provides hope to those impacted. Presented by Mrs. Teresa Hartnett and Deacon Joseph Di Loreto. Registration is required but the session is free of charge. Register at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/pornography-help>.

Parenting Tip of the Month Tip : The amount of time spent together as a family during COVID might be considered by some to be too much, but it may also be filling a real need. Past research has shown that children consistently identify a desire to spend more time with their parents and family. Time for them means direct, active engagement. The long-term

benefits to family relationships are proven: children grow up healthier in mind, body and spirit. Enjoying quality time with their family's means children are more likely to turn to their family for love and support, keeping them healthy. So play with your kids, watch a movie together and discuss its message(s), pray together, be active together, cook together and/or clean together; the possibilities are endless. So remember, time with family is powerful when it is interactive, shared by all and fun!

Marriage Tip of the Month : At the heart of every relationship there needs to be a foundation of love and respect. When couples respect each other, including their differences, they continually build each other up and enjoy time together. When we respect the other in relationship, we can accept their desire to influence us with their understanding of what is true, good and beautiful. When we are open to our spouse's view of things, we not only grow, but we grow together. When we grow together, we cannot help but grow in love.

Diving Deeper into Fratelli Tutti - *Fratelli Tutti* is an Encyclical letter written by Pope Francis to "all people of good will." Let's dive a little deeper into its meaning and content over a five session series during Lent. Join us on Zoom for one or all of these 90-minute sessions: **Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29** (afternoon session 1:30-3:00pm or evening session 7:00-8:30pm) Registration is required. **No charge to participate.**

Anniversary Mass 2021 Registration - The Anniversary Mass scheduled for June of 2021 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We invite you to register your 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60 plus years of marriage on the Diocesan website at www.hamiltondiocese.com, simply click on the Anniversary Mass icon on the home page. We will send you the certificate you would have received from Bishop Crosby at the Mass. If you have questions contact familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

**We need to find God,
and
God cannot be found
in noise and restlessness.**

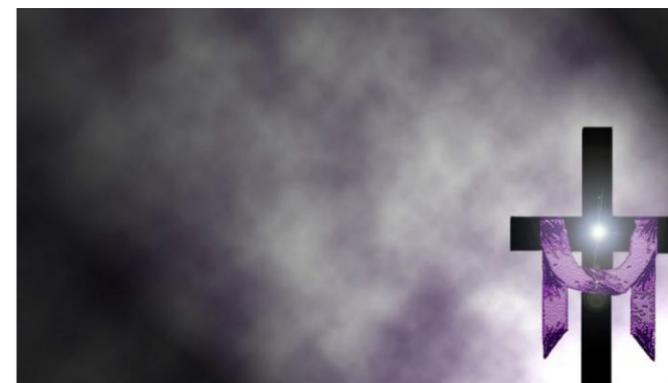
- St. Teresa of Calcutta

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



PRAYER

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.



A Lenten Prayer called the Passion

Dear Lord Jesus,
by Your Passion and Resurrection
You brought life to the world.
But the glory of the Resurrection
came only after the sufferings of the Passion.

You laid down Your life willingly
and gave up everything for us.
Your body was broken and fastened to a Cross,
Your clothing became the prize of soldiers,
your blood ebbed slowly but surely away,

and Your Mother was entrusted to the beloved disciple.

Stretched out on the Cross,
deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid,
You cried out to Your Father that the end had come.
You had accomplished the work given You,
and You committed into His hands,
as a perfect gift,
the little life that remained to You.

Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions
after the example You have given.
Let me place my death in Yours
and my weakness in Your abandonment,
Take hold of me with Your love,
that same foolish love that knew no limits,
and let me offer myself to the Father
with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life.

Country Prayer for Lent

Dear Lord, we are now in the holy season of Lent. We begin to realize anew that these are the days of salvation, these are the acceptable days. We know that we are all sinners. We know that in many things we have all offended Your infinite majesty. We know that sin destroys Your life in us as a drought withers the leaves and chokes the life from the land, leaving an arid, dusty desert. Help us now, Lord, in our feeble attempts to make up for past sin. Bless our efforts with the rich blessing of Your grace. Make us realize ever more our need of penance and of mortification. Help us to see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and temptations of every day, the best opportunity of making up for past infidelities. Every day we are so often reminded in field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your own boundless generosity to us. Help us to realize that You are never outdone in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and flowing over. Then we shall see, in our own souls, how the desert can blossom, and the dry and wasted land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected of it from the beginning. Amen.

<https://www.catholic.org>

**Give me a person of prayer, and such a one will be
capable of accomplishing anything.
_ St. Vincent de Paul**