

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Feb 27, 2022

### **ST. MARY PARISH**      **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tues. Mar 1 - 7:00 p.m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller  
Wed. Mar 2 - 9:00 a.m. Mary, Arthur & John McDonald Req'd by The Family  
Wed. Mar 2 - 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday  
Thur. Mar 3 - 9:00 a.m. Kay Lehman Req'd by Marcia Weiser  
Fri. Mar 4 - 9:00 a.m. Rosemary Thoms Req'd by Elaine & Dwight Rundle  
Fri. Mar 4 - 7:00 p.m. The Stations of the Cross  
Sat. Mar 5 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish  
Sun. Mar 6 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

### **LECTORS**

Sat. Mar 5 - 4:00 p.m. Maxine Schmidt  
Sun. Mar 6 - 9:00 a.m. Marian Flanigan

**CONFESSION** by appointment and every Friday of Lent 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., call Fr. Mike at: 519-323-1054 ext. 7

### **ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

Sat. Mar 5 - 5:30 p.m.- Good Health Req'd by a parishioner

### **ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

Sun. Mar 6 - 11:00 a.m. – Mary Rose & Ian Lennox Req'd by Lennox Family

### **Dear parishioners:**

Pope Francis has called a Synod of Bishops which will take place in Rome in 2023 on the theme of Synodality: Communion, Participation and Mission. Synodality is all about how we walk together in faith and live as the People of God at this moment on our faith journey. Synod Consulting Questionnaire:

#### **1. LISTENING**

**A.** How is God speaking to me? **B.** What helps or hinders my listening? **C.** How does the Church listen to my voice?

**2. SPEAKING OUT/ SHARING** **A.** What helps me to speak up openly in my parish? **B.** How does the Church dialogue with and learn from other sectors of society?

#### **3. MOVING FORWARD**

**A.** How can we as the People of God work together in communion and participate in the Church's life and mission?  
[Hamiltondiocese.com/synod/](http://Hamiltondiocese.com/synod/)

yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart. The final parable, which we do not read today, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive.

Jesus' parables in this week's Gospel are a reminder of the importance of continued learning, prayer and reflection, and humility in our discipleship. We shine God's light in the world when we are "lit from within" with God's grace, willing to examine our own conscience and recognize our own need for transformation through Jesus.



**First Reading:** *Joel 2:12-18*

Return to the Lord for he is merciful.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalms 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17*

Create a clean heart in us, O God, and be merciful.

**Second Reading:** *2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2*

Be reconciled to God; now is the day of salvation.

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

Jesus teaches that almsgiving, prayer, and fasting should be done in secret.

#### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. Each year, the readings for Ash Wednesday are the same. They call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them.

#### **Tax Receipts**

The 2021 Charitable Donation Tax Receipts that have not been picked up by February 20<sup>th</sup> will be mailed.

The meaning behind tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes (the liturgical sign of Ash Wednesday) is a summary of our Christian life. On one level, the ashes remind us of our origin and our death. (In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.") The ashes are also the sign of our victory: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. Our destiny as Christians is to receive the victory over death that Christ won for us. We acknowledge that victory when we "[t]urn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel," words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes.

Today's reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, Jesus warns his followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When Jesus' disciples give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. Although our Lectionary reading omits the Lord's Prayer, we can recall that Matthew presents that prayer as a model for the disciples' prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).

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### **The Pope's Intentions for March 2022**

#### **A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges**

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

**POPE FRANCIS HAS CALLED FOR MARCH 2ND, ASH WEDNESDAY**, to be *a day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine*. Because it is Ash Wednesday, we already follow the practice of prayer, fasting, and abstinence. So the Pope's call can be met with a strong response from Catholic's world-wide. Here in our Diocese, with churches able to welcome worshippers at full capacity for the first time in two years, we, and all people of good will, are encouraged to heed the Pope's call. If you are unable or reticent to return "in person", many Parishes will be "live-streaming" their services. As well, our Diocesan website has a pre-taped Liturgy of the Word for Ash Wednesday, with Bishop Wayne Lobsinger presiding at St. Ann Parish, Ancaster. Let us pray fervently for our suffering sisters and brothers in Ukraine.

**THE LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS** in the Diocese is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th. It will be a ZOOM gathering. Priests will receive a private link to the event on Tuesday (March 8th). The session will begin with prayer at 11:00 a.m.

**40 Days for Life** is a peaceful campaign that seeks to draw attention to the abortion issue by undertaking three distinct actions during the 40 days of the campaign: encouraging prayer and fasting in support of life, constant quiet and respectful prayer vigils outside of places that provide abortion, and education for community/family/friends on the issue. In Hamilton Diocese the 40 Days for Life campaign will run throughout Lent (March 2nd – April 10th), find in your area.

**OUR OWN DR. MOIRA MCQUEEN** has written a very informative book on the synodal experience in the Church. In *Walking Together-A Primer on the New Synodality*, Dr. McQueen explains the purpose and history of synods, the desire of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council regarding synods, and the commitment of Popes since the Council to the synodal process. She reflects on the 20 synods since the Council, Pope Francis' approach to synods, and his plan for the 2023 Synod. Moira shares her own experience as a participant at a recent Synod. The book is available through Novalis. Once read, you will want to participate in the preparation process for the upcoming synod which is being encouraged throughout the Diocese.

### **Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading:** Sirach 27:4-7

In his conversation is the test of the man.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 92: 2-3, 13-16

The just shall flourish like a palm tree.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 6:39-45

Each tree is known by its yield.

#### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The third and final section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain begins: And he told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read today. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of