

Do not worry about the things of this world, for our heavenly Father knows that we need all these things, but strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness. The Lord says, "I will not forget you".

ST. COLUMBAN

PARISH

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

Archbishops Letter for Lent 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

This Lent, which begins on March 1st, I invite you to join me in renewing our journey as Catholic Christians on the path to holiness.

Holiness means being perfect (mature or complete) like the heavenly Father, who gives generously to bad and good alike (Matthew 5.45-48). Holiness means being lovingly obedient like Jesus; it means to live, guided by the Holy Spirit.

St. Francis de Sales said the path to holiness is different according to one's state in life. It is exercised differently by the farmer, investment broker, scientist, by the minimum wage worker; by the politician and teacher; by those widowed, by young people, parents of young children and the clergy. The quest for holiness should be adapted to the strength, activities, and duties of each person.

The season of Lent traditionally offers three ways to draw near to God: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The best prayer is the Eucharist. We should strive to make Sunday Mass the centre of our life of faith. Weekday Mass or meditation on the daily Scripture readings helps this faith life to deepen. Devotions such as Eucharistic adoration where available, the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Stations of the Cross help us grow closer to the Lord and one another.

Fast and abstinence are an important aspect of a Catholic's devotional life. Catholics are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent and to fast (eat only one full meal) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This expresses our desire for personal renewal at the start of Lent (Ash Wednesday) and gratitude for the Lord Jesus' gift of His life for us (Fridays, especially Good Friday).

Other traditional acts of "giving up" sweets, alcohol, tobacco or other pleasures during Lent help individuals personalize their spirit of sacrifice—a desire to "turn from sin and believe the Good News".

Almsgiving flows from saving money by these sacrifices. We should care especially for the needy near and far, participating in our parish's social outreach and in the Lenten campaign for the poor of the world conducted by Development and Peace, founded fifty years ago by the Bishops of Canada to promote social justice in the Global South.

Finally, I commend to all the place of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our quest for holiness. Wise interpreters of the spiritual life know that the practice of confession is a help to all who wish to grow spiritually.

May the Lord bless all in the Diocese as we prepare to celebrate the Easter mystery "with the joy of minds made pure" (Lenten Preface 1).

Sincerely in Christ,



✠ Terrence Prendergast, S.J.
Apostolic Administrator

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

IN OUR PARISH

Saturday, February 25th **OUR LADY'S SATURDAY (OM)**

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions
5:30 p.m. Amelia & Percy Lalonde by Kim, Randy & Families

Sunday, February 26th **8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Parishioners
9:30 a.m. Jack Clancey by John & Janice Meyer & Family
11:00 a.m. Yvon David (5th Anniversary of Death) by Wife Rose & Children

Monday, February 27th

7:30 a.m. No Mass

Tuesday, February 28th

7:30 a.m. Gene Schweitzer by Helen Schweitzer

Wednesday, March 01st **ASH WEDNESDAY**

7:30 a.m. Eileen Mondoux by the Family
12:10 p.m. Duncan McLennan by Daughter Jean McLennan
5:15 p.m. Fr. Ed Bellefeuille by Florence Gravelle

Thursday, March 02nd

7:30 a.m. Norma Bergeron by Marion Tobin

Friday, March 03rd

7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joe Parisien by A Grateful Parishioner
8:00 a.m. Adoration

Saturday, March 04th **ST. CASIMIR (OM)**

7:00 – 7:25 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Francis & Grace Emeodi (63rd Wedding Anniv.) Members of Patron's Foundation
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions
5:30 p.m. Ernie Filion by Patricia Taillon

Sunday, March 05th **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Parishioners
9:30 a.m. James McLaverty by John & Janice Meyer & Family
11:00 a.m. Pauline Boileau (32nd Anniversary of Death) by Diane & Gilles Lafrance

Monday, March 06th

7:30 a.m. No Mass

TODAY'S READINGS – FEBRUARY 26TH

1st Reading: Isaiah 49.14-15
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4.1-5
Gospel: Matthew 6.24-34
Do not worry about your life or tomorrow.

2016 TAX RECEIPTS

Parishioners will be able to pick up their tax receipts for year ending 2016 for both Sunday Offerings and donations made to the Patrons of St. Columban Foundation before and after masses the weekend of Feb 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th. If you are unable to attend mass that weekend and have a friend or relative who will, perhaps you could ask them to also get yours as this will reduce the number to be mailed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL & PATRONS FOUNDATION

All parishioners are invited to attend the combined "Annual General Meeting" of the Finance Council and the Patrons of St. Columban Foundation which will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 8th @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the upper room of the sacristy. We hope to see you there.

BOOKTABLE NEWS

The *Magnificat LENTEN Companion* has arrived. By spending a few moments meditating on the inspiring daily reflections, you will discover all that is true, good, and beautiful about the Catholic Faith!
Book table special -(regular \$5.50 Cdn.) for only **\$3.00!**

A new item at the Catholic Bookstore is the **medal of Venerable Matt Talbot**, patron of those suffering from alcoholism. We will carry some on our parish book table also at the request of a priest who has experienced the power of Matt Talbot over the years. Do you know of someone who could use his intercession?

OUR SUGGESTION BOX

This is to inform new Church members and to remind regular ones that we have a suggestion box located on the right radiator at the back of the Church. All suggestions regarding the Church and parish are welcomed, and will be read and considered by Father Ernest. Paper and pencil are near the box. Please consider submitting your ideas and suggestions.

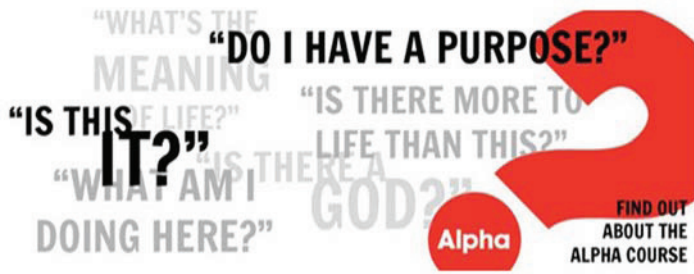
50 YEARS OF SHARE LENT

On Ash Wednesday, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada will launch its 50th annual Share Lent campaign, entitled Women at the Heart of Change. This year, the Share Lent collection will take place on April 2nd, which is Solidarity Sunday.

PRE LENTEN SUPPER

Sunday Feb 26, 5:00 pm in the Parish Activity Centre
Tickets sold in advance: Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00
Italian theme.
Signup sheets at entrances of church for anyone wishing to help by providing a dessert.

IN OUR **PARISH**



ALPHA IS COMING TO OUR PARISH

Come find out more about **ALPHA** & how you can be a part of it! **Tuesday, February 28th 7pm** - At **St Columban's Church** Please sign the list at the entrances of the Church if you are planning to attend. For more information please call 613-363-5331.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER
* BRING A FRIEND ***

Thank you to all those attending our monthly evening of Intercessory Prayer. Our next evening will take place on Thursday, March 2, 2016, 7pm in the Church. Bring a friend and your specific prayer intentions as we will also continue to pray for our Parish and our Diocese. Followed by refreshments and Social time. If anyone is interesting in sharing how God has worked in their life or if you would like more information, please call Janet Surgeson at 613-363-5331 or by email at janetsurgeson@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Lenten Food Drive

We again are providing our Lenten Calendar. As a recent scripture reading noted..."if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted your light will rise in the darkness, and your darkest hour will shine like noon." Your participation in our 'drive' offers a means to line these words and has the benefit of providing for the needy in our area through the coming year. Each week a specific food product is highlighted as one of our 'staples', though any and all food donated will be collected and is needed. As info, our 2016 Annual Report is provided on the reverse side of the calendar. Call Mary Winters 613-933-4050.

St. Columban Collection Report for February 12, 2017

Sunday Envelopes	2,832.25
Loose Collection	231.48
New Year's	80.00
Initial Offering	20.00
Flowers	20.00
Total	\$ 3,183.73

IN OUR **DIOCESE**

**Our Lady Queen of Peace of Medjugorje February 2, 2017
Message Given through Mirjana on the Day for Non-Believers**

"Dear children, you who are striving to offer every day of your life to my Son, you who are trying to live with Him, you who are praying and sacrificing - you are hope in this peaceless world. You are rays of the light of my Son, a living gospel, and you are my beloved apostles of love. My Son is with you. He is with those who think of Him - those who pray. But in the same way, He is patiently waiting for those who do not know Him. Therefore, you, apostles of my love, pray with the heart and with your works show the love of my Son. This is the only hope for you, and this is also the only way to eternal life. I, as a mother, I am here with you. Your prayers directed to me are the most beautiful roses of love for me. I cannot but be where I sense the scent of roses. There is hope. Thank you."

PRO-LIFE SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Pro Life Cornwall Pro-Vie invites everyone to the Annual Spaghetti Supper on Sunday March 12, 2017 at the Agora Centre. Meals served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The menu consists of regular and gluten free spaghetti, regular and vegetarian spaghetti sauce, caesar and tossed salads, and homemade desserts. Cost is \$8.00 per adult. Children under 12 are free. Come and join us for this family friendly meal. Anyone wishing to donate a dessert or volunteer please contact Joan at 613-931-2087 for further information. Take-out orders available.

BOOK CLUB / DISCUSSION

Language of the Heart – How to Read the Bible (by Noel Cooper)

Come join us for 7 weeks – Thursday, March 2 to Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (not on Thursday of Holy Week). Books available on loan. Bring your bible. "The essential purpose of Scripture study is to enable believers to seek strength and meaning in Scriptures." Cost is \$35.00. Location is at Maison Shalom House, 170 St. Paul Street, Alexandria, ON. Information and Registration: Sr. Sue Burns, csc Phone: 613-525-1704 or E-mail: maisonshalomhouse@bellnet.ca

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