

**1ST SUNDAY**

**IN LENT**

**9 MARCH 2014**

**DURING LENT, THE CHURCH  
WILL BE OPEN  
FRIDAYS FROM  
12 NOON TO 6 P.M.  
FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO  
COME AND PRAY**

# St. Columban Parish

**36 Fourth St. West, Cornwall, ON K6J 2R6**

**Masses: Sat Vigil: 7 p.m., Sun: 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.**

## EVANGELIZATION MADE EASY

### Today's Readings:

Isaiah 58:7-10  
Psalm 112:4-9  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
Matthew 5:13-16

Faith is both "caught & taught." It helps to understand that conversion is a process.

### Further Reflection

#### from the Catechism:

CCC: 1939, 2426, 2448  
CCCC: 509, 511  
YOUCAT: 332, 442

### What is faith?

**1) Faith is submission of mind and will to God.** "By faith, a person completely submits his/her intellect and will to God. With our whole being we give our assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, "the obedience of faith" (CCC 143). Faith is not credulity - believing something too readily, believing without evidence or in the teeth of contrary evidence.

**2) Faith is a way of knowing** – Spiritual sight that enables us to know truths that are not knowable through unaided reason.

**3) Faith establishes us in a relationship with God.** "Faith is above all a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, and to experience His closeness, His friendship, His love; only in this way does one learn to know Him ever more, and to love and follow Him ever more." (Pope Benedict XVI, Gen. Audience, Oct 21, 2009)

**The Five Thresholds of Conversion** - The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus  
Studies of Christian conversion have shown that people pass through "a series of thresholds or stages of conversion – that culminated in a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as a disciple. Each transition to a new threshold was a genuine work of grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, but each threshold also required real spiritual energy and real choices on the part of the person making the journey."

**1. Initial Trust:** A person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is not the same as active personal faith. Without some kind of bridge of trust in place, people will not move closer to God.

**2. Spiritual Curiosity:** A person finds himself intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus, His life, and His teachings or some aspect of the Christian faith. This curiosity can range from mere awareness of a new possibility to something quite intense. Nevertheless, a person at the threshold of curiosity is not yet open to personal change. Curiosity is still essentially passive, but it is more than mere trust.

**3. Spiritual Openness:** A person acknowledges to himself or herself and to God that he or she is open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change. This is one of the most difficult transitions for a postmodern nonbeliever. Openness is not a commitment to change. People who are open are simply admitting they are open to the possibility of change.

**4. Spiritual Seeking:** The person moves from being essentially passive to actively seeking to know the God Who is calling him or her. It is, if you will, "dating with a purpose" but not yet marriage. Seekers are asking, "Are you the one to Whom I will give myself?" At this stage, the seeker is engaged in an urgent spiritual quest, seeking to know whether he or she can commit to Christ in His Church.

**5. Intentional Discipleship:** This is the decision to "drop one's nets," to make a conscious commitment to follow Jesus in the midst of his Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one's life accordingly. **To be continued.**

*Excerpted from a presentation by Fr. Terry Donahue, C.C.*



### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Dan VanDelst, Pastor  
Rev. Mr. Marcel Brunet, Deacon

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Kelly Poitras

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Evenings by appointment

### BAPTISMS

By appointment  
1 month in advance

### MARRIAGES

Please give 6 months notice

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.  
Also by appointment

### OFFICE PHONE

613-932-9616

### PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

[stcolumban@alexandria-cornwall.ca](mailto:stcolumban@alexandria-cornwall.ca)

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[www.stcolumbans.com](http://www.stcolumbans.com)  
**DIOCESE**  
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BY 4 P.M. FRIDAY  
(ONE WEEK PRIOR TO REQUIRED  
WEEKEND PUBLICATION)**

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### Saturday, March 08<sup>th</sup>

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions  
 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions  
 7:00 p.m. George & Carmel Belmore by the family

### Sunday, March 09<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Intentions of parishioners  
 9:30 a.m. Duncan McLennan by daughter Jean  
 11:00 a.m. Rene Provost by Maurice Provost & family  
 12:30 p.m. Baptisms

### Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Mathias Valade by wife Meriza & family

### Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Randal McDonell by Audrey Levac  
 12:10 p.m. Vinton Papps by Shannon Papps

### Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Eleanor Morris by the family

### Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Bert & Sue Taillon by Helen Schweitzer  
 12:10 p.m. Hughie Chisholm by Graceline & family

### Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. John Doroshenko by Janet Surgeson & family

### Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions  
 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions  
 7:00 p.m. The Stang Brothers by the family

### Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Intentions of parishioners  
 9:30 a.m. Sylvia Shaver (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of death) by daughter Kelly Poitras & family  
 11:00 a.m. Sharon Preston (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of death) by her twin sister Shirley & Pat

### Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Rita Hutt (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of death) by son Mervin Hutt

**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL AND PARISH FOUNDATION  
 JOINT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 7 P.M. WED., 19 MARCH**  
 will be held in the upper room of the Church  
 All parishioners are invited to attend.

**CHAT AND SNACK – NEXT WEEKEND**  
 You are invited to stop at the 4th St. Entrance to the Church  
 next weekend following Mass for coffee and a chance to chat.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – LENTEN FOOD DRIVE  
 15-16 MARCH--PLEASE DONATE FRUIT CUPS & CANNED FRUIT**

**PARISH CUSTODIAN REQUIRED – APPLY BY 14 MARCH**  
 Job description available from the office. Hours of work  
 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (25 hours per week), Mon. to Fri. Start 19 May.

**ADOPT-A-CANDIDATE – REMINDER – CARD DUE 9 MARCH**  
 ensuring your child that you are praying for her or him in a special  
 way during Lent. May God bless you for your prayers.

**DYNAMIC CATHOLICS EVANGELIZE BY EXAMPLE**  
 To know how to be generous enough to rejoice for others, to  
 welcome them in their efforts for conversion;  
 that also is the generosity of a dynamic Catholic.

## IN OUR PARISH

### COLLECTION – 23 FEBRUARY – THANK YOU

Sunday	\$3,782.10	Christmas	\$ 5.00
Loose	405.67	New Year's	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,187.77</b>	Candles	126.30
Flowers	\$ 934.15	Book Sale	190.00
Dev.& Peace	\$ 100.00	Book Store	58.75

### LENTEN STUDY – “THE GOSPEL OF JOY”

Father Dan will take us on a journey through Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation “The Gospel of Joy”.

**7 P.M. TUESDAYS, MARCH 11, 18 & 25<sup>TH</sup> – UPPER ROOM**  
 You can purchase a copy of the document from our parish book table (\$12.) or download it from [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

### LENTEN CROSS

Lent is a time for reflection, sharing & prayer. Members of the Catholic Women's League have prepared purple crosses that are available at the doors of our church every weekend Mass throughout Lent *beginning this weekend*. Adults are invited to wear a cross for 1 week to symbolize the bearing of your own cross. Each weekend, return your cross & exchange it for another & pray for the other person's cross. No names will be exchanged. All crosses are to be returned to the basket on Palm Sunday, April 12/13. No crosses are to be worn through Holy Week as we thank Jesus for the Cross He carried for us.

**REST IN THE PEACE AND LOVE OF THE LORD**  
 Silas Miller, Pearl Kennedy and Grazielle Leroux

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

The Foundation's mandate is to raise funds to restore & preserve the historic church of St. Columban. The parish has mounted an ambitious plan to restore the exterior of the church & will proceed with continued maintenance thereafter. In 2013, Foundation fundraising with your help and support totaled \$59,743.

- ~ Regular donations through envelopes & mail - \$35,138.
- ~ In Memoriam donations on the death of a loved one - \$300.
- ~ Fall concert with corporate sponsorships - \$6,125.
- ~ Fundraising Dinner and 50/50 draw at the Legion - \$3,965.
- ~ Annual *Christmas Remembrances* bulletin insert \$14,295.

At this time, the funds are being used to replace the roof of our historic Church building. We ask for your continued support in 2014 so that together we can meet our ongoing commitment to help restore & maintain our parish home. A complete financial statement will be reviewed at the Joint Annual General Meeting of the Foundation and Parish Finance Council in the upper room of the Church at 7 p.m. Wednesday, 19 March.

*Thank you for your continued support*  
 Board of Directors – The Patrons of St. Columban Foundation

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 297 will host a  
**CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER – SUNDAY, 6 APRIL**  
*for Patrons of St. Columban Foundation*  
 Proceeds for restoration of our historic St. Columban Church  
 Tickets \$10. available at the office (during office hours), at the Legion, from Foundation members, or call Brian 933-8353.

## IN THE PARISH

### ST. COLUMBAN'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

are selling tickets on a *St. Patrick's Day Basket* in the centre back vestibule of the Church this weekend. Draw takes place Saturday, 15 March at the **ST. PATRICK'S DAY TEA & BAKE SALE** 1:30 to 3 p.m. – in the Parish Activity Centre Admission \$6. Everyone welcome



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## IN THE DIOCESE

**BISHOP'S PIX MOVIE – MIGHTY MACS – 7 TO 13 MARCH** starring Ellen Burstyn as Mother St. John. Based on the true story of the 1972 Champion Immaculata College basketball team. Port Theatre, 7:15 p.m. Tickets \$10

**PRO-LIFE SPAGHETTI SUPPER, 4:30–6:30, SUN. 9 MAR.** Knights of Columbus Hall, Amelia St. \$8/adult; free under age 10

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES ROAST BEEF DINNER/THURS. 13 MARCH** 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Adults -\$10, children \$5.

**PARISHIONERS IN ALEXANDRIA–CORNWALL** have been extremely generous in their contributions to **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** emergency campaigns - from Haiti, Syria, the Philippines, and to the Horn of Africa. **YOU ARE INVITED** to a presentation by special guest Fr. Hagos Hayish, Secretary General of the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (Caritas Ethiopia), to learn more about how your contributions have made a difference in the wake of Ethiopia's devastating 2011 drought. **1:30 P.M., FRIDAY, 14 MARCH AT THE AGORA CENTRE**

## POPE FRANCIS LENTEN MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

*Vatican City, 4 February 2014 (VIS)*

### OUR WITNESS

We might think that this 'way' of poverty was Jesus' way, whereas we who come after Him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world through the poverty of Christ, Who makes Himself poor in the Sacraments, in His Word & in His Church, which is a people of the poor. God's wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ. In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. Destitution is not the same as poverty: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are 3 types of destitution: material, moral & spiritual. Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity in

## POPE FRANCIS LENTEN MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing. No less a concern is moral destitution, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members – often a young person - is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography! How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners, and by lack of equal access to education and health care. In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the spiritual destitution which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. If we think we don't need God Who reaches out to us through Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save & free us. The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that He freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, Who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelisation and human promotion. Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to, all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution, the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, Who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ Who became poor and enriched us by His poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt. May the Holy Spirit, through Whom we are 'as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything', sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe".



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