# Living the Gospel



# ShareLife Collection Next Sunday, April 22

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#### SIN

by Lisa Fernandes

Jesus died so that we could be forgiven our sins; and sin is the theme of all of the readings today on the third Sunday of Easter.

In the first reading, Peter chastises the people for rejecting Jesus even if they did so out of ignorance. But, as he tells them, they can repent: *"Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."* (Acts 3.19)

In the second reading, we learn more about sin. John asks us not to sin; but if we do sin, we have an advocate in Jesus Christ because:... *"he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."* **(1 John 2.2)** 

The Catechism notes there are two types of sin: mortal and venial. Mortal sins are grave acts (breaking one or more of the 10 commandments) committed with full knowledge and complete consent, and can lead to damnation if a person does not repent before death. However, while we can know that an act is grave, we must entrust their judgment to the justice and mercy of God. Venial sins are lesser sins but still weaken our relationship with Jesus.

The damnation that comes from mortal sin means hell for us. Recently there were stories in the paper about Pope Francis supposedly denying hell. Actually he has defined what hell is: "This is hell," explained the Pope. "It is telling God, 'You take care of yourself because I'll take care of myself.' They don't send you to hell, you go there because you choose to be there. Hell is wanting to be distant from God because I do not want God's love. This is hell."

For us Christians to atone and avoid distancing ourselves from God and perhaps damnation, we need to atone. The way we do that is to confess in the sacrament of reconciliation. Not only is this a way to repent but also to retain our community in the church.

I am reminded of a movie called Don Jon in which the main protagonist regularly goes to church

and confession with his laundry list of sins. Unfortunately he goes every week because he sins so much, not because he wishes to change. In order to truly repent we need to be willing to change. Continuing some of the good habits we may have pursued during Lent can be a good start on making a permanent change.

It is important that it is not just about repenting but the action of being willing to change and leaving our sins behind.

#### <u>Sunday's Readings:</u> Acts 3.13-15, 17-19 Psalm 4 1 John 2.1-5

#### CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will being in June 2018, and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at (905) 624-4422

#### SHARELIFE

### Living the Gospel by helping those with addictions.

Scarred by an abusive childhood, Andrew became addicted to hard drugs as an early teen. His next 20 years were spent in-and-out of jail and the hospital. He finally came to St. Michael's Homes, a ShareLife-funded agency that offers a residential program for those struggling with substance abuse. Now sober and equipped with coping skills, Andrew is happy and building a new life.

By supporting Sharelife, you're helping people like Andrew get their lives back on track.

Next Sunday, April 22, is the next ShareLife Sunday. Additional envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church if needed.

#### A MESSAGE FROM FR. MORGAN

As Canada celebrates National Volunteer Week this week, please join me in expressing profound thanks to all the St. Basil's volunteers, who share so generously their gifts of time and talent to strengthen this faith community and help bring the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to others. Merci beaucoup!

—Fr. Morgan

#### BAKING CLUB

As Mother's Day approaches, the St. Basil's Baking Club is looking for new members who would be interested in contributing to the bake sale.

If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Michael at michael.pirri@utoronto.ca, or (416) 926-1300 x.3210

#### VOICES FOR PEACE

Join the Church of the Redeemer, Citizens for Public Justice, Basilian Centre for Peace and Justice, and the Henri Nouwen Society for Voices of Peace, a day of presentations and workshops by seasoned and dynamic peacemakers.

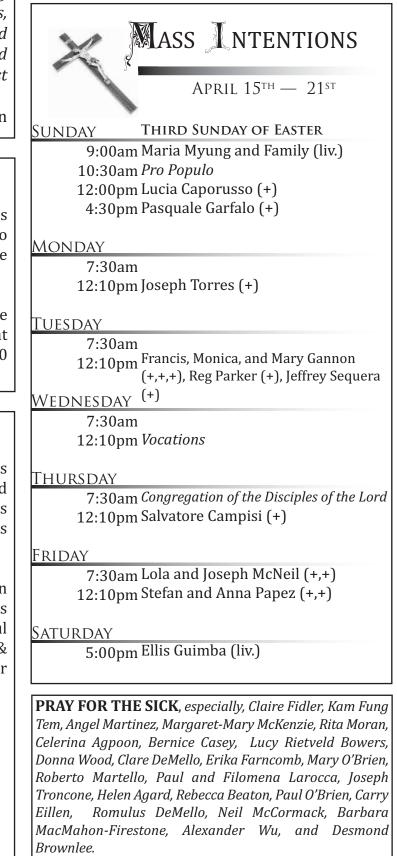
Steeped in the tradition of Henri Nouwen and Thomas Merton, these committed individuals will encourage and motivate you with a peaceful call to action. Keynote speakers are author & activist Jim Forest, and musician/broadcaster Shad.

> Saturday, April 28, 2018 8:30am–4:30pm Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre 95 St. Joseph Street

visit http://bit.ly/VoicesforPeace for more information or to purchase tickets (\$25 Adults | \$15 Students)

#### LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, April 8, 2018 \$6,958.90



PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially, Melissa Silveira.

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