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LAETARE SUNDAY

By Stefani Bedin

This Sunday is often called Laetare Sunday, a name which refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon for the Fourth Sunday of Lent: "Laetare, Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem"). The Church is encouraging us to rejoice! We are approximately halfway through our Lenten journey, and we are invited to look forward, with joyful anticipation, to Easter, which is just three weeks away. Today, we momentarily break from some of the austerities of the penitential season.

This spirit of rejoicing is reflected in our liturgies, which differ somewhat from the other Sundays of Lent. The pipe organ, which since the beginning of Lent has been used at Sunday liturgies solely to support singing, today also offers solo music—preludes and postludes. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary. You may have also noticed the priest wearing rose-coloured vestments. These vestments are only worn on one other day of the liturgical year, the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday, another time when we are specially invited to be joyful.

The readings also remind us there are many reasons to rejoice. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, we hear that the father celebrates over the return of his lost son. During Lent, when we are especially reminded to repent and seek forgiveness, we find joy in knowing that our God is loving and merciful.

May this Sunday bring us refreshment and strengthen our faith and hope as we continue to journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Joshua 5.9a, 10-12 Psalm 34 2 Corinthians 5.17-21 Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

ORATORIO ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Join the students of the University of Toronto Faculty of Music's Oratorio Ensemble in a concert of vocal music from Handel, Bach, Fauré, Mozart, Britten, and Mendelssohn. **Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 7:30pm** Dr. Darryl Edwards, Director, Mia Bach, Pianist, and Christina Haldane, Assistant Director.

Free admission. Free-will donations will be accepted towards the music program of St. Basil's.

AID TO WOMEN: BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Aid to Women is a Christian charity offering practical help to pregnant women in crisis, enabling them to choose life for their unborn children. In addition to providing counseling, they provide material, emotional, spiritual and financial support for these mothers in need. "Baby Bottles for Life" will be collected after all Masses on **April 13/14.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us on **Fridays during Lent** for the Stations of the Cross. Each week we will join in prayer beginning with Vespers, at 5:10PM followed by the Stations of the Cross. Each week during Lent, we will use a different variation of the Stations of the Cross.

SHARELIFE

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"It is important that we continue to support the ShareLife appeal, to provide for the needs of the marginalized both here in our communities and around the world. Sometimes the results are obvious and sometimes they're invisible, but always they make a tangible difference in the lives of the people we are helping. Please prayerfully consider how you can be supportive today on ShareLife Sunday."

— Cardinal Thomas Collins

Today is ShareLife Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

FAMILY COFFEE HOUR

Families with young children are invited to a special coffee hour following the **9:00AM Mass on Sunday, April 7**. An opportunity to meet other families in our community and for the children to undertake a catechetical activity.

JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

April 6/7 is the next John Ford First Sunday Food Drive. Although all donations are accepted, we are in most in need of:

- Vegetable Oil
- Vinegar
- Granola bars
- Cookies
- Family- size Juices
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned Salmon
- Jam
- Sugar
- Cake mix
- Fruit cups
- Mayonnaise, Mustard
- Rice

If you are able and willing to volunteer in the outreach ministries, please contact Michael at michael.pirri@utoronto.ca or (416) 926-1300 x.3210

READERS GROUP

All are welcome to join on **Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00PM** for a potluck supper and discussion. Over Lent, the St. Basil's Readers Group is reading Seven Last Words by James Martin, SJ. The book is a meditation on the seven last phrases Jesus spoke from the cross. The book shows how each phrase reveals how much Jesus participated in our human condition, and how each saying can help you feel close to Jesus. Please contact Michael to RSVP and confirm your contribution to the Potluck Supper.

If you would like to join the Readers Group, please contact Michael at michael.pirri@utoronto.ca or (416) 926-1300 x.3210

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, March 24, 2019 \$6,208.35



Sunday

4th Sunday of Lent

9:00am Lorenzo Logdameo (+)

10:30am Pro Populo

12:00pm Clementina and Giovanni Bordone (+,+)

4:30pm

Monday

7:30am Jocelyn Graham (+)

12:10pm

TUESDAY

7:30am

12:10pm

Wednesday

7:30am The Thalheimer Family

12:10pm Stefan and Anna Papez (+,+)

THURSDAY

7:30am

12:10pm

Friday_

7:30am Michael Fernandes (+)

12:10pm Vocations

Saturday

5:00pm Aurora Liebe (+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Lucy Rietveld Bowers, Mary O'Brien, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Roberto Martello, Filomena Larocca, Joseph Troncone, Rebecca Beaton, Gemma Ciavarella, Gordon Walsh, Rita Moran, Paul O'Brien, Barbara Boyle, Maria Teresa Blackwell, Margaret Mary McKenzie, Jose Gaitero, Ed Brash, Shane Carroll, Romulus DeMello, Neil McCormack, Alexander Wu, Desmond Brownlee, Emilia Perejmybida, Helen Tilston, Marywynne Parke, and Jasper David-Fuchs.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

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