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**The Diocese of St. Catharines
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**
*“Put out into the deep water and let down your
 nets.” (Lk 5:4)*
Sunday, March 11th, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Lent

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. — Jn 3:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 02001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Mar 10	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Mar 11	9:30am	✠ Martin Kolenko Jr. (Joe & Teresa Hozjan)
	11:00am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (The Mete Family)
Mon. Mar 12	9:30am	Intentions of Arwen Podwinski (Walters Family)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Mar 13	9:30am	✠ Trudy Van Opham Ruter (Family)
Wed. Mar 14	9:30am	Intentions of Tony Mullin (Walters Family)
Thurs. Mar 15	9:30am	Intentions of Sandy & Denise Morabito (Walters Family)
Fri. Mar 16	9:30am	Reparations for all the offences Committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Walters Family)
Sat. Mar 17	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Mar 18	9:30am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
	11:00am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Mary Ann Biggar)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory March 3rd & 4th, 2018

Thank You FOR GIVING GENEROUSLY	79 Envelopes	\$1,990.00
	Loose Collection	\$ 60.00
	Total Offertory	\$2,050.00
	Roof Collection	\$6,256.00
	Maintenance	\$ 585.00

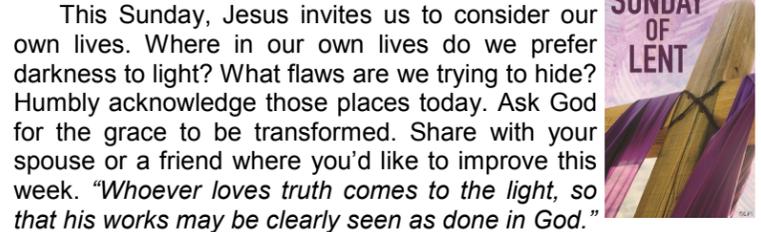
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Why is the world the way it is? We all wonder that from time to time. Each successive generation projects rose-hued longing on the past and casts furtive glances at the impending future. We see forces beyond our control in nature and in the newspaper. The world is changing and we're being pulled out with the tide.

In the face of this confusion, today's Gospel features one of the most oft-quoted Scripture verses of all time: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”* But if Christ has come, why is the world so challenging? Why is the world still – to our eyes – being carried off in a proverbial hand basket? Jesus' response is a deeply personal one. *“This is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light.”* Patterns arise, habits are formed, and systems become engrained, but each is the result of an interconnected web of human choices.

Where do we stand? Our answers, perhaps, vary from week to week, hour to hour, missed traffic light to spilled coffee to teenage child's rebellion. The world isn't perfect because we aren't perfect. Our parish is flawed because we're flawed. Our families need work because every one of us needs to be converted. Christianity is a process, not a destination!

This Sunday, Jesus invites us to consider our own lives. Where in our own lives do we prefer darkness to light? What flaws are we trying to hide? Humbly acknowledge those places today. Ask God for the grace to be transformed. Share with your spouse or a friend where you'd like to improve this week. *“Whoever loves truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”*



On Saturday March 17, 2018, in every parish across the diocese a priest will be available from 10am-2pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray to the Lord.

Volunteers needed to lead the prayers of the Rosary at the Welland Hospital—Woolcott Wing about once a month. This traditional Catholic Prayer, based on the Bible, helps us contemplate the events in the life of Jesus and that of His Mother, Mary. For the residents there, it keeps them connected to their faith and helps strengthen it. Your leadership would give them the opportunity to honour our Lord and his Mother with this special prayer. If you think you could assist with this, please contact the office or speak with Deacon Jim.

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (March 24/25) or Good Friday (March 30)**, your binders will be available for you **next weekend** at the back of the church, with your name on it. Two readers are scheduled. Please contact each other and assign yourselves the parts for the long Gospel reading (**Mark—for Palm Sunday**) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions (petitions for Palm Sunday only). On your reading date, please bring the binders with you and leave them at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

40 Days for Life – Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14-March 25. People are welcome to participate on any of these days from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign “Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life.” You are welcome to simply show up or if you wish to sign up go to: www.wpcprolife.com, and follow the link, or contact Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363.

Lenten Food Drive: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be collecting food for Pelham Cares during this season of Lent. Non-parishable items can be placed in the baskets at the back of the church. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners at Christmas time, we received twice the amount of money needed to supply clementines to all of the Christmas hampers. We will be using the remainder of the money collected to purchase fresh fruit that will accompany the Easter hampers. We thank you for your continued support of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.



A school of community leaders in Peru For the fourth week of Lent, let's go to Peru and discover one of Development and Peace's partners, the Bartolomé de Las Casas Institute! It runs the Hugo Echegaray leadership school, where students strengthen their capacity for dialogue, consensus, participation, and consultation in order to exercise ethical and responsible civic leadership in their communities.

The Solidarity Sunday collection will be celebrated in all Canadian parishes next week. We will appeal to your generosity in support of our sisters and brothers in the Global South who fight every day for peace, human dignity, and social justice.

Holy Week

Passion Sunday: Saturday, March 24th, 5pm
Passion Sunday: Sunday, March 25th, 9:30 & 11am
Mass of Chrism: Tuesday, March 27th, 7:30pm (Location—Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Church Street, St. Catharines)
Holy Thursday: March 29th
 Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm
Good Friday: March 30th
 Confessions 9-11am
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm
 7pm—Stations of the Cross
 March 31st
 Confessions 9-10am
 Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
 Confessions 4-5pm
 Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil, **8:30pm**
Easter Sunday: April 1st, Masses 9:30 & 11am
Divine Mercy Sunday: April 8th, Prayers 3pm

Parish Calendar

March.....

March 12-16...	March Break
March 14th....	Penitential Service & Individual Confessions 7pm
March 17th....	Diocesan wide day of Reconciliation 10am-2pm
March 18th.....	Solidarity Sunday
March 19th.....	Feast of St. Joseph
March 25th.....	Palm Sunday
March 27th....	Chrism Mass, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines 7:30pm
March 29th....	Holy Thursday (Bingo Cancelled)
March 30th.....	Good Friday
March 31st....	Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
April 1st.....	Easter Sunday

The Way of the Cross: Join us for the Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7pm.

Roof Fundraiser

Total donations to date, including CWL and YM are **\$22,410.25**. A tremendous thank you for your generosity! If you would like to donate, you may do so at any time. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the church and we will leave some near the donation board in the parish hall. You can place donations in the offertory, bring to the parish office or hand them to Fr. Chad or a member of the Finance Council.

Easter Flower Memorial: The beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Easter in our parish. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the **Easter Flowers Memorial Envelopes found in your offertory boxes dated March 11th.** If you do not have envelopes but would like to donate, you may use a plain envelope with your contact information listed. These donations, made in memory or honour of your family members and friends help cover the cost of Easter flowers. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honour friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, or bring to the parish office on or before the weekend of March 24/25. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The names of all those for whom our Easter flowers are in memory of will be printed in the parish bulletin on Easter Sunday.

St. Ann School Trivia Night & Silent Auction: Friday April 6th, 2018, Fenwick Fire Hall, Welland Rd., 6:30pm - Doors Open, 7:00pm - Trivia begins, 8:30 - First Table of Silent Auction items closes, 10:30 - Second Table of Silent Auction items closes, 11:00 - Trivia Ends. We understand that not all families will be able to attend Trivia Night but would still like to support the school. Families could donate chips or munchies for the evening. We would also welcome donations to put towards our silent auction table. Please email stantrivia@gmail.com if you are able to donate an item.

This summer St. Ann Parish will be hosting their 3rd Annual Vacation Bible School from August 13th to August 17th.

Registration is now open. Forms are at the back of the church or phone the office. All children from ELKP to Grade 6 can participate. Older students in Grades 7-12 can volunteer as Junior Leaders. Spots fill up quickly, so plan to register soon. Please note that Junior Leaders 14 years of age or older are required to compete the Police Record Check. As this process can take as long as 6 weeks to complete, we recommend that you contact us soon if you want to be involved.



