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Fifth Sunday of Lent

"The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle." The episode of the woman caught in adultery is a powerful story. We have perhaps all felt as the woman has at some point in our lives, surrounded by those who would condemn us. The beauty of Christ's mercy at the end is clear and a welcome relief as we all struggle to be good and holy people. But have we ever imagined ourselves on the edge of the circle? Have we pictured ourselves in the sea of dusty robes? Perhaps, we hope, we're hovering at the edge of the circle of judgment. But we've all been there.

How easy it is to be righteous when someone else's reputation is at stake. When the small child is acting up in the grocery store or on the plane. When another company has a scandal break or a major error sets back their profits. Could it be easy to pick up the stone and feel its weight and heft in our hands? Because if we've got a stone in our hands, our own righteous category is clear. Our judgment is our insurance that we won't be on the receiving end of the criticism. If we can point out a wrong, surely we are firmly in the right.

'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her' they went away one by one." This Lent, not only are we invited to receive God's mercy, but to show God's mercy. As the season begins to wind to a close, consider those in your life you tend to judge the most harshly. What is one concrete way you can drop your stone?

Mass of Chrism: Will be celebrated at **St. Alfred's Parish, Vine St., St. Catharines** on **Tuesday, April 16th @7:30pm**. According to ancient custom, this Mass which the Bishop concelebrates with his presbyterium and at which the oils are blessed, shows forth in a powerful way, the communication that binds the priests with their bishop. In the course of this celebration, the priests will renew publicly their dedication to Christ. **All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this diocesan celebration.**

HOLY WEEK

Passion Sunday: Saturday, April 13th, 5pm
Passion Sunday: Sunday, April 14th, 9:30 & 11am
Mass of Chrism: Tuesday, April 16th, 7:30pm
 (Location—**St. Alfred's Parish, Vine St., St. Catharines**)
Holy Thursday: April 18th
 Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm
Good Friday: April 19th
 Confessions 9-11am
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm
 Stations of the Cross— 7pm
 April 20
 Confessions 9-10am
 Noon -Blessing of Easter Baskets
 Confessions 4-5pm
 Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil, **8:30pm**
Holy Saturday: April 21st, Masses 9:30 & 11am
Easter Sunday: April 21st, Masses 9:30 & 11am



Invest ONE HOUR to save a Lifetime! 40Days for Life – Be an active participant in this peaceful campaign through prayer and fasting during Lent, March 6th – April 14th. We ask each church to adopt **ONE DAY (For our Parish – Saturday, April 13th) 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." This is a prayerful, silent **VIGIL**. To sign up for **Saturday, April 13th** please register at the [sign up table](#) at the back of the church or contact Karen Jankovich: kjankovich@sympatico.ca

For general inquiries and to sign up for other days during Lent, please contact Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com, 905-325-1251, or Angela: angelabraun@live.com
Defend the Sanctity of Life! Petition of One Million – Please sign the petition at the back of the church to protect the unborn. For further information: www.petitionofonemillion.ca



Share the journey with Syrian refugees in Lebanon
 Since the war broke out in Syria in 2011, some 12.5 million Syrians have had to flee their homes. Development and Peace partner House of Peace (HOPE) is working to build bridges between Syrian refugees and their host communities in Lebanon.

On this Solidarity Sunday, we extend a warm thank you for your generosity. Your donation will help our sisters and brothers across the world, from Colombia all the way to Lebanon, Nigeria, and elsewhere! Thank you for helping us build a world of peace and justice, where no one will be forced to flee their home! Donations at the parish will be accepted over the next few weeks.

Holy Cross Cemetery's ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP, will begin on Tuesday April 23, 2019. All wreaths, tin cans, glass jars, flower pots, and similar articles not removed, will be disposed of on April 26, 2019. If anyone is unable to pick up their wreaths etc. by that date they can call the cemetery at 905 734-4172 and make arrangements for the staff to hold the articles for a short period of time until they are able to come to the cemetery to pick them up.

Lenten Food Drive: Baskets have been placed at the church entrance. Donations of nonperishable food items would be appreciated and will be forwarded to Pelham Cares. **Please make your donation on or before April 13/14. Thank you.**

Migrant Ministry: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting items for the men, as they begin to arrive. Items most in need are socks, work gloves and toiletries, warm sweaters, jeans and T-shirts. Thank you for your continued support.

ATTENTION LECTORS: If you have been scheduled to read on **Palm Sunday (April 13/14) or Good Friday (April 19)**, your binders are now available 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 (**Luke—for Palm Sunday**) as well as the first & second readings and the petitions (petitions for Palm Sunday only). **A reminder that during Mass you are required to use the Passion Narrative Lectionaries which will be placed on both lecterns for you. The binders are for practice reading only.** On your reading date, please bring the binders with you and leave them at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

Parish Calendar

- April April 7th..... Solidarity Sunday
- April 10th..... Finance meeting 6:30pm
- April 14th..... Palm Sunday
- April 16th..... Chrism Mass, 7:30pm St. Alfred's Parish
- April 18th..... Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm (Bingo cancelled)
- April 19th..... Good Friday
- April 20th..... Holy Saturday
- April 21st..... Easter Sunday
- April 23rd... CWL meeting 7pm
- April 24th.... Confirmation meeting 5:30pm
- April 24th..... St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am
- April 28th..... Divine Mercy Sunday

The Way of the Cross: For Roman Catholics throughout the world, the **Stations of the Cross** are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week and, especially, Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the "Way of the Cross", the "Via Crucis", and the "Via Dolorosa." It commemorates 14 key events on day of Christ's crucifixion. **A Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make a good confession before the pious devotion of the Stations of the Cross.** Please join with us as we gather to walk with Jesus this holy season of Lent.

Catholic Women's League

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, April 23rd at 7pm.** All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.

The CWL council of St. Alexander Parish will host the Evening of Reflection on Thursday, April 11th at 6pm. Amelia Leraci will give a presentation on Shoe Box Donations. They are also hosting a bus trip to Midland on Saturday, June 8th. They will visit **Martyrs' Shrine** in the morning and the **Midland Butter Tart Festival** in the afternoon. The cost is \$50. Contact St. Alexander to register.

Everyday Stewardship: Some celebrities do a lot to help out various causes that are meaningful to them. Sometimes they give of their time, talent, or treasure, while other times they create giving opportunities for the rest of us to be generous. The celebrity then does much to highlight the cause, and the hope is that enough people will give to make a difference.

I never judge another's motive when they choose to give to or support a cause. However, I hear many times a criticism levied against seemingly rich people who start a fundraiser and ask the rest of us to give: "Since they have so much money, they could simply give all the money needed themselves!" This exclamation often comes with disdain and a tone of superiority. This sentiment also comes frequently from those who have chosen to give little to nothing to the cause themselves.

Stewardship begins with the person in the mirror. You and I are accountable to each other, but at the end of the day, the only one who knows the true level of our generosity is God. As this Lent draws to a close, it is time to take a good long look in the mirror. You probably aren't famous, so there probably won't be a crowd of people to question the level of your sacrifice, devotion, and generosity this Lent. Of course, God knows and so does that person looking back at you in the mirror.

St. Ann School third annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction—Friday, April 12th, 7pm. Tickets \$20. If you would like to reserve tickets please email stantrivia@gmail.com. This is a licensed event so admission is 18+.

Sunday, April 7th, 2019

5th Sunday OF LENT

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."
 -Jn 8:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. April 6	10am-2pm	Confession
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
Sun. April 7	9:30am	Special Intention for the unborn children and their mothers (Jankovich Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. April 8	9:30am	Frank & Geraldine Grennan (Michael Wilson)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confessions
Tues. April 9	9:30am	✠ Souls of the Faithful Departed (Rob Novak)
Wed. April 10	9:30am	✠ Special Intention (Teresa Walters)
Thurs. April 11	9:30am	✠ Christopher Stanclik (Karen & Michael)
Fri. April 12	9:30am	Blessings & Health for Anita Tom (Delores Kennedy)
Sat. April 13	4 -4:45pm	Palm Sunday
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	✠ Brigid & Mary Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. April 14	9:30am	Palm Sunday
		✠ Maria Zaraza (Dayna Young)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory March 30th & 31st, 2019

74 Envelopes	\$2, 035.00
Loose Collection	\$ 35.95
Total Offertory	\$2, 070.95
Flowers	\$ 55.00

Strawberry Fair Volunteer Committee Needed. For details, phone the office soon.

