



Saint Andrew the Apostle, pray for us

Mass Schedule & Intentions from Feb. 18—Feb. 26, 2012

Saturday	5:00PM	†	Salvatore Berardi by Franca & Frank Sdao. Gina Guglielmi by Maria & Vince Fazzalari. Jerry Raso by wife & family.
Sunday	9:00AM	†	Mary Rao by Dominic Rao. Stella Ramanauskas by Cheryl Maurice & family. Rose Pisano by Teresa Belcamino. For the people of our Parish.
Monday	11:00AM		Funeral Mass for Maria Minervini
Tuesday	9:00AM	†	Mike & Mela Fazzalari by Maria & Vince Fazzalari.
ASH - WEDNESDAY	9:15AM	†	Gina Guglielmi by Sylvia & Domenic Castoro.
	7:00PM	†	Lola Battista by Lidia & Joe Labricciosa.
Thursday	9:00AM	†	Mauro Antonio Tummolo by Maria & Vince Fazzalari.
Friday	9:00AM	†	Cercone Pietro Anthony by Giuseppina Lucci.
Saturday	5:00PM	†	Salvatore Berardi by Maria & Carmelo Mazzei. Pasquale Vaccaro by wife & family. Lola Battista by John & Rosanna Hunt.
Sunday	9:00AM	†	Leo Caporicci by wife Angie & family. Pierino Ioannoni by wife & family. Gina Guglielmi by Angela DiCesare & family.
	11:00AM		For the people of our Parish.



“Which is easier to say to the paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’ — He said to the man who was paralyzed—‘I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.’ And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’” (Mark 2:9-12)

**Last Sunday's Collection - \$2343.97
Bless you for your continued support.**

Upcoming Parish Events:
February 18 & 19: Mass with Anointing of the Sick - all Masses
February 21: Pancake Supper 5PM
Ash Wednesday Masses 9.15AM & 7PM
Sundays (2PM) and Tuesdays (7PM) throughout Lent-Catholicism Documentary Screening
March 22: Confirmation—7PM
April 15: Bi-Annual Pasta Luncheon: Parish fundraiser 12-4PM
April 22: 1st Communion celebration Sunday 11AM-Mass



We extend our congratulations to his Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins on the occasion of his being elevated to the position of Cardinal on Saturday February 18th, 2012. “Holiness is about quietly serving other people.”

The World Day of Prayer
 On Friday March, 2, starting at 10AM, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Welland will host the World Day of Prayer. See Church notice board for more information or contact Mary Mollica 905-732-1146.

About Fasting and Abstinence

As the season of Lent quickly approaches it may be good to review our Catholic teaching regarding Fast and Abstinence. The following is provided from the Code of Canon Law for your information.

Can.1251 Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. **Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**

Can. 1251 The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority (age 18 – C.97), until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat.

Although abstinence from meat on Friday is no longer obligatory in Canada, our Bishop encourages it during the season of Lent.

Catholicism Documentary Series by Fr. Robert Barron

St. Andrew's will be hosting weekly screenings throughout the season of Lent as we endeavour to learn more about our Catholic faith. **Sundays at 2:00pm and Tuesdays at 7:00pm. The first session will begin on Sunday February 26th or Tuesday February 28th. Registration is not required. All are welcome.**

Lenten Reflection Series 2012 on Ecological Justice

Monday evenings 6:30-8:00pm at the Diocesan Catholic Centre. Please pre-register by February 22. Contact the Office of Religious Education 905-684-0154

Stations of the Cross - every Friday of Lent at 7PM

From the Bishop's Desk

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 "Lord...you made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (Confessions: book 1, chapter 1)
 This quote from St. Augustine touches upon a fundamental truth—we were created with a deep longing in our hearts to seek and find God. We were lovingly created by God so that we could experience God's unconditional love for us. To put it simply, we were created in love for love. Our spiritual life is greatly influenced by our response to that eternal longing within each of us to find God and to rest in God.

Lent is a great remedy for restless hearts because it helps us to focus on our spiritual life. This is something that we can so easily neglect throughout the year as we respond to the many demands of life. During Lent we enter with Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days so that we can be renewed spiritually. The wilderness represents that sacred space where we can encounter God with few distractions. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the traditional disciplines of Lent, we journey with Jesus and come to know and love him on a deeper level. We also experience the unconditional love that Jesus has for each one of us.

Praying allows us to communicate with God which is foundational to the spiritual life. We cannot know the Lord if we do not talk to the Lord. There are many wonderful prayers and devotions we can offer during Lent, including participating in the greatest prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

This Lent, you may also wish to consider spending at least 15 minutes a day quietly communicating with the Lord in the silence of your heart, for silence is an essential part of communication... Our prayer life helps us to rest in our loving God.

Fasting or other acts of penance help to discipline our minds and bodies in order to focus more clearly on God.

The sacrament of penance is also a very important means of assisting us in the area of spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation with God and neighbour. I invite you to celebrate this beautiful sacrament during the season of Lent as a means of helping you to draw closer to our Lord.

In order to assist as many people as possible, a special day has been set aside where this sacrament will be available in every church throughout the diocese at the same time on the same day. On Saturday March 24, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. you will be able to go to any church in the diocese and a priest will be there to celebrate the sacrament of penance with you.

Our acts of penance help us to rest in our merciful God. Almsgiving is also a very important part of our Lenten practice. We unite ourselves more closely with Christ who stated, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (*Matt: 25:40*)

Traditionally we offer our assistance to organizations that help those most in need. .. Our almsgiving helps us to rest in our generous God.

Please be assured of my prayers and deep gratitude for your faith, goodness and love for the Lord. Let us use this Lenten season to build upon that solid foundation and intensify our response to the longing in our hearts to draw closer to our Lord. Let us enter into the wilderness, and through our prayer, acts of penance, and our charitable works, take the time to rest in our gracious, loving God.

Yours sincerely in Christ, Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Lenten Message from

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

"Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works" (Heb 10:24)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
 The Lenten season offers us once again an opportunity to reflect upon the very heart of Christian life: charity. This is a favourable time to renew our journey of faith, both as individuals and as a community, with the help of the word of God and the sacraments. This journey is one marked by prayer and sharing, silence and fasting, in anticipation of the joy of Easter.

This year I would like to propose a few thoughts in the light of a brief biblical passage drawn from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works". These words are part of a passage in which the sacred author exhorts us to trust in Jesus Christ as the High Priest who has won us forgiveness and opened up a pathway to God. Embracing Christ bears fruit in a life structured by the three theological virtues: it means approaching the Lord "sincere in heart and filled with faith" (v. 22), keeping firm "in the hope we profess" (v. 23) and ever mindful of living a life of "love and good works" (v. 24) together with our brothers and sisters. The author states that to sustain this life shaped by the Gospel it is important to participate in the liturgy and community prayer, mindful of the eschatological goal of full communion in God (v. 25). Here I would like to reflect on verse 24, which offers a succinct, valuable and ever timely teaching on the three aspects of Christian life: concern for others, reciprocity and personal holiness.

1. *"Let us be concerned for each other"*: responsibility towards our brothers and sisters. This first aspect is an invitation to be "concerned": the Greek verb used here is *katanoein*, which means to scrutinize, to be attentive, to observe carefully and take stock of something. We come across this word in the Gospel when Jesus invites the disciples to "observe" the plank in our own eye before looking at the splinter in that of our brother (cf. L/C 6:41). In another verse of the *Letter to the Hebrews*, we find the encouragement to "turn your minds to Jesus" (3:1), the Apostle and High Priest of our faith. So the verb which introduces our exhortation tells us to look at others, first of all at Jesus, to be concerned for one another, and not to remain isolated and indifferent to the fate of our brothers and sisters. All too often, however, our attitude is just the opposite: an indifference and disinterest born of selfishness and masked as a respect for "privacy". Today too, the Lord's voice summons all of us to be concerned for one another. Even today God asks us to be "guardians" of our brothers and sisters (*Gen 4:9*), to establish relationships based on mutual consideration and attentiveness to the well-being of others. The great commandment of love for one another demands that we acknowledge our responsibility towards those who, like ourselves, are creatures and children of God. (to be continued)