



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR
LENT 2018

"Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt 24.12)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a "sacramental sign of our conversion". [1] Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (24.12).

These words appear in Christ's preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord's passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

(FULL TEXT AVAILABLE AT [HTTP://BIT.LY/2BLNLBU](http://bit.ly/2BLNLBU))

Lent is the 40-day season of preparation for Easter that ends on Holy Thursday, three days before Easter Sunday. During Lent, Catholics recall their baptism and do penance – fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as they commemorate the death and resurrection of Christ.

Do You Want to FAST this Lent? ~ Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and **say kind words.**
- Fast from sadness and **be filled with gratitude.**
- Fast from anger and **be filled with patience.**
- Fast from pessimism and **be filled with hope.**
- Fast from worries and **trust in God.**
- Fast from complaints and **contemplate simplicity.**
- Fast from pressures and **be prayerful.**
- Fast from bitterness and **fill you heart with joy.**
- Fast from selfishness and **be compassionate to others.**
- Fast from grudges and **be reconciled.**
- Fast from words and **be silent so you can listen.**



PRAY – Be in constant prayer. Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading & reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day will open your heart to the Spirit, and let God's thoughts and ways influence yours. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.

FAST – Pope Francis says "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him." In lieu of fasting, one may substitute works of charity. An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer.

GIVE by serving with time, talent or treasure. Do good works. Help the poor and those in need. Support the good works of the Church.

Lent: the springtime of the soul...is a time to make a new covenant with God, develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your own desert and discover what God is asking of you.

If you think God could be calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Genesis 9,8-15 ~ 1 Peter 3,18-22 ~ Mark 1,12-15

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week: February 19 – 25

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	+ John & Kathleen Kelly	Dan Kelly
Tuesday, 9am	+ Mafredo Antonucci	Marieta & Rey
Wednesday	+ Jim Clough	OLS Senior Choir
Thursday, 9am	+ Ingrid Quickert	Sal & Trisha Barraccia
Friday, 9am	+ Newton Vaz	Mercia Vaz
Saturday, 9am	+ Halina Regiel	family
5:15pm	+ Philip Anthony	Josephine Anthony
Sunday, 8am	☪ Celebrated for the needs of all members of our parish family ☪	
9:30am	+ Paul Murray	Stapleton family
11am	+ Patricia Cronin	John Cronin & family
12:30pm	+ Bernice Wisniewski	family


Reminders for Sacramental Preparation

FIRST COMMUNION SESSION 1 (Children Only) - Choose **ONE** of the following sessions to attend: Sunday, Feb. 25 (2:30pm-3:15pm) OR Monday, Feb. 26 (6:30pm-7:15pm), Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION SESSION 3 FOR GROUP A (Last name A-M)—Choose **ONE** of the following sessions to attend: Sunday, Feb. 25 (3:45pm-5pm) OR Wednesday, Feb. 28 (6:45pm-8pm), Parish Hall. **Note: Parents are requested to participate in the first 10 minutes of the meeting.**

Liturgy of the Word with Children – All children (4-10 yrs) are welcome to participate in this program during the 9:30am Sunday Mass. Children go as a group to the parish hall after opening prayers to hear the Liturgy of the Word from the Children's Lectionary & discuss the Gospel message at their level of understanding. Please note that access to the hall is through the west glassed-in-stairwell.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Celebrated each Friday of Lent, starting Feb. 16 at 7:30pm in the Church. Parishioners are encouraged to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating on Christ's suffering and death.



ShareLife Living the Gospel by supporting ShareLife agencies
"As we begin our ShareLife campaign, we are encouraged to "Live the Gospel" in all that we do. How do we demonstrate that in our community? Living the Gospel may mean helping single mothers to care for their newborn children, or being available to families facing difficulties, or welcoming refugee families to our community. For more than 41 years, countless individuals have experienced this compassionate care offered by our agencies. Please support our annual archdiocesan appeal during this Lenten season!"
~ Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto

March 18 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.

OLS PARISH SUMMER CAMP – July 15-20, 2018



Making plans for summer? OLS Parish is offering a new program called *Totus Tuus*. Children and youth are invited to a fun-filled, faith nurturing summer camp. Time away from the regular routine of life, in a loving community, with opportunities to grow emotionally, spiritually and socially is a wonderful gift for any child. The program offers a one-week summer camp broken down into two sessions: Day Program (8:45am-2:30pm) for students in Grades 1-6 and Evening Program (6:45pm-9:00pm) for students in Grades 7-12. Interested? Email totustuus@sorrows.ca.

COMMUNITY

MAKE LENT COUNT | PRAY • FAST • GIVE

Rosary – prayed daily prior to the 9am Mass. You are also welcome to join the Rosary Group at 2pm on Fridays in the Parish Hall.

Coffee Friday – Last Friday of each month, after the 9am Mass. Everyone is invited to the parish hall for refreshments. This is an opportunity to get to know the members of your parish community. All are welcome. . . .bring a friend!

Daily Lenten Reflections - We are blessed with many possible daily reflections delivered right to our inboxes. Here are three of the many options you might want to consider:

1. **FORMED: Daily Lenten Reflections** - <https://formed.org/promo/len-2018>
FORMED, a digital library of faith formation materials (including videos, eBooks, audio), is available for free trial during Lent if you sign-up to receive their daily Lenten reflections. They include a video reflection featuring Bishop Hying & an inspiring passage from the Catechism.
2. **Loyola Press: Living Lent Daily**
<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/len/living-lent-daily>
Each daily message includes a brief reflection by Fr. William Barry, SJ, based on his book *A Friendship Like No Other* and is based on Ignatian spirituality, a practical spirituality for daily life with a 500-year-old tradition.
3. **Dynamic Catholic: Best Lent Ever** - <https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever>
Receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life & personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members.

Call for Conscience Sign-Up Sunday. We Need Your Help! February 24/25 & March 3/4.

The Call for Conscience 2018 Campaign is underway. Cardinal Collins and bishops across Ontario are asking for an email address from every Catholic family in their community, with a goal of 100,000 email addresses collected by the end of February 2018. This information will be used locally by Cardinal Collins and trusted faith partners to communicate periodically (approximately 6-8 times each year) on issues of particular importance for the Catholic community.

The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience, inviting our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide.

Please take a moment to provide your contact information at the back of the church on the weekends of Feb. 24/25 and Mar. 3/4. Thank you for living a faith that acts!

Spirit of the Renaissance Concert—Sunday, Feb. 25, 7:30pm, Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Come and join the Victoria Scholars as they present "Spirit of the Renaissance". Experience the emotionally colourful music of their namesake Tomas Luis de Victoria, as well as the sublime music of Allegri, Byrd, Josquin, Palestrina, Tallis and other Renaissance masters. Tickets (Adult \$30, Seniors/Students \$25) available at the door from 7:00pm. For more information visit www.victoriascholars.ca



HOLY LAND TOUR with Gordon Mansell

If you are a singer, you're invited to be part of a massed choir that will include members of St. Michael's Choir School Alumni, Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble & Our Lady of Sorrows who will tour the Holy Land in March 2019 for 11 days. If you are not a singer but wish to travel as a pilgrim, then this would be a tour of a lifetime full of unique experiences few tourists ever get. For inquiries or to register, email Gordon Mansell at gmansell@sympatico.ca.

Mary, Mother of God School presents The Francis de Sales Centre Drama Club's production of **Agatha Christie's "Appointment with Death"**. Find out "whodunit" on February 22 & 23 at 7:30 p.m., 1515A Queen St. W. Admission by donation. Details at www.marymotherofgodschool.org

