

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

Year A

First Reading Samuel 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want"

Second Reading Ephesians 5.8-14

Gospel John 9.1-41

PRAYER FOR LENT

Loving Father,
I invite you into my life today
and make myself available to you.
Help me to become the-best-version-of-
myself by seeking your will and becoming a
living example of your love in the world.
Open my heart to the areas of my life that
need to change in order for me to carry out
the mission and experience the joy you have
imagined for my life.
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith
in ways that are dynamic and engaging.
Show me how to best get involved in the life
of my parish. Make our community hungry for
best practices and continuous learning.
Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in
times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your
Church to become all you imagined it would
be for the people of our times. Amen.

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever/prayers-for-lent>

In making clay from his own saliva and smearing it on the blind man's eyes, Jesus re-creates the man by transferring something of his own being to the man. The man is anointed by Jesus as "I am" and comes to be a stalwart, believing disciple. Not even the powerful Pharisees can sway him from his testimony to the work of Jesus in him. In baptism we, too, encounter Jesus and become a new creation in him. Are we as stalwart and believing as the blind man? By Samuel's anointing, David is re-created from shepherd to king. By Jesus' anointing, the blind man is re-created from unseeing to believing. By our baptism, we are re-created from doing "fruitless works of darkness" to being "children of light." When we are young, we flip-flop about who we are. Only time and experience grant us the wisdom of knowing with sureness who we have grown to become. This sureness enables us to be stalwart in our values and beliefs.

PRAYER TIMES

Saint Anthony

Friday

9:00am-11:00am

Saint Paul

Tuesday

6:00pm-8:00pm

Saint Peter

Tuesday

11:00am-1:00pm

Wednesday

11:00am-1:00pm; 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday

11:00am-1:00pm

Saturday

3:00pm-6:00pm

Sunday

10:00am-7:00pm

A Message from our Pastor

Dear parishioners,

We have entered this new time in our faith journey just over a week ago. I am sure that for most of us, this health issue is like nothing else we have encountered. How long it will last is unknown. What we do know is that we need to do all possible to prevent the spreading of Covid-19 by following the advice and directions of the medical authorities. No need to repeat them here.

As people of our Roman Catholic faith tradition, we have had to make some drastic changes in our normal faith practice. With the suspension of Sunday and weekday Mass, our ordinary of worship and prayer has been interrupted, to say the least. As well, much of the work of bringing our parish into greater unity has been slowed down to some extent.

What can we do to sustain ourselves spiritually and communally? The first is Prayer - What format works best for you? The Rosary? The psalms of morning and evening prayer? Reflective Scripture reading? The Ignatian Prayer leading to meditation and contemplation?

There are many other ways to pray. A short scripture passage from the daily or Sunday readings is always a good starter.

Family prayer has a long tradition. As we chatted in our residence, all can recall how the Rosary was a part of our daily following supper. This is a great opportunity to help our younger members become accustomed to a regular rhythm of prayer. The "Domestic Church" sharing in prayer and faith reflection will be very important over the next months.

Here at our parish residence, we come together for prayer as well. At Mass, we hold all of you in our thoughts and our hearts. Maintaining unity and mutual support and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will make it through this difficult time.

On a practical note, and pastors must be practical, please read the note regarding ways to contribute financially to our parish. As well, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul remains active and also need your generous support.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jim

During Covid-19, what can I do to help the parish?

Many parishioners have reached out over the past week asking what they can do to support the parish during this time. Presently, there are two concrete ways to help.

→ Support St Vincent de Paul

We are unsure how Covid-19 will impact the poor among us, especially the homeless and homebound. Our cupboards are quickly emptying.

If you are able, we ask you to continue to bring non-perishable food items to the church. You can also donate financially by visiting our CanadaHelps page. More information about online donations below.

→ Keep in touch with one another

For many, this time of self-isolation and social distancing can be difficult. If you are able, pick up your phone and reach out to members from the parish and larger community. One phone call could make all the difference in lifting the spirits of others.

→ Parish Giving

We do encourage you, if possible, to continue giving financially to the parish during this time. Most of our financial obligations will continue, and your contributions will be vital for our continued viability once we are on the other side of contending with this virus.

How can I give?

- Continue your giving by mailing a cheque to the office.
- Sign up for pre-authorized giving (PAG). Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to the church through electronic banking, frequency and amount chosen by you. If you would like more information, please email Sherri at finance@ourladyofguadalupe.ca
- Online donations can also be made through CanadaHelps. CanadaHelps accepts credit card donations. You can donate directly to the parish or offer donations to St Vincent de Paul through the dropdown menu.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.ourladyofguadalupe.ca/donate>

How do we keep informed during this time?

We will work diligently to keep parishioners updated through various means, including:

Email office@ourladyofguadalupe.ca

Website www.ourladyofguadalupe.ca

Facebook @olgdartmouth

Twitter @olgdartmouth

Instagram @olgdartmouth

To be added to our email list, email

communications@ourladyofguadalupe.ca

Mass online

We are fortunate to have parishes in our diocese that are able to offer Sunday Mass online:

Saint Benedict, Clayton Park at 9:00am – go to www.saintbenedict.ca/watch

Holy Trinity, Lr. Sackville at 10:00am – go to holytrinityns.ca/ and scroll down the page to the section called Livestream

For Daily Mass, please visit Word on Fire:

<https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

The Daily Mass is posted at 8:15 ET every day.

Marriage Prep Course- ONLINE

Our marriage preparation course will take place on April 17th and 18th **online**.

For more information or to register, please contact Lydia at

lydiahood@ourladyofguadalupe.ca .

Catechism Classes

All classes and affiliated activities are suspended until further notice.

Tax Receipts

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped prepare and distribute tax receipts. A very special thanks to the Knights of Columbus who have taken on the task of delivering many of the tax receipts remaining at the parish.

If you have questions or concerns about your tax receipt, email Sherri at

finance@ourladyofguadalupe.ca.

At this time, we are waiting for updates from Archbishop Mancini as to whether or not Masses will continue as scheduled during the Easter season. Updates will be issued by the archdiocese and the parish as soon as they become available.

Holy Week & Triduum 2020 Mass Schedule

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, April 7th

12:00pm Saint Mary Cathedral Basilica

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 9th

7:00pm Saint Paul Church

Veneration and Prayer until 10:00pm

7:30pm Saint Peter Church

Veneration & Prayer until 10:00pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 10th

10:00am Saint Peter

Children's Catechesis Gathering

10:30am Christ Church

(Ochterloney Street)

Ecumenical Prayer Service

3:00pm All Churches

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

6:00pm Saint Faustina

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 11th

4:00pm Saint Faustina

Food Blessing

8:00pm Saint Paul & Saint Peter

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

7:30am Saint Faustina

9:30am Saint Anthony & Saint Peter

11:00am Immaculate Conception

11:15am Saint Peter

Please note No evening Mass at Saint Peter Church on Easter Sunday.

Share Lent and Care for Our Common Home

Please consider that although we might not gather together in a physical church over the next while, this period of time can be a great testimony to our faith and the presence of God witnessed in our care for our neighbour, including our brothers and sisters in the Global South who in many cases are the most vulnerable in our world today.

This fall, following on the 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis convened the Pan-Amazonian Synod “for the cause of the crisis of the Amazonian forest, lung of fundamental importance for our planet.” This year, Development and Peace Caritas Canada’s Share Lent campaign responds to the call to ecological conversion that animated *Laudato Si* and the Synod. This For our Common Home campaign calls us to express solidarity with two Brazilian communities whose lands and ways of life are threatened by mining, illegal logging, ranching and industrial agriculture. Our Share Lent appeal recognizes that solidarity alone is not enough. The larger cause is building a world of justice and peace in Amazonia and beyond. It means helping the voiceless and the oppressed rise and defend their dignity.

Your generosity supports not only the people of the Amazon but also the hundreds of thousands of people who benefitted from 149 Development and Peace projects last year in 36 countries across the world. To give generously to the Share Lent appeal is to nurture the Lenten spirit that prepares us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. On this Solidarity Sunday, March 29, Development and Peace invites you to give from the heart. Although many of you might not be able to give through your envelopes during Mass, everyone can give on-line at devp.org/give.

During Lent, please also join in prayer for our sisters and brothers in the Amazon and consider signing the Solidarity Letter for the Protectors of the Amazon at. Thank you in advance for your solidarity and generosity. Also, please note that all archdiocesan Development and Peace events during Lent have been

cancelled, including planned Share Lent Way of the Cross at various parishes

St Paul’s Development and Peace Poverty Meal

If the churches are open on Palm Sunday, Saint Paul will once again be holding their Poverty Meal (veggie soup, home-made tea biscuits and fruit). There will be a donation jar at the entrance with all donations going to Development & Peace. Donations of veggies, fruit and tea biscuits gladly accepted.

Saint Paul Men’s & Women’s Association Notices

Saint Paul Men’s Association Bingos are cancelled until further notice.

Loonie/Toonie at Saint Paul CANCELLED.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our next Loonie/Toonie that was scheduled for **Wednesday, March 25th** has been cancelled.

Parish Directory

Priests

Fr Jim Richards, *Pastor*

Fr Nathanael DesRoches, FoH, *Associate Pastor*

Fr Charles Burke and Bishop Martin Currie, *In Residence*

Deacons

Rev Mr Rob Elford

Rev Mr Jack MacNeil

Rev Mr Bernie Young

Parish Staff

Lydia Hood, *Pastoral Associate*

Denise Messervey, *Receptionist*

Sherri LaPierre, *Bookkeeper*

Greg Becigneul, *Director of Music and Liturgy (Saint Peter)*

Ern Reti, *Director of Music (Saint Paul)*