

Living the
Gospel

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This Sunday is called Laetare, which means to rejoice. We are in the middle of Lent; we are approaching Easter, and the Church calls us to rejoice and to focus on the new life that Christ is offering us. The First Reading, from the book of Joshua, presents the Passover celebration of the people of Israel as soon as they entered the Promised Land. When they crossed the Promised Land, they ate from their fruits, and they stopped eating the manna. During the Lenten season, we are asked to realize that God is bringing us out of our sins into a new life on which we can experience peace, thanksgiving, patience, and mercy from God. The Second Reading, from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, give us an encouraging message from St. Paul on which he tells us that Christ wants to reach out to us with mercy and to offer us a new life in Him. Christ has taken upon Himself our sins and its consequences; He has destroyed them on the Cross, and He gives us the wonderful opportunity of being resurrected in Him. With Christ, we can now live a new life in which we can love like Christ in our everyday lives. The Gospel, from St. Luke, presents the Parable of the Prodigal Son. We know this beautiful parable that presents God's merciful love for each one of us. There is an ungrateful son who wants to live his life selfishly away from his father. Yet, he lives miserably, and he cannot stand the consequences anymore, of his actions. He returns to his father, and he is welcomed with mercy and forgiveness. This is an image of God's immense mercy towards us. When we sin, we suffer and we cut ourselves from God, but God is always willing to reach out to us in Christ to forgive us and to give us a new life. This time of Lent is a favourable opportunity to experience the mercy of God. His mercy is what really renews us and fills us with peace. Let us open our hearts with confidence to Christ who comes to forgive us and transform us!

We have confession every Saturday from 4pm to 4:45pm. On Tuesday, April 1st, we will have the Day of Confessions, I will be available from 9:30am to 11:30am and 2pm to 4pm. From 7pm, 6 priests will be available to listen to our confessions. Come and experience God's transformative mercy!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 20, 2022) The Gospel for this Sunday's Liturgy recounts the so-called Parable of the Prodigal Son (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It leads us to God's heart who always forgives compassionately and tenderly. Always, God always forgives. We are the ones who get tired of asking for forgiveness, but he always forgives. It [the parable] tells us that God is a Father who not only welcomes us back, but rejoices and throws a feast for his son who has returned home after having squandered all his possessions. We are that son, and it is moving to think about how much the Father always loves us and waits for us.

But there is also the older son in the same parable who goes into a crisis in front of this Father. It can put us into crisis as well. In fact, this older son is also within us and, we are tempted to take his side, at least in part: he had always done his duty, he had not left home, and so he becomes indignant on seeing the Father embracing his son again after having behaved so badly. He protests and says: "I have served you for so many years and never disobeyed your command". Instead, for "this son of yours", you go so far as to celebrate! (cf. vv. 29-30) "I don't understand you!" This is the indignation of the older son.

These words illustrate the older son's problem. He bases his relationship with his Father solely on pure observance of commands, on a sense of duty. This could also be our problem, the problem among ourselves and with God: to lose sight that he is a Father and to live a distant religion, composed of prohibitions and duties. And the consequence of this distance is rigidity towards our neighbour whom we no longer see as a brother or sister. In fact, in the parable, the older son does not say my brother to the Father. No, he says that son of yours, as if to say, "he is not my brother". In the end, he risks remaining outside of the house. In fact, the text says: "he refused to go in" (v. 28), because the other one was there.

Seeing this, the Father goes out to plead with him: "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours" (v. 31). He tries to make him understand that for him, every child is all of his life. The ones who know this well are parents, who are very close to feeling like God does. Something a father says in a novel is very beautiful: "When I became a father, I understood God" (H. de Balzac, Il padre Goriot, Milano 2004, 112). At this point in the parable, the Father opens his heart to his older son and expresses two needs, which are not commands, but essentials for his heart: "It

was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive" (v. 32). Let us see if we too have in our hearts these two things the Father needs: to make merry and rejoice.

Day & Evening of Confession

This year, we are holding Confessions all on one day. No Sunday evening Reconciliation Service!

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

9:30am – 11:30am, 2:00pm – 4pm

– Fr. Francisco

7pm – 8:30pm – Fr. Henk van

Meijel, Fr. Jim Kelly, Fr. Arthur

Hlebnikian, Fr. David Twaddle,

Fr. Keith Wallace,

Fr. Francisco Fernandez Siles

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday April 2, 2025 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North and all are welcome. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight please contact Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

Spring into Easter Fundraiser Order Form Return All orders are due to be dropped into the collection basket on Sunday March 29 or dropped off at the office no later than April 3.

St. John's Ladies Golf League

Are you interested in playing golf or learning to play golf, then consider joining our league. We play Tuesday evenings 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Deer Creek Practice and Performance Centre (formerly Salem Ridge), an executive 9-hole course. We have lots of fun and we do improve our game. If you are interested in joining us, please come to our general meeting on

MARCH 30, 2025

Thursday April 10th at 7:30 p.m. in room 2 of the Parish Centre for our kick-off meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.



National March for Life
Join us on Thursday
May 2025

The bus will leave from Holy Family Parish parking lot at 6:45am. \$40/person. For more information contact: Gwen 905-259-8504.

Mark your Calendar!

SENIORS' RETREAT

Thursday May 22, 2025

10:00-3:00

Father Jim Kelly, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch.

\$55/person

- more details to come

Feed the Hungry

Containers will be available in the foyer next weekend. Please take a container and prepare the recipe provided. Return the FROZEN container to the parish centre parking lot at 1pm on Saturday April 12th. The meals will be warmed and served to the clients of Durham Feed the Need. Thank you!

Totus Tuus Returns this Summer!

Mark your calendars for **July 6-11, 2025!** Totus Tuus is a fun & faith-filled Summer camp for the youth of the parish run by missionaries. There is a day camp for children entering grade 1-6 in the fall and an evening program for youth entering grade 7-12 in the fall. More information will be available soon!



**Stations of the Cross
Fridays**

Stations of the Cross start
6:30pm in English,

Followed by Mass at 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross in Spanish at
7:30pm

Apr 4 Easter Reflections

Apr 11 Mary's Way of the Cross
Apr 18 (Good Friday) Youth Stations
Presentation



Dear Friend and Benefactor of the
Seminary!

The Redemptoris Mater cordially invite
you to join us for the 23rd Annual
Fundraising Dinner,
on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:00
p.m.

Dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$150 each.

Go to Redemptoris Mater Seminary

Website: <https://rmmstoronto.org>

Click on [Fundraiser Dinner 2025](#)



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 29 - 5:00pm

+Stewart Hamilton

req. by Martha & Family

Mon. Mar 31 - 8:20 am

Int. for Debbie O'Hare

req. by Staff of St. John the Evangelist School

Tues Apr 1 - 8:20am

Int for Gerard & Family

req. by Mary Yearwood

Wed Apr 2 - 7:00pm

+Theresa Deneumoustier

req. by Dorothy, Donald & Shawn Berry

+Anne Gallagher

req. By The LaBarre Family

Int. for Sheila Lang

req. by Her Mom

Int. for Sheila Lang

req. by Her Mom

+Danny Washburn

req. by Joan Rich

+Ben Vanderburg

req. by Mary Frances Enright

+Renata Danielle Weir

req. by Sara Hnatiuk

Thur Apr 3 - 8:20am

Int. for Gabby & Family

req. by Mary Yearwood

Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm

Fri Apr 4 - 7:00pm

+Ellen Forcier

req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly &
Family

**BEECH STREET THEATRE AND
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL
4895 PRESENT A DINNER
THEATRE COMEDY:
THE MASK OF THE GOLDEN GAELS**

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Location: Whitby Columbus Club,
133 Brock St. N

Price: \$65 pp, includes dinner
(choose between Pork, Chicken or
Vegetarian dish)

Seating at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:00pm
Show at 7:30pm

For Tickets, contact Gerry
905-995-2976 or email

gdesc9@gmail.com

ShareLife

This weekend is ShareLife Sunday

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors, and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way. As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments. Nick's life had an easy start - he came from a good home, where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son. But living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing, and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE Program at Good Shepherd. "By the grace of God, I am still alive," he proclaims. "I'd love to be able to give back what was so freely given to me. I am taking roles of service, giving back as much as I can. I was afraid I'd never be able to feel the way I feel. I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be sober." Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving—he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

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