

# Living the Gospel



## ShareLife Collection Next Sunday, March 18

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## St. Joseph Parish

Served by the Holy Cross Fathers

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On the **Fourth Sunday of Lent** we read Jesus' words to Nicodemus in the **Fourth Gospel**. Jesus will be lifted up on the cross to heal us from the power of sin and death. This gospel, which is written like a trial, tells us the verdict. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Monday is the **Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, with its own special readings.

Our gospels this week are all from **John's Gospel**. After two days of healing stories, the opposition against Jesus builds. In Cana, in Galilee, Jesus heals the son of a royal official. Back down in Jerusalem, he heals a man who was sick for 38 years, incurring the wrath of his enemies because he did it on the Sabbath. Because of this, and because he called God his Father, they now plot a way to kill him. Jesus says his opponents do not want to come to him for life. He calls God his father and says, "I have testimony greater than John's." Unafraid of his opponents, Jesus goes to Jerusalem for a feast and openly tells people that he has come from God. They did not arrest him then, "for his hour had not yet come." Thinking they know where Jesus is from (in both senses: where he lived now and his origin in heaven), his enemies insist that Jesus can't be a prophet: "Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

On the **Fifth Sunday of Lent**, we will also use **John's Gospel**. Jesus says that the "hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." However, he describes this glory in a surprising way, which explains who he is for us and who we are called to be: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."

### Daily Prayer This Week

The gospels this week make it very clear toward the end of the week that Jesus faced opposition that couldn't accept who he is. We see that Jesus comes to lay down his life that we might live. So, this week of Lent is an important time for us to ask ourselves if there are any parts of our hearts, any of our patterns, that oppose Jesus and his desire to give us life. This kind of honesty can transform our lives. It can allow the grace of God to bring reconciliation and healing we might not have imagined.

Even if it hasn't been easy to get really engaged with Lent so far, we can still make a beginning, even now. The key is openness and desire. If we can feel any attraction, any sign that the Lord is possibly drawing us, then the Lord can work with us - no matter what resistance or fear we might also be experiencing. All we have to do is act out of these desires and simply ask the Lord for the grace to help us be more honest and more open to what he is offering us. For example, we can ask for the grace to examine our consciences more thoroughly. We could try a different approach to facing any resistance we might have to the Lord's working in us. We might not commit the big sins, but we may not have examined what we fail to do. Who am I failing to love, to forgive, to be generous to? From whom am I withholding affection, care, reconciliation? Where can I live more honestly, with more integrity? How might I proactively change my own personal patterns of escape with patterns of care for others?

It is a time of grace when we can experience moments of "recognition," or self-understanding. But it is not a grace to beat up on ourselves or become self-absorbed in our own guilt. It is grace to feel grateful to the Lord for showing us obstacles to the life he is offering us. It is grace to feel our spirits lighten as we feel drawn to greater freedom and peace. It is incredible grace when we are drawn to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This week, let us give thanks to the Lord who deeply desires our greater freedom and joy. As we go to bed each night, let us thank the Lord for what we saw that day and renew our desires for the next day of grace.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT —YEAR B: MARCH 11, 2018

### St. Joseph's Conference Society of Saint Vincent de Paul – 2017 Financial Report

Cash Balance January 1, 2017 - \$5,838.34

Money received in 2017 – \$7,108.00 (including \$1,763.00 Christmas collection)

Number of Families helped in 2017 – 25 families (40 home visits). We provided Loblaw's gift certificates, Tim Horton's gift certificates, TTC tokens, Value Village gift certificates and occasionally furniture.

Christmas Help was provided to 35 Families (60 adults and 59 children). We provided Loblaw's gift certificates, hams, Tim Horton's gift certificates, toiletries and toys.

Cash Balance December 31, 2017 - \$1,937.28

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 11, 2018

#### Living the Gospel by supporting ShareLife

How do we "Live the Gospel" toward others when our daily lives are so busy? For some it's volunteering at a soup kitchen, or it may be caring for an elderly relative. If we do not have the time to actively participate, we can support the many ShareLife-funded agencies within our community that bring the hands of Christ to those in need. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Over the next week, reflect on your ability to help "Live the Gospel" through Catholic agencies, and make a decision to support our ShareLife parish campaign.

Next Sunday, March 18 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.



**Where:** St Joseph's Parish Hall

**Where:** 65 Curzon Street, Toronto, Ontario

**When:** Friday Nights until March 30, 2018.

**Time:** 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Parish Confessions for Lent will be on Saturday, March 17 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. All are welcome to come.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, March 11

10:00am † *Joseph Castelino*

Req. Family

#### Monday, March 12

9:00am † *Breid Keogh*

Req. Jim Keogh

#### Tuesday, March 13

9:00am All Souls in Purgatory

Req. Alfredo Costa

#### Wednesday, March 14

7:00pm *For the unborn*

Req. Toni Muise &

Marilyn Roberts

#### Thursday, March 15

9:00 am Family intentions of

Maria & Alfredo Costa

Req. Alfredo Costa

#### Friday, March 16

7:00pm † *Francisca Guerrero*

Req. Toni Guerrero

#### Saturday, March 17

5:00pm Lenten Weekday

#### TOTAL COLLECTIONS:

Weekly	1275.00
Candles	290.00
Building Fund	417.00

**EASTER BASKET:** Tickets for a delightful Easter Basket are on sale starting this weekend before and after Mass. Tickets will cost \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00. The draw for the Basket will be held on Sunday, **March 25, 2018, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.** All proceeds will be applied to Parish Projects.

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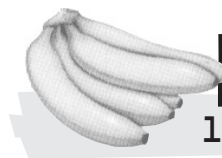


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