

PALM SUNDAY

THOUGHTS FOR SOWING

STONE-FACED

I have set my face like flint...

Isaiah 50:7

Do you think about the immense courage of Jesus? Having a true human nature (Hebrews 2:5-8), his inner strength is remarkable, particularly during the last week of his life on earth. Jesus' courage has many of the characteristics of the "suffering servant" in the Book of Isaiah. Today, his inner strength is compared to that of flint, an extremely hard stone. Jesus knew what he was facing in those final days. He could easily have slipped through the crowds as he had done previously when in life-threatening danger and escaped the humility and torture of being on the cross. But this time, he deliberately goes toward his death with profound bravery, giving himself trustingly into the arms of his Abba. We can learn from the courage of Jesus and draw on our inner resiliency when in need. We can also place ourselves in the Holy One's care. With God's grace, we, too, can "set our face like flint" when facing daunting circumstances.

Sr. Joyce Rupp, O.S.M.

From: Living Faith

3. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) by appointment only

4. The Church dispensation from attending Sunday Eucharist, for all the faithful, who are unable to attend Sunday Mass, continues throughout the covid-19 pandemic.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

We will continue to update you as the situation evolves, via our website and parish blast. We pray that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. May God continue to bless you now and always!

GOOD FRIDAY

A UNIVERSAL DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat; the last of fasting allows one full meal a day but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning or evening, observing common sense.

The law of abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 years and older.

The law of fasting binds those from 18-59 of age.

UPDATED PANDEMIC INFORMATION

On Friday March 12th, Cardinal Collins has informed us that we can resume public Masses as of Monday March 15th. Therefore, beginning **Monday March 15th** we will resume **Daily** and **Weekend Masses** at St. Margaret's Church and St. Eugene's Chapel at the regular scheduled times that are posted on the front of our bulletin.

However the amended restriction for all sacramental celebrations is **15% of our capacity**. For **St. Margaret's that is 75 persons** and **St. Eugene's Chapel that is 30 persons**. This of course requires that all **physical distancing and the wearing of masks must be maintained** as part of the ongoing pandemic precautions.

***Please note:** Seating at all Masses continues to be on "**A First Come, First serve Basis**"!

GOOD FRIDAY PONTIFICAL COLLECTION

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on **Good Friday April 2, 2021**. Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives.

As a Pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection helps to maintain not only the Holy Places above all, but also the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church carries out to the benefit of the Christian brothers and sisters and the local population.

NB ALL DONATIONS on Good Friday go directly to the Holy Land not the parish

ONGOING DIRECTIVES

1. The **parish office is closed to the public**. Please contact us by phone only on: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:00am – 12noon, 1:00pm – 4:00pm or any day by e-mail at st.marg@sympatico.ca
2. **UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**
Obviously due to the present restrictions, it becomes even more important to have the e-mail addresses of as many parishioners as possible. If you or you know anyone who may not have already informed the parish office of your e-mail address, we strongly encourage you to contact the parish office during the above scheduled times!

LENTEN CONFESSIONS – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Margaret's – By Appointment only

St. Eugene's

Mar. 27 – 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Mar. 31 – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 2 – 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (Good Friday)

or by appointment

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

• ST. MARGARET'S

Sunday March 28th
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Regular Mass Times

Thursday April 1st
HOLY THURSDAY

7:30pm EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER followed by
ADORATION until **11:00pm**

Friday April 2nd
GOOD FRIDAY

3:00pm LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday April 3rd
EASTER VIGIL LITURGY

8:00pm Mass

Sunday April 4th
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
Masses: 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00nn

NB – Monday April 5th Parish Office is Closed

• ST. EUGENE'S CHAPEL

* Stations of the Cross after 12noon Mass each Friday during
Lent.

Thursday April 1st
HOLY THURSDAY

7:00pm EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER followed by
ADORATION until **midnight**

Friday April 2nd
GOOD FRIDAY

3:00pm LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
*** NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Saturday April 3rd
EASTER VIGIL LITURGY

8:30pm Mass

Sunday April 4th
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
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ANNUAL JEANS DRIVE

St. Margaret's is once again holding a drive in support of the Good Shepherd's ministry to Toronto's homeless men. The most requested item is Jeans (sizes 30" – 40" waist). They're warm durable and look pretty good on anyone.

Please bring any donation of jeans (used or new) to the parish hall, anytime **between 8:00 am – 3:00pm on Apr. 10th or Apr. 11th**

Homeless men in Toronto may be struggling with all sorts of problems, but there's no reason they can't do so in nice pants!

Bundle Up

For the

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



We are collecting your donations at

St. Eugene's Chapel

13 Regina Avenue, Toronto
On

April 10 - 11, 2021



We DO NOT ACCEPT
appliances, baby or regular furniture,
books, mattresses, dishes,
construction material or video tapes
For more information visit
www.ssvptoronto.ca



YES, LORD! A LENTEN LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR KIDS



Tune into Salt + Light Television on Friday mornings during Lent for a kid-friendly approach to the Sunday Mass readings and homily. Whether you are worshipping at home due to the pandemic or are just looking for a way to boost your family's faith life, you won't want to miss this brand new series!

SCHEDULE:

- Starting February 19
- Fridays at 9:30 a.m.
- Saturdays at 4 p.m.
- Sundays at 7 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- On demand: www.slmedia.org/yeslord

THE MUSIC OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

As we embark on Holy Week I wanted to share some of the most poignant and moving selections from last year's concert starting with the hymn we use at St. Margaret's on Palm Sunday All Glory Laud and Honour and ending with Christ's passion on Good Friday with a beautifully sung rendition of Were You There. Wishing the parish family a most blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter.

Yours in Christ,

Diego Iapaolo

<https://youtu.be/X01utKJ6m24>
<https://youtu.be/Ovt0WBKLqRw>
<https://youtu.be/gOmjudlj7q4>
<https://youtu.be/1LskzLBz4NA>

PALM SUNDAY

Please feel free to like on Facebook www.facebook.com/togetherinworshipcanada and or subscribe on YouTube.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO'S ONLINE SESSIONS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online quick access single sessions. The single-session consultation is a quick and effective way for individuals, couples or families to address a mental health or relationship concern. To arrange for a session, please contact: info@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 or 416-222-0048. Leave us a message with your name, email and phone number, and a staff person will contact you.

Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs.

Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees.

SHARELIFE: SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our parish's ShareLife Campaign is now underway. ShareLife Sunday is **April 18th**.

In this time of Lent, please reflect on the great needs of our brothers and sisters who are helped through your generous support of ShareLife.

Last year, generous ShareLife supporters enabled 21,000 people to receive affordable mental health care through family service agencies across the Archdiocese of Toronto, including our community.

Our parish goal for this year's campaign is \$150,000. Please give generously.

Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY FROM STEWARDSHIP

Procession Gospel: Mk 11.1-10 – *Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem*

1st Reading: Isa 50.4-7

2nd Reading: Phil 2.6-11

Gospel: Mk 14.1-15.47 – *The Passion of our Lord*

Radical Humility

As we enter Holy Week we are faced with the great paradox of the cross. The crucifixion from a mere human standpoint was an utter and humiliating defeat for Jesus. How could God let Himself be killed by His own creatures? The only way we can recognize the sublime beauty and victory of the cross is if we view it through a Divine lens.

The Jews resisted accepting the necessity of the crucifixion

because they expected Him to be a wondrous king that would set them free from the political rule of the Romans. Jesus on the other hand comes as a poor and lowly carpenter sent to set them free not from political tyranny, but from the tyranny of sin. To do this, he "humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). Jesus hid all of His Divine majesty with His humanity and allowed Himself to die for love of us. It was because of this humility that "God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9).

As stewards, we may sometimes forget the truth found in the paradox of the cross. It is not our own strength or achievements that make us great but it is rather our humility and obedience to God. The Lord can bring about tremendous good out of our willingness to humbly serve Him wherever He places us. As we enter Holy Week, let us take some time to meditate on the radical humility of Christ crucified and seek to imitate Him in our own lives as stewards.

Summary

As stewards, we may sometimes forget the truth found in the paradox of the cross. It is not our own strength or achievements that make us great but it is rather our humility and obedience to God. As we enter Holy Week, let us take some time to meditate on the radical humility of Christ crucified and seek to imitate Him in our own lives.

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

Morning Prayers

Abba God, thank You for the gift of this new day and for the opportunity to draw nearer to you and to better serve you than I did yesterday. May my words and actions today reflect the grace, love and mercy that you shower upon me. Amen.

~ *Melanie Rigney*

Loving God, thank You for Your gift of life as this day begins. My God, fill my heart today with a growing awareness of your loving presence. Help me to care for others in their needs just as you always care for me in mine. Guide me throughout this day so that my life may become a reflection of your love. Amen.

~ *Fr. Kenneth E. Grabner, C.S.C.*

Eternal God, nourish me with peace in this quiet moment. Help me to be humble in all I do this day. When I am wrong, nudge me to admit my faults and ask the forgiveness of others. As I step into the rhythm of the day, I know that you will guide me and bring me closer to the heart of Your Beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.

~ *Deborah A. Meister*

From: **Living Faith**

March 28, 2021

CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

View it online: www.ph500toronto.com
Facebook or YouTube.

REFLECTION FOR LENT "IS MORE REALLY BETTER"

In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Matthew 6:7

The late, great pianist Arthur Rubinstein had the ability to speak eight languages. Once during his career, he was struck by an unrelenting case of hoarseness. He feared the worse – was it cancer? He went to a throat specialist. The doctor seemed quite serious, and Rubinstein could not read his expression. The doctor told him to come back the next day. Rubinstein couldn't sleep a wink. He returned the next day for another long examination. The doctor said nothing. Finally, Rubinstein pleaded with the doctor to give him the news – he could handle it. Finally, the physician spoke: "You talk too much."

I wonder if that what God thinks about our prayer. We can babble on and on – mindless of what we are saying. We may believe that more is better. No. God wants us to pray from our heart. Speak as child to its parent. Pray with confidence and trust. Keep it simple. Say what is on your mind and leave the rest to God's hands. He knows what we need. Trust him.

From: **Growing in Grace** by Fr. Thomas Connery

5 WAYS TO BE KIND TO YOUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19 BY KATHYN GOODE

Be a good neighbour. Check in with your neighbours to make sure they have what they need and to let them know they have people that care. Be especially aware of elderly neighbours and people that live alone. You know all that technology we have – let's use it like never before to truly connect.

Support local businesses. Order takeout or buy gift cards for later use. Send a Facebook message to remind them that very soon, we will all be back out and about again to visit their business. Keep your memberships going. Continue to give to your area non-profits and give more if you can.

Remember the caretakers. Find a way to say thank you to health professionals and first responders. Post word of encouragement on their social media channels. If you have to go to the doctor's office or hospital, practice grace and understanding if they are short on time, resources, or answers.

Help people. From hungry kids that are missing school lunch to people in demand-shifted jobs like restaurant workers and even custodians, there will be people all over our communities that will be struggling. If you know them, think

of what help could look like and reach out. If no one comes to mind, give to your local United Way or food bank; the needs these organizations will be addressing will be fierce.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A GIFT TO YOUR PARISH

Our Parish is where we are married and bring our children to be baptized. It is where we come to be fed in the Holy Eucharist, be reconciled with God and the world, and hope to leave this world on our final journey to meet the God that we love.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 21, 2021

Offertory	\$4,234	PAG	\$835
Budget	\$8,300		(\$3,231)

RESOURCES FOR LENT

- DYNAMICCATHOLIC.COM
 - [Best Lent Ever](#): "It's not what you give up this Lent, it's who you become."
 - Daily Lenten Reflections
- WORDONFIRE.ORG
 - Daily Lenten reflections with Bishop Robert Barron
 - Lenten articles
 - YouTube videos
 - "[The Stations of the Cross](#)" video with Bishop Barron
 - [Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary](#) with Bishop Robert Barron
- JESUITS.ORG/IGNATIAN-LENT
 - An Ignatian Guide to Lent: 40 Days of Ignatian Spirituality
- CCCB.CA
 - **Journey through Lent 2021:**
 - Video series of scriptural reflections with Bishop Gerard Bergie, of St. Catharine's.
- [LITURGY UPDATES FOR LENT](#) (*join the mailing list*)
- **SPECIAL WAY OF THE CROSS**
 - [LINK](#)
- **MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2021**
 - [LINK to Vatican](#)
- **How to Draw young People Back to the Church**
 - Click for the [video](#)

CHUCKLES FROM THE PEWS

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60!

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room on both sides.
Hold a 5-lb potato bag in each hand and extend your arms out in front of you for as long as you can. Try to hold for a full minute then relax.
Each day you will find you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks move up to couple of 10-lb potato bags. Then try a couple of 50-lb potato bags.
Then eventually try to get to where you can lift a couple of 100-lb potato bags out in front of you for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level now)
After you feel comfortable at that level, put a potato each bag!