
The Hope of Lent

We might think that the hope of Lent has to do with our hope that we will get through it, that we will come to the end of it. We see Lent as an obstacle course we need to navigate in order to get to the great feast of Easter. But while the Lenten season is indeed preparation for our Easter celebration, the hope of this season is that we will have our lives transformed by the many ways we encounter God's Word, by the richness of the Scripture readings chosen to encourage, to challenge, to confront, to comfort. Focusing only on the end goal would cause us to miss so much along the way.

The greatest hope of Lent is the discovery that it's not only about penance, deprivation, spiritual struggles, and rooting out sin in our lives. Those are often the things we do during Lent. But the hope of Lent lies in what God does. From the beginning of his Pontificate, Pope Francis has made mercy his hallmark. It's no surprise that he declared a special year dedicated to the contemplation of mercy.

Pope Francis wants us to realize that God's mercy and grace surround us not just in special times and places but always and everywhere. Lent is a time to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary, to be surprised by God's mercy when we least expect it. As the season begins, think about the hopes you have for Lent this year. Think about what changes you want to see in your life, in the world. Let the words of Pope Francis guide you on a journey of bringing those hopes to fulfillment.

With its invitations to conversion, Lent comes to awaken us, to rouse us from inactivity, from the risk of moving forward by apathy. The exhortation which the Lord addresses to us through the prophet Joel is strong and clear: "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). Why must we return to God? Because something is not right in us, not right in society, in the Church and we need to change, to give it a new direction. And this is called needing to convert! Once again Lent comes to make its prophetic appeal, to remind us that it is possible to create something new within ourselves and around us, simply because God is faithful, always faithful, for he cannot deny himself, he continues to be rich in goodness and mercy, and he is always ready to forgive and start afresh.

People often remark on the way our churches are full on Ash Wednesday. It's not a holy day of obligation. No one is required to attend Mass or receive blessed ashes. But there's something about the beginning of this season of Lent that draws us in, calls us to return to sanity, to a bit of austerity, to a change of heart and mind. It's a second chance at our new year's resolutions, long since broken and forgotten. It's a second chance at making changes in our lives. For some people, it's no less than a second chance at life. That something that draws us is God's grace. And it's drawing us back to God's merciful embrace.



NO Mass on Mondays

Please consider joining fellow parishioners, and of course myself, for daily Mass as we journey through the year by reflecting on a different saint of the day. ~ Fr. Irek

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 am + MARY BYRNE - Karen

- for the intentions of Yvonne - from her mother

Wednesday, March 13

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 pm and concludes with Benediction at 7:00 pm

7:15 pm + DORVALINA ARAUJO - Luis Tavares & family

+ BETH and WALK TREMBLETT - Kay Normore

Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 14

8:00 am + MANUEL AMARAL - Theresa and Manuel

+ PALMIRA and EUGENIO PEREIRA - their family

Friday, March 15

8:00 am + KEVIN EZEKIEL - Pauline and Mike Cahill

+ MARGARIDA FERREIRA - son Daniel

6:30 pm - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 16

8:00 am + FRANCES BLACKMORE - Kit and George Winsor

5:00 pm + ANDREW DOBBIN - Kay Normore

+ DORIS DOBBIN - Gerald

+ IZIDRO CARREIRO & DECEASED FAMILY - Canto family

Sunday, March 17

9:00 am + VICTOR DaSILVA - his mom

11:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners

AED Defibrillator Class

Defibrillators save lives, do you know where you could find ours at St. Ambrose in the event someone suffers a heart attack, or how to use it?

On **Saturday March 23rd**, join us from 11am to 12noon for a review of the proper use of the AED (Defibrillator). The presentation will be provided by a St. John Ambulance First Aid/CPR Instructor. All ushers, leaders of various parish ministries and anyone else who is interested are encouraged to attend.

Please contact Myra Klaassen, Parish Nurse to register 519 621-2013, or email myra@stambrosecambridge.ca

Holy Hour to Pray for Victims of Abuse**Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 pm****St. Ambrose church**

A great deal of media attention has been directed to cases of sexual abuse by priests and bishops, and the failure of the Church's leadership to address this issue, which has caused much pain and suffering for victims and brought hurt and disillusion to many members of the faithful.

Upon recommendation of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, Bishop Douglas Crosby has decreed that on the Second Sunday of Lent each year, beginning March 17, 2019, there is to be observed in every parish in the Diocese of Hamilton a Holy Hour of Prayer for victims of sexual abuse.

We invite all parishioners to come to pray with one another for healing for the victims and their families, and for an end to abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.

St. Ambrose Parish Lenten Mission**March 23 to 26, 2019****Facilitated by Fr. Mirek Mejzner SAC**

To begin this Lenten mission, Father Mirek will be the guest homilist at all weekend Masses March 23/24.

Fr. Mirek has previously filled-in for Father Irek when he was away on holidays in 2017. He is the Rector of the Pallottine Seminary in Poland, and a professor at the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw. He is even a master chess player! He is a wonderful homilist and please invite others to attend.

Monday, March 25 - Mass at 7:00 pm - celebrant Fr. Mirek

Tuesday, March 26 - Penitential service at 7:00 pm for the Sacrament of Reconciliation - several priests will be available for individual confessions.

Please join us for this opportunity to prepare ourselves for Easter and receive God's mercy through the Sacraments.

St. Ambrose Parish is considering hiring a part time youth minister. Requirements would include an undergraduate degree in religious studies/theology and 3-5 years of experience with youth. Please contact Father Irek at the parish office 519.621.2013 or email stambrose@golden.net

Workshop for New Parents (and grandparents, siblings)**Saturday March 23rd, from 12:30 to 3:30pm**

This is a non-certificate workshop for new parents, grandparents and siblings over 14 years, focusing on accident and injury prevention, first aid, choking and CPR techniques used on newborns, infants and young children. Learn essential emergency skills with lots of hands-on practice. \$45.00 fee To register contact Myra Klaassen, Parish Nurse at myra@stambrosecambridge.ca or 519.621.2013

Healing Mass and Prayers**Wednesday March 20, 2019****7:00pm - 9:30pm**

St. Ambrose parish 210 south St, Cambridge

Celebrant will be Rev. Fr. Augustine Vallooran V.C.

Director Divine Retreat Centre, from Potta, Kerala, India.

Everyone is welcome

**Children's Mass****Sunday, March 24 at 11:00 am Mass**

Families with young children are especially welcome to attend this Mass. Children will be invited to sit in the Sanctuary for the homily.

**Marion Residence Retirement Home
Volunteers Needed!**

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of others? Please considering volunteering at the Marian Residence retirement home for seniors, operated by the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate, 640 Hillview Rd. in Preston, 519.653.0363 or email volunteer@solisisters.ca

- Visiting residents
- Musical entertainment
- Reading to residents
- Weekend receptionist
- Playing games with residents
- Help with special events

'One Heart, One Soul' campaign nears kickoff!

Months of preparations are leading us to the next step of the *One Heart, One Soul* Campaign for the Diocese of Hamilton.

A public kickoff Mass will be held at 12:00 noon on **Monday, March 25**, Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, **at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King**. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, and followed by a reception at the Cathedral.

The campaign's Pilot Wave parishes will be holding kickoffs for their own efforts in April. Three additional waves over the next two years will allow every Parish in the Diocese to participate. Most of the funds from the three-year campaign will go to Parish projects, with a special emphasis on the Parishes most in need. A number of diocesan ministries will benefit as well.

A series of Frequently Asked Questions about the campaign can be found on the campaign website – www.oneheartonesoul.ca