
MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (*Preface of Lent I*). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery – “for in hope we were saved” (*Rom 8:24*). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (*Rom 8:19*). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. *The redemption of creation*

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 8:14*) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, *we also benefit creation* by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’, 87*). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. *The destructive power of sin*

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “*I want it all and I want it now!*” and “*Too much is never enough*”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment

in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. *Gen 3:17-18*). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God’s law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. *Mk 7:20-23*) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

(will be continued next week...)



NO Mass on Mondays

Tuesday, March 19 - Solemnity of St. Joseph

8:00 am + MILDRED KAVANAGH - Frank and Marg O'Brien
+ MARIA MOURA & DECEASED FAMILY - Antonio Moura

Wednesday, March 20

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

7:15 pm + EMILIA and MANUEL MOREIRA - Rosa
+ ANGELO & MARIA LOURDES FERNANDES and MANUEL TAVARES - Ilda, Rick and family

Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 21

8:00 am + PATRICIA WHALEN - Madeline Tremblett
+ GENEVIEVE BYRNE - Catherine Hedderson

Friday, March 22

8:00 am + DAVID WOZNUK - Kay and family
+ JOSE & MARIA SILVEIRA - Manuel & Ana Silveira

6:30 pm - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 23

8:00 am + FRANCES BLACKMORE - St. Anne School

5:00 pm + CLAUDE CLEMENT - Margaret
+ MANUEL DeMELO - his family
+ PEDRO ORIO - his family

Sunday, March 24 - Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 am - intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am + MARY DREHER - Paul and Myra Klaassen

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.

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.



Healthy Humour, Healthy Hearts!

Everyone welcome on **Wed. March 27 from 10:30 to 11:30 am** - Join our parish nurse, Myra, for her monthly "Healthy Humour, Healthy Hearts" hour in the Parish Hall. Lively chats, healthy refreshments.

Reel Justice: On March 19th, the film "Poverty, Inc." will be shown at St. Michael's Church, 80 University Avenue, West, Waterloo, at 7:30pm. The film focuses on the challenge of fighting poverty; however, this effort has led to a vast multi-billion dollar poverty industry — the business of doing good has never been better. Drawing from over 200 interviews filmed in 20 countries, Poverty, Inc. unearths an uncomfortable side of charity we can no longer ignore. Everyone welcome.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

During the next two weeks the Grade 2 students of our parish schools who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will receive the Lord's forgiving mercy. Please keep these students in your prayers.

St. Vincent de Paul Students Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm

Holy Spirit students Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 pm

St. Anne students Thursday, March 28 at 6:30pm

Healing Mass and Prayers

Wednesday March 20, 2019 7:00pm - 9:30pm at 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

Our parish will have a Children's Way of the Cross on Friday, April 5 at 6:45 pm. If your child would like to participate by reading one of the Stations please contact Barb at the parish office.

stambrose@golden.net 519.621.2013

C.Y.O. Camp Brebeuf

Summer will be here before we know it. Are you looking to give your child, grandchild or someone you know a rewarding experience this summer?

C.Y.O. Camp Brébeuf currently has openings in their day camp, leadership and residential camp programs. Online registration is available. For more information please contact Camp Brébeuf at 519-856-4671 or visit the Camp Brébeuf website: <http://www.campbrebeuf.ca>

STAND UP TO FALLS

Join our FREE education sessions and gentle exercise classes to STAND UP TO FALLS. Meet People, Stay Active!

Work with Registered Kinesiologists to learn helpful tips on building balance and strength, eating well, and overall healthy living. Please bring running shoes and a water bottle. From **April 1 - May 27 (Mondays)** 1:30 - 3:00 pm at St. Ambrose Church Hall. [Register](#) with Myra at myra@stambrosecambridge.ca or 519.621.2013

Card Party results from March 9th - the winners were:

Door Prize - Neila Maddock

High cards - Julie Layh, Pat Darcy

Most lone hands - Jean Lamky, Mike Fournier

Bridge High scores - Ed Mittlestead, Nita Hutton, Peter Hutton

50/50 Draw Winners - Bill Law, Marj Crane

The next card party will be Saturday, April 13 at 6:30 pm in our Church hall.