
2019 National Week for Life and the Family

Dear Catholic families,

Once a year the Church in Canada sets aside a week to celebrate and reflect upon God's great gifts of life and family. Jesus tells us in John's Gospel that he desires for us to have an abundant life (Jn 10:10). The fullness of life we are to experience is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Father's loving plan for humanity, families are called to share in and be a sign of his life-giving presence. This year's Week for Life and the Family will be observed from May 12 to May 19, with the theme, "Listening to the Gospel as a Family".

We live in a world of constant news; bad news, fake news, shouldn't we hear some good news? The word Gospel literally means "Good News." As Catholics we are the recipients of this Good News. Of the many negative words we hear today, there is one Word which is truly good news, Jesus, whose name means "God saves." What is the good news? Simply put, the good news is that God, our loving Father, has sent his only begotten Son, Jesus, so that whoever believes in him might have eternal life (Jn 3:16). It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to proclaim Jesus as Lord and call God "Abba, Father" (1 Cor 12:3; Rom 8:15).

When we hear good news, our hearts are filled with joy and we want to share that good news. Pope Francis tells us that "the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew" (Evangelii Gaudium, 1). The Gospel is a saving message not only for us, but for all peoples; "the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations" (Mk 13:10). The Holy Father teaches us that "the best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart" (Evangelii Gaudium, 264). Saint Boniface asks, "Can there be a more fitting pursuit in youth or a more valuable possession in old age than a knowledge of sacred scripture?" And Saint Jerome famously said that "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ;" let us come to know Jesus more deeply by listening to the Gospel as a family.

With my fellow Bishops, it is my prayer that on the occasion of this year's Week for Life and the Family, you and your family will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to encounter Jesus more fully by listening to the Gospel, and that you may joyfully live out this saving message by becoming witnesses of God, the Father's loving presence in the world.

+ *Lionel Gendron, P.S.S.*
Bishop
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops



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, May 14

8:00 am + CATHERINE DECKER, MARY & GERRY BRISSON - Keith
-intentions of Desiree and her deceased family and friends

Wednesday, May 15

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 pm and concludes with Benediction at 7:00 pm
7:15 pm + EMMA EPIFANO - her family
- in thanksgiving from Tony and Fatima Laranjeiro
Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 16

8:00 am + FR. ADRIAN TEIXEIRA - Jacqueline Ferreira
+ ALVARO BORGES - his wife Ilda

Friday, May 17

8:00 am + RICARDO SOARES - his parents
+ DECEASED MOORE FAMILY - John MacNeil

Saturday, May 18

8:00 am + DECEASED FAMILY of Antonio Pedro and wife
5:00 pm + FR. STROHMEYER - a friend
+ TOMMASO PELLEGRINO - Santa and family
- For the intentions of Valeria Kovac

Sunday, May 19

9:00 am + SABINO NAPOLI - Maria & Joe Cetra
11:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners



Retreat for Girls

The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate are hosting their annual **Hearts Set ABLAZE Retreat** for young girls aged 10 - 15 years. The retreat will be from June 21-23 at Camp Brebeuf, near Rockwood, Ontario. There will be games, conferences, time for prayer, talks and lots more. To register or find out more information about the retreat please contact Sister Viola at retreats@solisisters.ca or visit solisisters.weebly.com.



ROSES FOR LIFE today

The Knights of Columbus, Galt Council 2184, will be offering Roses for Life after each Mass. Free-will donations accepted at the church exits today. Thank you



We pray for Mothers...

God our Creator, we pray: *for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibilities; for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting; for those who*

are tired, stressed or depressed; for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family; for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty; for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities; for those who have children they do not want; for those who raise children on their own; for those who have lost a child; for those who care for the children of others; for those whose children have left home; and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and may they lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others. Amen.

Cannabis, Vaping and Mental Health Discussion at Monsignor Doyle C.S.S.

Monday, May 13 from 7pm - 9 pm (lecture hall)

Everyone welcome.

Are you concerned that the legalization of Cannabis sends the wrong message to teens about its safety? This session is designed to equip parents with accurate information about the impact of Cannabis on the adolescent brain and overall mental health.

Panelists: Dr. Shrenik Parekh - Psychiatrist

Ruth Cordukes - Public Health Nurse

Sharon Porty, MSW, RSW - Mental Health Lead

First 20 families receive a copy of the book "Hold On To Your Kids".

COFFEE & DESSERT EVENING

Cambridge Right to Life Presents a Coffee & Dessert Evening with the **Sisters of Life** (Toronto) - Consecrated under a special fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. Thursday, May 16, 2019 at The Pines (115 Fountain Street South) at 7:00 PM Tickets: \$15.00. For tickets or more information, call 519.623.1850 or visit www.cambridgerighttolife.ca

Theology of the Body for Teens DVD

The St. Ambrose Ladies Group has purchased a copy of the DVD set, *Theology of the Body for Teens* (High School Edition) and the parent guide to accompany this. It is an excellent tool that can assist parents discussing sexuality with their teenager, based on Saint John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" that will help them understand the meaning of their bodies, the significance of their sexuality, the purpose of their lives, and how they were uniquely created for greatness.

This will be made available to our parishioners to borrow, and can be found at the back of the church. Please remember to sign for this set.



Cambridge Pregnancy Resource Centre "Baby Bottle Campaign"

Take a bottle today!

St. Ambrose Parish Ladies' Group are giving out baby bottles on Mother's Day in support of **Cambridge Pregnancy Resource Centre** (known as the "Dawn Centre"), which provides support to women, couples and families during an unplanned pregnancy, or post abortion trauma. **Please, take home TODAY** to fill with your loose change for the next four weeks and **return the bottle back** to the church on Father's Day. Every little bit makes a difference.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Level 1 Foundations Course Certificate program is being offered at Sacré Coeur Parish in Georgetown by the Archdiocese of Toronto and Diocese of Hamilton. This course presents the orientation to the key issues fundamental to this ministry with children in early childhood. This course is designed for those who are interested or already involved in caring for the spiritual lives of children. Part A begins Sept. 28 to May 30th 2020. If you have questions or are interested in The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd programs and atriums, please call Anne Jamieson, 905-528-7988 ext. 2251 or visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/catechesis-good-shepherd>.

Online registration is available at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/catechesis/good-shepherd.php>

Is your child in Grade 6? Did you know the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in Grade 7?

Appropriate preparation is required for children not attending a Catholic school, and should start as soon as possible. The Catechetical Correspondence Courses from the Diocese of Hamilton will help your child prepare for the Sacrament. For more information on the Correspondence Courses, please contact the parish office.

Struggling from an Abortion Experience? – There is Help! Are you struggling with an abortion decision – either your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone, emotional, or angry? *Project Rachel* is a ministry of healing for any person suffering pain or problems from an abortion experience. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850.