ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WELLAND
8th Sunday of Ordinary Time– March 2, 2025

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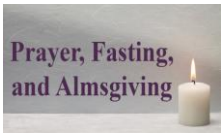
Office Hours
Friday Only
10:00am to 2:00pm
(Please call before visiting the office)

DONATIONS:
Kindly send a cheque, payable to
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Welland
E-transfer: saint2020andrew@gmail.com

Mass Schedule & Intentions: March 1 – March 9, 2025

SATURDAY March 1st - 5:00 pm
Frank & Theresa Horvat by Family
Tony Celi by Angelina Camposarcone
Vincenzo & Antionietta Nobile by Franca Sdao



SUNDAY March 2nd - 9:00am
Jean Jarvie by Franca Sdao & Family
Conrad & Jean-Luc Lemelin by Wife & Mother
11:00am - for all your intentions

TUESDAY March 4th - 5:00pm Mass& Adoration
Barbara Bedek by Walker Family
ASH WEDNESDAY March 5th - 9:45am
For All Families
Second Mass - 7:00pm - Grace Wang by G Pang

THURSDAY March 6th - 5:00pm - Mass & Adoration
Tony Celi by Irene & Len Aubertin
FRIDAY March 7th - 9:35am
Fr. Nicholas Deak by Maria Fazzalari
6:30pm – *Stations of the Cross*

SATURDAY March 8th - 5:00 pm
Frank Sdao by Franca Sdao
Gino Ventresca by Maria Fazzalari

First Sunday Of Lent

SUNDAY March 9th - 9:00am
Michael Angelo Mammoliti by Grandchildren
Antonino Giovinazzo by Family
11:00am - for all your intentions

The History of Ashes

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when as the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop etc. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and the sick are exempt from this observance.

Lent 2025

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach another season of Lent, there is no question that our world faces many challenges. In our own country of Canada, there is high anxiety and uncertainty. It seems so easy to feel overwhelmed; we don't have to feel this way.

We are also in the midst of a Jubilee Year that focuses on the virtue of hope. I believe that this is precisely what we need at this moment in time. We need to be 'pilgrims of hope'.

In his letter of introduction to the Jubilee Year entitled "Hope Dose Not Despair", Pope Francis states, "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring."

There are some pundits who say that the threats facing our nation are not all bad. They believe that there is also a positive side to what we are experiencing. It seems that people are coming together as we focus on what unites rather than what divides. Relationships are being strengthened on many levels.

In a similar way, Lent is able to do the same for us, although not in a threatening way. As people of faith, we enter these forty days unified in our hope that, in the end, relationships will be strengthened. This happens when we focus on the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Lent promotes greater union with God, ourselves and others. In Prayer, we focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We allow ourselves o be immersed in divine love. In Fasting, we discipline ourselves so that we can say no to self and yes to Christ. We grow in discernment and self-knowledge. In Almsgiving, we focus on others in a spirit of love and generosity. We use our time, talent and treasure to assist those in need. Ultimately, the forty days of Lent enkindle hope as we spiritually consider 'the good things to come'. Those good things are found in what we celebrate at the end of Lent: the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It is St. John who reminds us that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him, may not perish but may have eternal life." This is the mystery of salvation, and it provides the greatest hope in this life and in the life to come. We are loved, so we need not be afraid.

During these challenging times let us make Lent a true 'pilgrimage of hope'. With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,
+ Gerard Bergie
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines

See ***Coming Events*** on back page →