ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WELLAND
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 22, 2026

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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 Intentions - Week of February 21 to March 1

SATURDAY February 21 – 5pm
Amedeo & Giuseppe Giovinazzo by Teresa DiGioia
Raymond Paille by Ron & Denise Bovine
Maria & Carmelo Seneca by Luisa & Jim Fazzalari

"Worship the Lord, your God and Serve only Him"

SUNDAY February 22 - 9:00am
First Sunday of Lent
Dino Lostracco by Family
Domenic Giovinazzo by Tina, Nancy & Rosa
11:00am - For all your intentions
SUNDAY LATE EVENING MASS - 8:15pm
In honour of The Holy Family by G. Pang

TUESDAY February 24 - 5:00pm - *Mass & Adoration*
Tony Mazzei by Papa & Mama

WEDNESDAY February 25 – 9:00am
Fr, Michael Cigar by David Fox

THURSDAY February 26 – 5:00pm - *Mass & Adoration*
Amie Garland by Friends

FRIDAY February 27 - 9:35am
Margaret & Clive Fox by David Fox
6:30pm – Stations of the Cross and Prayers

SATURDAY February 28 – 5pm
Rosaria Addario by Maria Fazzalari
Lucy Longo by Luisa & Jim Fazzalari

SUNDAY March 1 - 9:00am
Second Sunday of Lent
For the intentions of Agi & Nadia Mete by Jacky Jayan
For the Wellbeing of Georgia by Grandmother
Lidia Labriciosa by Maria Fazzalari
11:00am - For all your intentions
SUNDAY LATE EVENING MASS - 8:15pm
In honour of St. Augustine by G. Pang

Confession Tuesday to Friday 8:00pm – 9:00pm
No Confessions on Solemnity of St. Joseph March 19, & from around Holy Week March 24 to April 13

Lenten Wednesdays (from Feb.25 for six weeeks)
Video Talk on The Theology of the Body from 6.30pm to 8pm, at the Church. ***Please join us as we explore the revolutionary teachings of Pope St. John II. We will view 50 minute video with engaging discussion as we understand the dignity of human love.***

Bishop Bergie's Lenten Message

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ This year, the Gospel for the three Sundays prior to Lent were from the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew also known as the Sermon on the Mount. The first Sunday, we were presented with the Beatitudes, the second Sunday, we were reminded that we are to be salt and light, and finally, last Sunday, Jesus reminds us that He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it in love. These scripture passages help us to use these forty days as a time of both personal and spiritual renewal.

The Beatitudes offer the proper disposition that we should have regarding the world, as we are immersed in an ever-increasing secular environment. Jesus reminds us that His values are rooted in being poor in spirit, meek, merciful, humble, and moral. Greatness is found in being the least rather than the most powerful.

This way of life certainly runs counter to the culture we live in today. *Jesus is the Way.* Jesus also reminds us that we are salt and light; however, we can lose our saltiness and put our light under a bushel basket. Due to sin in our lives, our enthusiasm is diminished and we can become dim. We can forget our baptismal calling to witness to Christ and to the truth, that we are salt and light. *Jesus is the Truth.*

We live the Beatitudes and strive to be salt and light because of love and not because of obligation. We look to Jesus who fulfills the law in His loving sacrifice. We follow his example by ensuring that our lives are inspired by our love of God and neighbour. *Jesus is the Life.*

Traditionally, Lent provides three pillars that help us to enter the mystery of God's life-giving love. Prayer is a means of drawing us out of the secular and into the sacred. The more we pray, the Beatitudes on a daily basis then becomes more natural to us.

Fasting, is simply saying no to self and yes to God. We deny ourselves and become less distracted by our desires so that we can focus more on being salt and light. We work at developing passion for our faith and enlightening others with the joy of the Gospel. Almsgiving focuses on being generous and sharing with those in need. Our motivation should always be love. As Jesus said, in the Gospel of Matthew, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

It is my hope that throughout the forty days of Lent, the Beatitudes, salt and light and the mystery of love, will be our inspiration. May we all grow in our desire to love Jesus who not only fulfills the Law but is also our ultimate fulfillment. *He is the Way, the Truth and the Life*. Yours sincerely in Christ,
(Bishop Gerard Bergie D.D.)