

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018



## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: MARCH 10 TO MARCH 18

(L) indicates a living intention

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar. 10</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	
4:30 pm	Norma Marchessault		Bill & Maureen Kelly
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar. 11</b>		
9:00 am	Mabel Oliveira		The Oliveira family
11:00 am	Our Parishioners		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mar. 12</b>		
8:30 am	Fernand Froment		Estate
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mar. 13</b>		
8:30 am	Alfonso Reda (Jr.)		Rina Reda & family
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>		
8:30 am	Edward Luck		Chris Coll)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mar. 15</b>		
8:30 am	Maria Pulice		Rina Reda & family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mar. 16</b>		
8:30 am	Domingo Jipos		Lordes Jipos
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar. 17</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	
4:30 pm	Mabel Oliveira		The Oliveira family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar. 18</b>		
9:00 am	Wayne Watkins		
11:00 am	Our Parishioners		

### **SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)**

March 18: Mary Whyte, requested by Maria G. Cabral

March 25: Shelamma Joseph, requested by her son & family

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAR. 03/04**

Offerings: \$5,105.50

Next special collection: **March 18: Development and Peace**

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED:** Catholic Action is looking for drivers for a 20 seat mini-bus to volunteer once every two weeks to drive our senior citizens to their senior centers, to outings, and to group-shopping. Many of our seniors are isolated and this service is a huge boost to their morale and quality of life. Please contact Andy at 514-815-6370.

**WHAT IS THE SANCTUARY LAMP?** It is the red lamp that burns next to the tabernacle reminding us that Jesus is present there. If you would like the lamp to burn in memory of a loved one or for a special intention for a week beginning Sundays, please contact the parish office [becketparish@gmail.com](mailto:becketparish@gmail.com) or (514) 626-4111 The suggested offering is \$25.

## WHY DOES GOD PERMIT SUFFERING?

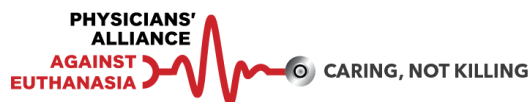


How can there be an all-loving and an all-powerful God if there is so much suffering and evil in our world? Perhaps that is the most difficult religious question of all time. How can we believe in God in the face of God's seeming inaction in the face of suffering and evil?

There have been countless attempts to answer this question. For example, Rabbi Harold Kushner (*When Bad Things Happen to Good People*), tries to answer the question by defending God's love and goodness at the expense of his power. Essentially, God would help us if He could, Kushner believes, but God isn't all-powerful, according to him: innocent suffering exists because God cannot stop it [which of course is contrary to traditional Judeo-Christian belief]. Christian theologians Peter Kreeft and C.S. Lewis have written insightful books on this question. Christians believe that what is ultimately at stake is human freedom and God's respect for it. God gives us freedom and (unlike most everyone else) refuses to violate it, even when it would seem beneficial to do so. That leaves us in a lot of pain at times, but, as Jesus reveals, God is not so much a rescuing God as a redeeming one. God does not protect us from pain, but instead enters it and ultimately redeems it. That might sound simplistic in the face of real death and evil, but it is not. We see a powerful illustration of this in Jesus' reaction to the death of Lazarus. The sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, send a message to Jesus telling him that "the man you love" is gravely ill. . . . Mary's query ("Where were you when my brother died?") asks that question for everyone: Where is God when innocent people suffer? Where was God during the holocaust? Where is God when anyone's brother dies? But, curiously, Jesus does not engage the question in theory; instead he becomes distressed and asks: "Where have you put him?" And when they offer to show him, he begins to weep. His answer to suffering: He enters into peoples' helplessness and pain. Afterwards, he raises Lazarus from the dead.

And what we see here will occur in the same way between Jesus and his Father. The Father does not save Jesus from death on the cross even when he is jeered and mocked. Instead the Father allows him to die on the cross and then raises him up afterwards. The lesson in both these deaths and raisings might be put this way: The God we believe in doesn't necessarily intervene and rescue us from suffering and death (although we are invited to pray for that). Instead he redeems our suffering afterwards. God's seeming indifference to suffering is not so much a mystery that leaves the mind befuddled as a mystery that makes sense only if you give yourself over in a certain level of trust. Forgiveness and faith work the same. You have to roll the dice in trust. . . . sometimes the only answer to the question of suffering and evil is the one Jesus gave to Mary and Martha-shared helplessness, shared distress, and shared tears, with no attempt to try to explain God's seeming absence, but rather a trusting that, because God is all-loving and all-powerful, in the end all will be well and our pain will someday be redeemed in God's embrace.

~ by *Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.*



**IMPROVING CARE:** Conference of the *Physicians' Alliance Against Euthanasia*

**Saturday, March 24, 9 am to 5 pm.** Holiday Inn Downtown Montreal. 999 St. Urbain. The conference is aimed at health care professionals but is open to all. Cost: Physicians \$200, Others \$100, Students \$25. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/y8op77oo>



The next World Youth Day is

**PANAMA**  
2019

Panama City, Panama will host the next WYD, January 22-27, 2019. All youth who are interested are invited to contact Elena at 514-626-4485.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PUB NIGHT**, parish fundraiser, Sat. March 17, 5:30 pm. \$10/person cover charge (includes dessert.) Pub style food, beer, wine, soft drinks and Irish Coffee available for purchase. Dancing, open mic and more. Info and tickets: Rina 514-915-7586. Net proceeds go towards new chairs for the parish hall.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HEALING PRAYER SERVICE:** March 19, 7:30 pm. We invite you to join us for a beautiful evening of healing of Mind, Body and Soul.

**SOLIDARITY SUNDAY, MARCH 18:** Next weekend we have a special collection for Development and Peace. Inspired by Gospel values, Development and Peace seeks to end poverty, promote justice, and restore human dignity throughout the world and especially in developing nations. The theme of the 2018 Share Lent campaign, *Together for Peace*, invites us to build peace through dialogue and reconciliation and to consider mercy as a source of hope for the future. This is what Pope Francis underlined on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy: "Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope." Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope!

**BECKET PANTRY NEEDS:** stew, baked beans, K.D. coffee, jello/pudding, muffin mix, Kleenex, shampoo, dish soap, tooth paste. NB We have plenty of peanut butter and soup. Thank you for your generosity!

A note of thanks from the Missionaries of Charity in Montreal for our Helping Others donation of \$1000 (excerpt):

*Dear friends in Christ,*

*May the peace of Christ fill your heart. We are very grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. During this time of lent, let us turn our gaze toward the crucifix. As we rest our eyes on Jesus' thorn-crowned head, his sacred wounds and his precious blood, may our hearts be moved with compassion and contrition for our sins and a sincere resolve to quench his thirst for our love. Let us love him fervently in the Eucharist and in our neighbor.*

*Lent is also a time to experience more profoundly the forgiveness of God, and then spread that forgiveness to all who have hurt us.*

*May Mary, our Mother, teach us how to receive God's mercy and radiate it to others.*

*~ United in prayer, Sr. M. Vianne, M.C.*

**FAITH FIRST:** Level 1 Gathering #3 **Friday, March 16**

Reconciliation Celebration for Confirmands: Saturday March 17, 10am-noon

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SINGLES CONFERENCE 2018:** The NCSC offers single Catholics the opportunity to meet other like-minded singles and learn more about and share their faith. What to expect: Great speakers, uplifting music, good food, and hundreds of single Catholics seeking to live their faith! What to expect: A great mix of presentations which address current challenges affecting relationships in our culture, times for prayer and reflection, and lots of social opportunities to meet new people and make new (even life-long) friends!

If you're a single adult Catholic, then please join us.

**June 8-10**, at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Hilton Airport Mall of America

<http://www.nationalcatholicsingles.com>