

# Second Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2020



## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: MARCH 7 TO MARCH 15

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar 7</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>
4:30 pm	Our Parishioners	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar 8</b>	
9:00 am	Pina & Joe Di Stefano	The Family
11:00am	Giovanni & Gabriela Ambrosio	The Family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mar 9</b>	
8:30 am	Agnes O'Donnell	Marie Foggo
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mar 10</b>	
8:30	Maddalena Nitti Saluzzi	The Family
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mar 11</b>	
8:30 am	Deceased members of the Pereira family	Julian & Heather Pereira
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mar 12</b>	
8:30 am	Deceased members of the De Rozario family	Julian & Heather Pereira
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mar 13</b>	
8:30 am	Leroy Fournier	Barbara Bagshaw
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>	
4:30 pm	Barbara Figura	E.K. McDonald
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00 am	George Dziarmaga	His wife and children
11:00 am	Our Parishioners	

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

March 8: Frederick & Barbara Kray, requested by Helen & Manfred Adam.

March 15: Frances Palermi Clouatre, requested by her friends at Vent de l'Ouest.

**PLEASE JOIN US** every weekday morning at 8:00 am during Lent for the Stations of the Cross.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Ash Wednesday: \$2,185.00

Feb. 29/Mar. 1 Offerings: \$4,538.25

Next special collection: March 22 – Building Maintenance Fund

**GREGORIAN CHANT:** Vespers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. St. Leon de Westmount Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve West (corner Clarke), Westmount (Metro Atwater). March 29 at 4pm.

**CABANE À SUCRE** The Becket Social Club and Knights of Columbus invite you to our Cabane à Sucre, Saturday March 21, 12 - 4 pm in the Parish Hall. Brunch, maple taffy, games and more. Fun for all ages. \$10/person. Children 7 & under free. \$35/Family of four. For more info call Rina 514-915-7586

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a great success.

## PARISH MISSION

The mission that took place at the parish from February 17-20 led by Father Larry Richards of the Reason For Your Hope Foundation in Pennsylvania, was by all accounts, one of the most successful in recent years. Not just because of the large numbers that attended, but more importantly, by the reported impact on the spiritual life of our parishioners. Twelve priests hearing confessions for two hours on Wednesday evening speaks for itself.

Accomplishing an event like this for hundreds of people over four nights doesn't happen automatically, and we were blessed by the large number of volunteers who made everything run smoothly, including ushers, sacristans, servers, greeters, refreshment and book table volunteers, all well-organized by our Adult Faith Coordinator Elsa Rivera, with liturgies and refreshments under the efficient care of Sacristan Anna Donald and her team.

In addition, thanks to Maria & Enrico Purisima, we were able for the first time to offer flawless livestream of the entire mission for the sick, housebound and others unable to attend in person.

To paraphrase Fr. Larry: We are truly blessed. The true value of this mission, however, will be evident in the ongoing fruits of Fr. Larry's lively, funny, powerful and deep teaching and preaching on those who experienced the mission. We pray that those who attended from our parish and Greater Montreal will integrate his words into their lives.

## IMPORTANT PARISH NEWS

At Mass on Sunday, Fr. Peter made some suggestions for increasing a more reverent and respectful experience for all during our Masses. The suggestions are for Lent but, who knows, they may catch on beyond Lent:

1) Between a third and a half of people come arrive late for Mass, sometimes a couple of minutes, sometimes 15 or 20 minutes. It is very disruptive to have numerous people walking up the aisles during the readings and the homily. We understand the pressures of getting kids up and ready, etc., but we know that you likely show up on time for work, get the kids to school on time, and to their sports practices. So, we are suggesting that you reflect on the importance that worshipping God has for you. Wouldn't it be a great Lenten practice for families to sit down and figure out how to arrive on time? In fact, many believe that those who "get the most out of Mass" are the ones who arrive a bit early, calmly recollect themselves, and spend a moment in prayer, preparing to hear the Word of God and receive the Bread of Life in the Eucharist.

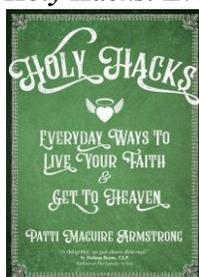
From now on, if someone does arrive late, please wait at the back of the church until everyone stands for the Gospel acclamation so that there is less disruption when you walk in.

2) Let's go back to kneeling after the Lamb of God until you come up for Holy Communion: it's just for a minute and helps prepare us spiritually to receive the Lord.

3) For the time being, in response to the health concerns, we are suggesting "no physical contact" during the sign of peace. If you are sick, that's a good reason to miss Mass.

## WORTHWHILE READING

*Holy Hacks: Everyday Ways to Live Your Faith and Get to Heaven*



by Patti Maguire Armstrong

This fun and fast-paced resource by bestselling author and columnist Patti Maguire Armstrong is full of concrete tips for living the faith right where you are. With about two-hundred simple and creative ways to grow in holiness, you can find something to help you engage your faith and grow in Christ every day, writing about things we dealing with daily, such as humility, relationships, gossip, friends, prayer. Practitioners of

Holy Hacks will discover that holiness is less about doing big things than about making use of countless and simple ways for us to love God and our neighbors. Lent is a great time to begin.

### ARE SUNDAYS A DAY OFF DURING LENT?



I never heard about such a thing as a child but now, it seems like standard operating procedure. From the Sunday-free-day crowd, I heard that since Sundays celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, fasting is not even appropriate. Well, what the heck? Were all those extra days of sacrifice unwarranted?

We call it the “forty days” of Lent, harkening back to the time after Jesus was baptized and went into the desert

to pray and fast in preparation for his public life. His death and resurrection saves us, but it does not mean we are all good to go now. If that were the case, St. Paul would not have said, “I now rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church” (Col 1:24).

Even though we are saved by Jesus, we are all still a work in progress. Lent is about deep-down-to-the-soul improvement. The three pillars of Lent—prayer, fasting, and giving alms—is our most-likely-to-succeed approach. But getting back to the original question, should our soul-improvement plan include Sundays? That decision is actually ours to make.

The forty days of Lent is a bit of a metaphor rather than a literal count. Since 1970 in the Roman Church, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sunset on Holy Thursday. According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), “It might be more accurate to say that there is the ‘forty-day fast within Lent.’ Historically, Lent has varied from one week, to three weeks, to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty-day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part the time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.”

But can we take a day off from our own fasting and sacrifices? Here is what the USCCB says: “Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.”

So technically, it’s our call. We are the boss of your own Lents.

Lent is the season to zero in on following Jesus who chose to suffer and die for us. If we suffer with Christ, we will also rise and be renewed in our faith on Easter as a prelude to life everlasting. Such a joyous description of Lent incites a greater desire to raise the bar and choose to be all in. But every sacrifice, big or small, needs the right attitude and a moment of reflection in which we engage our hearts and minds to connect our action to the love of Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 13:13, we are told, “So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Before looking into this, I thought Sundays were free days. I guess I had the wrong definition of free. So now, back to the old days of going all in with a seamless Lent, giving more, but as the old saying goes: The more you give, the more you get.

~ *Patti Maguire Armstrong*