

# Living the Gospel



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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 11, 2018

## “God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son”

Do you know the healing power of Christ's redeeming love and victory which he won for us on the cross? Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the "Son of Man" must be "lifted up" to bring the power and authority of God's kingdom to bear on the earth. The title, "Son of Man," came from the prophet Daniel who describes a vision he received of the Anointed Messiah King who was sent from heaven to rule over the earth. Traditionally when kings began to reign they were literally "lifted up" and enthroned above the people. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that he will be recognized as the Messiah King when he is "lifted up" on the cross at Calvary. Jesus died for his claim to be the Messiah King sent by the Father to redeem, heal, and reconcile his people with God.

Jesus points to a key prophetic sign which Moses performed in the wilderness right after the people of Israel were afflicted with poisonous serpents. Scripture tells us that many people died in the wilderness because of their sin of rebellion towards Moses and God. Through Moses' intervention, God showed mercy to the people and instructed Moses to "make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live"(Numbers 21:8). This miraculous sign was meant to foreshadow and point to the saving work which Jesus would perform to bring healing and salvation to the world.

The bronze serpent which Moses lifted up in the wilderness points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe in Jesus Christ. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising from the dead, and his exaltation and ascension to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only frees us from our sins and pardons us, he also fills us with his own divine life through the gift and working of his Spirit who dwells within us.

The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual power and gifts, especially the seven-fold gifts of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence for God and his ways, and a holy fear in God's presence (see Isaiah 11), to enable us to live in his strength as sons and daughters of God. Do you thirst for the *new life* which God offers you through the transforming power of his Holy Spirit?

How do we know, beyond a doubt, that God truly loves us and wants us to be united with him forever? *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer - his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world.

Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Do you give him first place in your life, in your thoughts, decisions and actions?

### LENTEN RECONCILIATION

On March 22 at 7:00 p.m., we will have 6 priests to hear Confessions. Please mark your calendars and plan on going to Confession in preparation for Easter. Reconciliation is also available at:

**St. Joseph's Parish** - Tues. March 20 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Merciful Redeemer** - Wed. March 21 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**St. Ignatius Loyola** - Thur. March 22 at 9:30-11:30 a.m., 4:00-6:00 p.m. & 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday March 29 - Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m. followed by Adoration until midnight.

Good Friday March 30 - Passion of the Lord at Noon and 3:00 p.m. with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil March 31 - The Vigil Mass will begin at 8:00 p.m. (Please note that this Mass is 2+ hours in length.)

Easter Sunday April 1 - Resurrection of the Lord 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**MONDAY, MARCH 12 – 7:00 P.M.**

Antonio Tolentino

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13 – 8:00 A.M.**

S.I. A Prayer of Thanksgiving- Janet and Kerry English

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16 – 7:00 P.M.**

+ Dany Quijalvo

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17 – 5:00 P.M.**

+ Elsa Giovannelli-Macciachera

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**8:30 A.M.** S.I. Parish Community

**10:00 A.M.** + Esperanza Fernandes

+ Custodio Xavier Dias

**12:00 Noon** S.I. A Prayer of Thanksgiving- Janet and Kerry English

**SENIOR MEN'S HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT**

On Saturday, March 17, 2018 the Office of Vocations is hosting a day retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, on Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. The day includes Holy Mass, Adoration & Confession. Register online at [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca) (under Programs) or <http://bit.ly/2xh8uMA>. For more information please call the Office of Vocations at: 416-968-0997 or email: [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org).

**COME & SEE WEEKEND**

St. Augustine's Seminary March 23-25  
The Office of Vocations is hosting a Come & See Weekend for single Catholic men 17 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. For more information, Please contact the Office of Vocations at: 416-968-0997 or email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org).

**CALL FOR CONSCIENCE**

If you wish to sign up for the email messages from the archdiocese and have missed a previous opportunity here at church, please go online to <http://bit.ly/SignUpSundayRegistration>. Remember the email request is voluntary, can be unsubscribed to at any time, is completely private and will only be used some 6-8 times per year by the archdiocese.

**Living the Gospel** by supporting ShareLife.....



How do we "Live the Gospel" toward others when our daily lives are so busy? For some it's volunteering at a soup kitchen, or it may be caring for an elderly relative. If we do not have the time to actively participate, we can support the many ShareLife-funded agencies within our community that bring the hands of Christ to those in need. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Over the next week, reflect on your ability to help "Live the Gospel" through Catholic agencies, and make a decision to support our ShareLife parish campaign.

**Next Sunday, March 18 is ShareLife Sunday.**

**Please give generously.**



**PARISH LENTEN DEVOTIONS 2018**

**DAILY MASS:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

**ROSARY:** Wednesdays at 6:40 p.m.

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY:** Sung on Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month following the 7:00 p.m. Mass and Saturday from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

**LENTEN MISSION**

Thank you to all those who participated in the Lenten Mission. Special thanks to Andrew Turnbull and Bob Ewasyn for the music during Mass. If you would like further information about Madonna House please go to <http://www.madonnahouse.org>.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Copies of the 2017 Financial Report are available in the pamphlet rack in the vestibule.

**SOAP FOR HOPE**

Canadian Food for Children would like to thank you for your generous support of the Soap for Hope campaign. There were over 800 bars of soap collected as well as cash donations.

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION**

Thank you to all those parents who registered their children for Confirmation on Saturday, February 24 and March 3. Registration is now closed. Parents who did not do so are welcome to register their children in the fall.



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