

Living the Gospel



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 19, 2023

“Jesus Frees Us from Spiritual Blindness and Sin”

Do you recognize the light of God's truth and power in your life? God wants to remove every obstacle that might hinder us from recognizing the light of his truth and wisdom for our lives. Saul, the first king of Israel, failed to recognize God's light and power to save him from his enemies. God replaced Saul with David, the youngest of Jesse's eight sons (1 Samuel 16). God saw something in David which Jesse and his other sons did not recognize - a man after God's own heart who delighted in doing what was pleasing to the Lord (1 Samuel 13:14). David was a man of courage and vision who defeated his enemies and united his people. His strength and success came not from himself but from God who anointed him with the power and wisdom of his own Spirit.

What can keep us from the light of God's truth, wisdom, and strength for our lives? Sin blinds us and causes us to stumble and fall - unable to rise on our own or to walk in the freedom of God's love and truth. Sin clouds the mind in moral confusion, and it grows in darkness and resists the light of God's truth. Only God's light can uncover the darkness of sin and free us to walk in the path

Jesus, in your name the blind see, the lame walk, and the dead are raised to life. Come into our lives and heal the wounds of our broken hearts. Give us eyes of faith to see your glory and hearts of courage to bring you glory in all we say and do. AMEN

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

BRAIN TEASER ANSWER

The fruit with its seeds on the outside:

STRAWBERRY

MONDAY, MARCH 20 – 7:00 P.M. LENTEN

MISSION

Mass Intention Available

TUESDAY, MARCH 21 – 7:00 P.M.- LENTEN MISSION

Mass Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 - 7:00 P.M. – LENTEN

MISSION

Mass Intention Available

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 – 8:30 AM

S.I. In reparation for sins committed against the Most

Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Stan Clark

+ Felisa Malayao

S.I. Vanessa Snita

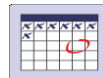
SATURDAY, MARCH 25 - 5:00 P.M.

+ Giovanni Sebastiano

+ Anne (Delorey) Hubert

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 – 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

S.I. Parish Community



DATES TO REMEMBER

Youth Choir: Practices every Saturday @ 4pm

Bridge Club: Every Monday @ 1pm in Parish Hall

(Sung) Chaplet of Divine Mercy: every Friday @3:00 p.m.

Men of St. Francis Club: Sat. Feb. 25th @ 8:30am in parish hall

ShareLife: March 25 & 26 - 1st Collection

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AFTER THE 7:00PM MASS ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT

March 24 – Stations of the Cross in Reparation for Sins Against Life

March 31 – Mary's Way of the Cross

April 7 (Good Friday, 7:00pm) – Everyone's Way of the Cross

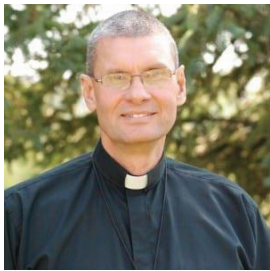
MARCH 2023 LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Fr. Paul Burchat, from Madonna House, Combermere, Ontario, will be at St. Francis of Assisi Parish to preach at all Masses this weekend.

Our Mission will take place on three consecutive evenings: **Monday, March 20, Tuesday, March 21** and **Wednesday, March 22** beginning at 7pm each evening.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

FATHER PAUL BURCHAT



"I was born to Catholic parents in Toronto, Ontario and lived there for the first 14 years of my life. After my first year of high school our family moved to Barry's Bay and upon completing secondary school I

attended St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto for the next three years graduating with a B.Sc.

I then moved to London, Ontario and began dental school at the University of Western Ontario graduating in 1978 with my D.D.S. In 1982 after 4 years of private practice in Barry's Bay I went to the United States to pursue a vocation to the priesthood with the Camillian fathers and brothers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A year and a half later I returned to Canada and joined the Madonna House community here in Combermere and have been a member of the community since 1986. In 1990 I went to St. Augustine's seminary in Toronto, Ontario and was ordained to the priesthood for Madonna House in 1994."

Handicraft Holy Land Christians

On the weekend of March 25-26, we will welcome our special guest from Sebastien Cardinal's team, representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass.

Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

May God Bless you for your generosity, for your help and for your prayers."

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RCIA Scrutinies

On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, the elect preparing for baptism in the RCIA process participate in the "Scrutinies." These are rites of self-searching and repentance which are meant to uncover and heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect and to bring out and strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The Scrutinies are intended to complete the conversion of the elect and to deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and carry out their decision to love God above all else.

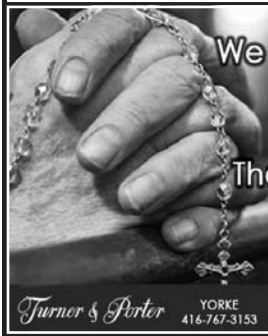
In Cycle A of the lectionary, from which we are reading this year at Sunday Mass, the Christian community meditates on the gospel stories of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman and with the man born blind as well as the raising of Lazarus. These are pivotal gospels for the elect because they bring out the three principal themes of the Easter Vigil at which the elect will be baptized: WATER, LIGHT and NEW LIFE.

We, the parish community of St. Francis, are invited to pray for the elect and to offer them our support and faithful example as they draw ever closer to their initiation at Easter.

NEXT CHILDREN'S LITURGY

APRIL 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. mass

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