

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
44 Leonard St., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6C8 Phone: 519-743-4525
E-mail: st.teresa@stteresakit.ca www.stteresakit.ca

4th Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

St. Teresa of Avila

“Truth suffers,
but never dies.”



Parish Staff & Organizations

Pastor: Fr. Marian Gil, OMI
Parish Secretary: Mary Steffler
Business Administrator: David Agnew
Facilities Manager: Jim Weber

Volunteer Gardeners:
Baptism Preparation Team:
CWL President:
Lector Co-ordinator: Mary Alice Zister
Eucharistic Minister Co-ordinator:

Kim Voelzing
Prayer Group:
Mila Navaleza - 519-579-8276

Finance Council Chair:
Don Pickett, Jr.

Pastoral Council Chair:
Barbara Daly

St. Vincent de Paul:
Bernie & Rosemary Pickett
519-749-1501

St. Teresa School
Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear
Secretary: Mary Lavigne
519-743-2131

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Office Closed

Saturday Liturgy:

9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Weekday Schedule

Please check inside for
weekly schedule

Sunday Liturgy:

10:00 a.m.

Confession: 30 min. before Mass; Sat. 4:15 – 4:45p.m.

Healing Mass: First Friday of each month – 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Friday – 7:00 p.m.

All Parish Events suspended unit further notice!**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** and is a Sunday of joy. Lent is half over, and Easter is enticingly near. In the reformed calendar this Sunday is not different from the other Sundays of Lent even though the entrance antiphon for the day still begins with the Latin word "laetare" and the vestments worn by the celebrant are rose-colored, not violet. The day is important because it is the day of the second scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

Mass Intentions: March 24 - 29, 2020**Mass will be celebrated privately for the following intentions:**

Tuesday, March 24– 7:00 p.m.

+Ivan & Anne Tomljanovic – Franciska Tomljanovic & Family

Wednesday, March 25 – 8:30 a.m.

+James Cameron – Sue Weber Bell

Thursday, March 26 – 8:30 a.m.

+Eileen Flaman – Ann Snyder

Friday, March 27 – 8:30 a.m.

+Charles Nolan – M.A. & B. Zister

7:00 p.m.: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 28 – 9:00 a.m.

+Edward & Teresa Gromek – Andrew Caruk

5:00 p.m.: +Betty Gray – Rosemary & Bernie

Sunday, March 29– 10:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Mass Intentions – For Mother's Day, **May 10th** and Father's Day, **June 21st**, we will accept multiple Mass intentions. Call the office if you would like to make a request at 519-743-4525

Dear Parishioners,

As you are all by now aware, all public celebrations of Mass are suspended until further notice and as such there is a possibility this could pose serious financial implications on our parish.

At this time, I would ask you to keep our parish in your prayers and prayerfully consider continuing your donations either by mail or drop off through the slot in the Parish Office door. As we journey together during this very difficult time, let us be mindful of each other and be united to each other through prayer.

**Diocese of Hamilton
Prayer Calendar 2020**

Monday, March 23– Rev. David Walter

Tuesday, March 24 – Most Rev. Matthew Ustrzycki

Wednesday, March 25 – Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny (S.J.C.)

Thursday, March 26 – Rev. Vernon Boyd, S.J.

Friday, March 27 – Rev. Roger Yaworski, S.J.

Saturday, March 28 – Rev. Stan Kuczaik, S.Chr.

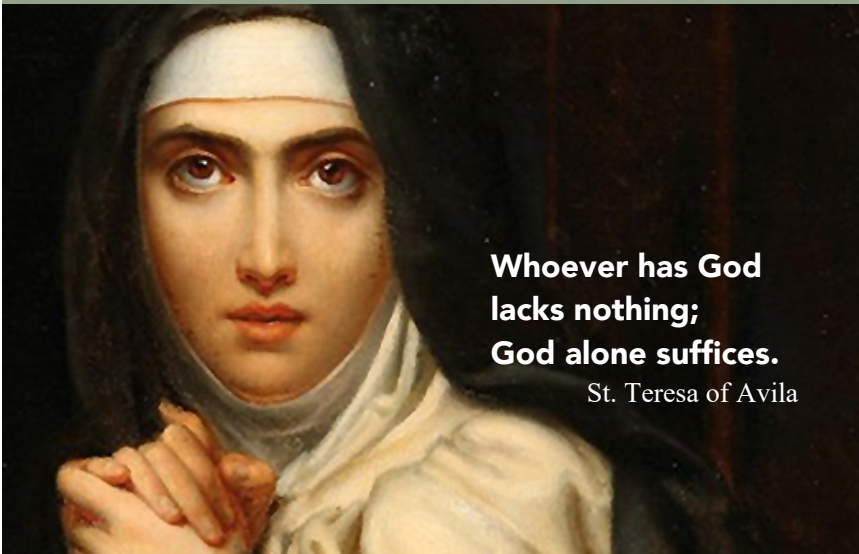
Sunday, March 29 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Stewardship Report
March 15, 2020**

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|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Envelopes..... | \$1672.00 |
| Loose..... | \$84.65 |
| Building and Maintenance..... | \$20.00 |
| Initial Offering | \$20.00 |
| Funeral – M. Hishon | \$150.00 |

Thank You - I would like to thank all of my St. Teresa Parish family and friends, for all of your love and prayers for the success of my recent surgery and my recovery. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

- Stella Lemieux



**Whoever has God
lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.**

St. Teresa of Avila

Pope: COVID-19 teaches us we are one human community (Vat. N.)

In the interview with “La Stampa”, published on Friday, Pope Francis speaks of the sorrow and pain that “everyone” is experiencing due to the coronavirus. The only way to survive this situation, he says, is by sticking together. The Pope invites us to live this moment **“with penance, compassion and hope”**. We need “humility”, he adds, “because too often we forget” there are dark times in life as well. “We think they can only happen to someone else. But these times are dark for everyone”, he says. Pope Francis explains that the season of **Lent “trains us to show solidarity with others, especially those who suffer”**.

The Pope emphasizes the importance of prayer, recalling how the Apostles turn to Jesus to save them during the storm (Mark 4:35-41). **“Prayer helps us understand our vulnerability”**, he says. **“It is the cry of those who are sinking, who feel they are in danger and alone. And in a difficult, desperate situation, it is important to know that the Lord is there to cling to”**.

Pope Francis makes no distinction between “believers and non-believers”. People are weeping because they are suffering, he says. **“Everyone” is suffering. “We are all children before God”**.

The Pope then speaks of those who are dying alone and without the comfort of their families. He says he was struck by the story of an elderly woman who said her final goodbye to her loved ones over a phone belonging to one of the nurses. **“The pain of those who have died without saying goodbye becomes a wound in the hearts of those who are left behind”**. He thanks “all the nurses, doctors and volunteers who, despite their incredible exhaustion”, offer themselves, “with patience and kindness” to stand in for family members who cannot be there.

Pope Francis also addresses the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for our future. **The current crisis will help to remind us “once and for all, that humanity is a single community”**, he says. It will teach us that “universal kinship” is important and critical. We should think about it like a “post-war” phenomenon, he says: **“It will no longer be ‘them’. It will be ‘us’**. Because we can only come out of this situation together”. Pope Francis concludes saying: “We will need to look even more closely at our roots: our grandparents, the elderly”. We will need **“to build true kinship amongst us”**.

What is Lent all about?

Imagine that you are standing in the middle of an unpaved road. Behind you is home, whatever that means to you. Home, where you feel safe, loved and understood. In that home is the person or the people who love you the best in all the world. They are beckoning you to turn, to turn around and go to them. They are calling you home.

Now, imagine that you have been on this road for a long time and the journey has been hard. You are dirty and tired, worn out because you have been pushing down the road, trying to get somewhere. You want to go home, to find rest, safety, love. But in order to do so, you have to put down some of the baggage you are carrying. This baggage weighs you down, holds you back. “Let it go,” the voices call from behind you, **“Let it go, put it down, come home.”**

Life is the long, hard road, full of struggle, difficulty and challenge. **Home is the grace, peace, and love of our God found in Jesus Christ**. Lent is the process of letting go of the baggage that we carry, the sins and the pains that weigh us down and keep us from Christ. “Return to me with all your heart,” says the Lord in our lesson from Joel.

Our God desires nothing more than to give us the home we crave, the love we need, the purpose we desire. Ask God to forgive you for all that you have done and left undone. Turn your heart to God and begin your journey home.

Fr. Randy Hollerith

Church grants special indulgence to coronavirus patients and caregivers

By Fr. Benedict Mayaki, SJ

On 20 March, the Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting plenary indulgences to “the faithful suffering from the Covid-19 virus, commonly known as coronavirus, as well as to healthcare workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”

The document comes in response to pastoral, spiritual and sacramental concerns for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, which has raised “new uncertainties and above all widespread physical and moral suffering”.

The decree is signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, and the Regent, Father Krzysztof Nykiel.

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The Decree grants a plenary indulgence to coronavirus patients quarantined by health authorities in hospitals and in their homes if, “with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite themselves spiritually through the media to the celebration of the Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion.”

The plenary indulgence can also be obtained by the faithful if they at least “recite the creed, the Lord’s Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy father’s intentions), as soon as possible.”

A plenary indulgence is also granted to healthcare workers, family members and all those who, “exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick” under the same conditions stated above.

Also, the faithful who offer a “visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or read the Holy Scriptures for half an hour, or recite the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy” while praying for an end to the pandemic will be granted a plenary indulgence.

A few clarifications

In a note accompanying the Decree, the Apostolic Penitentiary provided for some eventualities linked with providing the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those affected by the Covid-19 virus.

The note explained that the diocesan bishop has complete discretion over the administration of collective absolution except where there is an “imminent danger of death” or a “grave necessity.” Individual confession remains the ordinary way of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Also, if there is need to impart absolution to several faithful, the priest is obliged to inform the diocesan bishop as soon as possible.

Bishops are also tasked with evaluating the level of the pandemic in their respective jurisdictions to be able to set up prudent protocols for the individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation that safeguards the sacramental seal.

The note also encouraged setting up groups of voluntary “extraordinary hospital chaplains” who, obeying health norms and in agreement with health authorities, can provide spiritual assistance to the sick and dying.

Indulgences

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, an indulgence is “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven.” Indulgences are either partial or plenary depending on if they remove part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.