

Series – Catechism of the Catholic Church

Chapter 3, Article 1: III. The Characteristics of Faith (Part 3)

The freedom of faith

160 To be human, "man's response to God by faith must be free, and... therefore nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against his will. the act of faith is of its very nature a free act."³⁹ "God calls men to serve him in spirit and in truth. Consequently they are bound to him in conscience, but not coerced. . . This fact received its fullest manifestation in Christ Jesus."⁴⁰ Indeed, Christ invited people to faith and conversion, but never coerced them. "For he bore witness to the truth but refused to use force to impose it on those who spoke against it. His kingdom... grows by the love with which Christ, lifted up on the cross, draws men to himself."⁴¹

The necessity of faith

161 Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him for our salvation is necessary for obtaining that salvation.⁴² "Since "without faith it is impossible to please (God) " and to attain to the fellowship of his sons, therefore without faith no one has ever attained justification, nor will anyone obtain eternal life 'But he who endures to the end.'"]

Perseverance in faith

162 Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man. We can lose this priceless gift, as St. Paul indicated to St. Timothy: "Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith."⁴⁴ To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith;⁴⁵ it must be "working through charity," abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.⁴⁶

Taken from: vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar	
March 10	– Rev. Adam Voisin
March 11	– Rev. Robert Bulbrook
March 12	– Permanent Diaconate Candidates
March 13	– Rev. Jeffery Oehring
March 14	– Francesco Cucchi
March 15	– Rev. Mark Gatto
March 16	– Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions March 10, 2025 – March 16, 2025	
Saturday, March 15, 2025 5:00 p.m. – + Leona and Sheldon Grobe – <i>Peter Grobe</i>	
Sunday, March 16, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish	

Stewardship Report – March 2 nd , 2025	
Sunday Offerings	\$ 1,900.00
Missal Sales.....	\$ 10.00
Building & Maintenance.....	\$ 260.65
Funeral.....	\$ 500.00
Votives.....	\$ 52.00

We are most appreciative of your ongoing prayerful and financial support for our parish, St. Teresa of Avila, especially during our present time of financial need.

Donations to the parish can be made through the use of Sunday Offertory envelopes, Pre-Authorized Giving, E-Transfer, and CanadaHelps.

If you require further information on how to give, please contact the parish office, or visit the parish website for more details.

Parish Announcements

Upcoming Weekday Mass Schedule

Please note that there will be **no weekday Masses from March 11th to March 22nd** while Fr. Stefano is away on pilgrimage. Our regular weekday Mass schedule will resume on Tuesday, March 25th.

Stations of the Cross

While Fr. Stefano is away, Stations of the Cross will take place in the church at 7:00 p.m. The Lenten Friday evening Mass will resume upon Fr. Stefano's return.

Anniversary Blessing

Married couples celebrating an anniversary who wish to have their marriage blessed, please contact the parish office to arrange with Fr. Stefano.

Children's Liturgy & Bulletin

We are in need of more volunteers to help run our Children's Liturgy. If you are interested, please contact the parish office for information on how to apply. A children's bulletin is now available at the back of the church every weekend for families with young children. Please take a copy for your young ones to share!

Vatican II and Its Four Constitutions

You are invited to join our ongoing five-week series exploring the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council and their impact on the Church today. This series have its fourth meeting on Friday, March 14th at **6:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. All participants receive a study guide and access to all videos and supplementary materials. If you are interested in joining, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Parish Pasta Dinner

Join us Sunday, March 30th at 4:30 or 6:30 for our Pasta Dinner fundraiser—pasta by Ennio's. All proceeds will be going towards the needs of the parish. Tickets will be available at all Masses the weekends of March 9, 16 and 23. Tickets are \$25 each for adults, \$10 for children 7–14, children 6 and under free. We will also be having a silent auction. If you would like to make any contributions towards this event, please email Barbara at bmdaly@me.com.

Diocese Announcements

Parenting Tip of the Month

Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. They watch every move, take in every word and see how you navigate the world - then they become the mini version of you, their parents. All the traits they take in become part of who they are for life! Help them to be the best people they can be by looking inward and asking yourself if you are doing enough to raise them to be the adult you would like them to be. If not, change how you interact and help them grow strong in mind, body and spirit. (Family Ministry Office)

Marriage Tip of the Month

March is the start of Lent, a time when we reflect on our faith and our commitment to living as we are called to as disciples of Jesus. It is a perfect time to discuss as a couple how your marriage, considered both a Sacrament and Vocation by the Church, is fulfilling its mandate to be the visible sign of God's invisible love. Do you strive always to treat each other as God loves, in total self-giving, with mercy and forgiveness acting as strong pillars of your marriage? This Lent, make your Lenten journey a time to pray together and to work as a couple to strengthen one of the most important parts of your life, your marriage. (Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

16th Annual Dynamic Women of Faith Conference

This conference will bring together Catholic women to share in hearing informative presentations, enjoy delicious food and fellowship with all those present. The event will be held on Saturday March 22, 2025 from 9:00am-4pm at the Old Mill (includes light lunch) in Toronto. For more information see [Recharge Your Spirit at the Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025](#); to register go to [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025 Tickets, Sat, 22 Mar 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#).

Opening the Holy Door: Spring Book Club

The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to join us for a four-week virtual book club, exploring the new book by Joan Watson, "*Opening the Holy Door*." Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. March 18-April 8, 2025. Together we will reflect on the beautiful images of mercy and hope found on the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, open to pilgrims and visitors throughout the Jubilee Year. Registration can be made here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>

The Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? Then you are cordially invited to join Bishop Crosby and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1, 2025**, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 p.m. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is available online at hamiltondiocese.com.

Wisdom of the Saints
"Everything may be done by the help of God, provided we have a sincere goodwill." – St. Benedict Joseph Labré
"The heart is free that is held by no love other than the love of God." – St. Bonaventure

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention March 2025
For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.