



Sat. Feb. 25

5:00pm + **Vincent Romeo**

Sun. Feb. 26

8:00am + **Pasquale Ciccone**

9:15am **For the People of the Parish**

10:30am + **Nick Bertucci**

12:00noon + **Wilfredo Alvarez Beritez**

Mon. Feb. 27

7:00pm + **Shannon Naccarato**

Thurs. Mar. 2

7:00pm + **Angela Muto**

Fri. Mar. 3

9:00am + **Thomas Higney**

Feast Days This Week

Wed. Mar. 1 – **Ash Wednesday**

Sat. Mar. 4 – **St. Casimir**

First Reconciliation – We offer our congratulations to the children of St. Stephen School who will be receiving their First Reconciliation this Monday, Feb. 27 at 7:30pm. Also, a special thank you to the teachers and families who helped to prepare the children for this celebration.

Ash Wednesday – A Day of Fasting and Abstinence – Ash Wednesday is a day of universal fasting and abstinence from meat. Fasting means one small meal during the day and a little nourishment at two other times of the day. The law of fasting binds those from 18-59 years of age. Abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 and older. Christian fasting and abstinence obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open for prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving, and to save money to give to the poor. Fasting among Christians is a penitential discipline intended to open our hearts to God and others, a means of purification and spiritual liberation, a witness to the depth of our faith.

Masses for Ash Wednesday – March 1

9am – St. Stephen School

10:30am – St. Andrew School

1:00pm – St. Padre Pio School

2:15pm – Pope Francis School

For the four Masses, ashes will be distributed at the end of each Mass. All Masses will be held at the schools. Please note that some schools will only allow the family of students to attend,

because of security reasons.

7pm – The Parish of St. Padre Pio. Ashes will be distributed after the homily of the Mass. There will be no Life in the Spirit tonight due to the Ash Wednesday Mass.

New Beginnings will meet this Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

Farewell to the Alleluia - On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday we say farewell to the 'Alleluia'. God's people do not sing 'Alleluia' during Lent until the believing community has undergone conversion and is ready to sing this chant with renewed meaning during the Easter Vigil. In the 15th century choir boys marched in procession with a cross, tapers and holy water, carrying a small coffin with an 'Alleluia' banner inside. In Paris a straw figure bearing an 'Alleluia' of gold letters was carried out and burned in the churchyard. It was always a solemn, emotional farewell to a well-loved song. In our church the Alleluia banners in the Sanctuary are carried out at the end of the Mass, not to return until the Easter Vigil.

Customs of Lent

Carnival – from the fourteenth century on, the days before Ash Wednesday turned into a time of general feasting and worldly celebration of eating, drinking, dancing etc. The word 'carnival' comes from two Latin words, 'carne', which means 'meat', and 'vale' which means farewell. So the celebration was a farewell to meat and all other enjoyments that people would give up during the Lenten period. Today carnival is still held in many countries including the famous Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Shrove Tuesday – In medieval times the faithful used to go to confession on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday in preparation for Lent. That's why it was called 'Shrove Tuesday' (the day in which people were shriven or forgiven for their sins).

Pancake Tuesday – The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is also called Pancake Tuesday. In the Roman Empire the faithful kept a very strict fast all through Lent: no butter, no cheese, no eggs, no cream and of course, no meat. A lot of these products had to be used up before Ash Wednesday. And so the custom began of having a meal of pancakes the day before.

Lenten Penance - Lent begins this week. It's time for penance, for almsgiving and prayer, for working to change attitudes that are not pleasing to God. We do penance during Lent for a variety of reasons. We are freely taking on suffering with Jesus for the salvation of the world in order to build up the Body of Christ. (See Col. 1:24) We express our sorrow for our own sins and offer prayer for others by the

penance we undertake. By our penances, God purifies our hearts and helps us to control our desires and so serve Him in love. As we do our penitential actions during Lent, we are praising God and proclaiming that we are indeed God's people, brothers and sisters of the Suffering Servant. The following penances are found in the scripture or in the traditional practices of Christians.

Giving up sin	Praying
Fasting	Doing good works
Giving Alms	Meditative reading
Carrying out our duties of state	
Controlling our desires for possessions	
Abstaining from meat and other foods	
Controlling our desire for entertainment	

Call to Lenten Renewal – In the R.C.I.A. programme, besides the Catechumens who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, there are also baptized Christians who are seeking reception into full communion of the Catholic Church. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the Church celebrates the rite of Calling Candidates to Lenten Renewal. This rite acknowledges the seriousness with which baptized adults begin the Lenten Season. With the entire community of the faithful, they are invited to use this holy season as a time of intense spiritual preparation for the renewal of their baptismal promises at Easter as they prepare to become full members of the Catholic Church. In our parish, this year, we have one candidate to be received into full communion with the Church:

Husam Kharouba

Baptism – We offer our congratulations to the parents of the children who were baptized last weekend:

Alessia Bucci

Gemma Fiorina Di Biase

Skylar-Marc Goto-Cheong

Hana-Madison Goto Cheong

Mila Lalli

Grayson Charley Alexandra Sargeant

Leah Isabel Tulsie

Anthony Massimilliano Francesco Valentino

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for a fantastic evening of skating and fun!

The Knights of Columbus Membership Drive

Calling all men! - The Knights of Columbus will be holding a membership drive this weekend. Please see us after mass for more information on how you can join the largest fraternal organization in the world. In Service to One. In Service to All.

First Friday - Friday, March 3 is the first Friday of the month. Mass will be celebrated Friday morning ONLY followed by Exposition and Benediction. Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 7pm. There is NO 7pm Mass because of World Day of Prayer.

"Am I Being Unfair to You?" World Day of Prayer 2017 written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of The Philippines - Too often, women have the most intimate experiences of armed conflict, violence, social injustice, and human rights violations. What might Canadians learn from women of the Philippines, a country on the front lines of climate change, foreign mining and resources interests, a regional insurgency and social upheaval due to migration, who wrote the World Day of Prayer 2017? How will we answer the question, "Am I being unfair to you?" On March 3, 2017, Christians in more than 170 countries and in 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in solidarity with the women of the Philippines through the World Day of Prayer. Please join us and invite your friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer 2017, to be held at St. Margaret Mary Church 8500 Islington Avenue at 8:15pm, this Friday, March 3.

Youth Group – meets Friday evening at St. Andrew School from 8:15 to 10pm. Feb/Mar Schedule:

Mar. 3 – Stations of the Cross (7pm)

Mar. 10 – Movie & Pizza night

Mar. 17 – March Break – No Youth group

Mar. 24 – Drama, Games Night

Mar. 31 – Sports Night

The Youth Group extends their sincere thanks for your support of the Valentine's Bake Sale.

Tax Receipts are available to be picked up for 2016 for donations over \$50.00. Family of Faith donations will be sent to you from the Family of Faith Office.

Rosary Group – we invite all parishioners to come together as a group to recite the Holy Rosary every Friday in the chapel after the 9:00am Mass.

INVITING ALL WOMEN: - 8th Annual Women of the Word Forum - On Sunday, April 23rd from 10am to 2:30pm. Come share the day in fellowship with hundreds of women, while nourishing your mind, body and spirit. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Josephine Lombardi. Theme: The Road to Joy
Cost: \$55 (includes continental breakfast and lunch) At: The Royalton Hospitality Inc.