**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

 **“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, February 12, 5:15 Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**Sunday, February 13, 9:30 a.m. Mass – For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**10:45 a.m. Mass + For the repose of the Soul of Kidane Mariam by Abera and Teodros**

**Monday, February 14, No Mass**

**Tuesday, February 15, No Mass**

**Wednesday, February 16, 8:00 a.m. Mass**

**Thursday, February 17, 8:00 a.m. Mass – Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin**

**Friday, February 18, 8:00 a.m. Mass – World Day of the Sick**

**Saturday, February 19, 5:15 p.m. Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**Sunday, February 20, – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:30 a.m. Mass – Thanksgiving Mass for Chelsee Pierre – Jerome**

**10:45 a.m. Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION: This weekend Luke's 'Sermon on the Plain' is much shorter than the more famous 'Sermon on the Mount' in Matthew's gospel. Both these collections of Jesus' teaching begin with beatitudes, introduced by 'blessed' or 'happy'. In Luke there are four, and they are followed by four 'woes', speeches which begin in our translation with 'alas'. It is quite clear from the beatitudes that Jesus challenges the opinions of his own day, and indeed of ours. We encounter here the mystery which lies at the heart of the gospel and at the heart of life: that suffering and loss are an extraordinary channel of blessing. How difficult it is for Christians to fathom this truth! The loving self-sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is the best aid to reflecting on this mystery. Jesus was sent to bring 'good news to the poor'. He will show repeatedly in Luke's gospel that lack of attachment to the good things of the world leaves a person free to discover the values of God. At the same time, to bring assistance to those in material poverty is a gospel imperative. When he speaks of the persecution of the prophets, and foresees the sufferings of Christians, Jesus points to his own fate. In what sense is poverty a channel of blessing in our life? How do we view the abuse people suffer for being Christian? Let us here at St. Peter’s pray for a profound detachment from material things. Let us ask for courage and love in our dealings with those who deride us.**

**Society of St Vincent de Paul for the Poor Initiative: We thank all parishioners for your steadfast and generous support for the St Vincent de Paul Ottawa South Conference For the Poor initiative. St Peter&#39;s parishioners donated $2670 in 2021, $1980 received in our December SSVP special collection and $690 through the year. Donations fund the purchase of food gift cards for those in need across our parish communities. Your support is key as many families continue to struggle amidst the pandemic. In 2021, your Ottawa South Conference made 152 home visits, providing $11,500 in food cards and $3815 in SSVP store vouchers to families. We count on your ongoing support in 2022. St Vincent de Paul donation envelopes are available in the church entrance. Together, through Christ may we continue to serve the poor in all possible ways, with joy, respect, justice and love. St Peter Social Action Committee.**

**SPECIAL NOTICE: His grace Archbishop Marcel Damphousse has decided to remove the requirement from the Worship Safe Guidelines that called for the collection of names and contact information of those who attend religious services (effective immediately). Indoor or outdoor Meetings and Gatherings are also no longer required to collect names and contact information You are required to still wear a mask and to social distance when entering the Church.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY: Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 and marks the start of Lent. A special Mass with the distribution of Ashes for the parish community will be held 7:00 pm here at St. Peter’s. All parishioners, Families and friends are invited to attend. Please note that there will be No 8:30 am Mass that morning. We hope to see many of you in attendance. This use of ashes is a survival from an ancient rite according to which converted sinners submitted themselves to canonical penance. It is also the period of final preparations for the Catechumens who will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter. In Lent, the Alleluia and the Gloria are suppressed until Easter. Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed and applies to persons 14 and older. The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and on the other Fridays of Lent as well, applies to persons 18 or older and younger than 60.**

**Receipts for Income Tax Purposes – 2021**: **2021 December 31 is the last day on which you may make donations that will be counted for your 2021 receipt. Donations received after that date will be eligible for 2022 receipts. Receipts for 2021 are available for picked up this weekend. We thank you for your generosity and support of the parish.**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH: The heart of Catholic education is centred around the foundational belief that we are all created in God’s image. There is beauty in diversity. Throughout February, the Ottawa Catholic School Board acknowledges and celebrates Black Canadians’ contributions through activities and virtual celebrations. See their Black History Month Google Slideshow of influential and accomplished people of African descent.**

**By My Side 2022 - A Virtual Program of Spiritual Friendship and Support for Separated and Divorced: Catholics: Six week sessions for women (9:00-11:00am) and men (12:00-2:00pm) begin on Sat., Mar. 26 and are offered over Zoom. The program, led from a Catholic faith exploration perspective, is designed to help participants find reconciliation, peace and healing by taking positive steps in their daily spiritual life. Further info & registration: www.bymyside.ca; facebook.com/by mysideott or Mary Jane Manley (613-294-1308). Cost: $40, to help cover resources and promotion.**

**VALENTINE’S DAY – February 14th Valentine Day Prayer:** **Dear Lord, on this day when we celebrate romantic love, I thank you for this gift. It does indeed enrich our lives. Yet you call us to so much more than what romantic love entails. You call us to love, not just our friends, but also our enemies. You challenge us to love those who do not return our love. Help me, Lord, to express my love for those who are closest to me: my wife, my children, my family and friends. But, even more, I ask that you help me to love as you loved, to broadcast your love even and especially to those who cannot or will not reciprocate. Teach me to love even those I don’t like, the people I’d rather avoid. May I love as you love, Lord. I pray in your name, Amen**