**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

 **"Can a blind person guide a blind person? Wil not both fall into a pit?"**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, February 26, 5:15 Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**Sunday, February 27, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For the Souls of Xavier and Alexandro Munof by Stuart O'Grady**

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

**Nigerian Community Mass, 1:30 p.m.**

**Monday, February 28, No Mass**

**Tuesday, March 1, No Mass**

**Ash Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 p.m. Mass**

**A Day of Prayer, Peace and Fasting for the people of the Ukraine by Pope Francis**

**Thursday, March 3, 8:00 a.m. Mass**

**First Friday, March 4, 8:00 a.m. Mass - World Day of Prayer**

**Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

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

**Sunday, March 6, - First Sunday Lent**

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

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

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION**: **On this eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, We continue reading from Luke's collection of the teaching of Jesus known as the 'Sermon on the Plain'. Jesus speaks first about the teacher and the disciple. If the teacher does not see clearly he will not be able to guide the disciple. The disciple must respect his teacher, and be willing to learn. We need clear sight for ourselves too. We tend to prefer correcting others to recognizing our own faults. We can be blind to so much in ourselves and still insist on correcting others. Once again, Jesus is stressing the need for the teacher to be a disciple first, to learn lessons, and then to give them. The following verses speak of good and bad fruit. The teacher, and every faithful disciple, must produce good fruit. A good heart is necessary. This will be obvious when someone speaks, and, as the first reading from Ecclesiasticus maintains, conversation and speech are the 'test of men'. Are we more willing to direct others than to learn for our self? Do we fool our self with false judgements about our self? Let us here at St. Peter's pray for honesty and humility, and a readiness to learn especially from the poor and the inadequate. Let us seek always to speak with integrity.**

**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'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.**

**Ash Wednesday - March 2:** **Pope Francis has asked that we observe the day as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine. Let us join in praying for an end to the conflict and a peaceful, just resolution.**

**ASHES - A Sign of His Passion On Ash Wednesday, the sign of the cross on our forehead reminds us of the words of St. Hippolytus: Imitate Christ at all times, signing your forehead with sincerity. This is the sign of His passion prove against the devil, if you make it with faith, not in order to be seen by others, but knowingly setting it forward as a shield. For when the adversary sees that its power comes from the heart, showing publicly the faith within, he is put to flight. Great is the power of this cross we wear to protect and remind us of the One who secured our safety: Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**: **Ash Wednesday will be this coming Wednesday, March 2, 2022 and marks the start of Lent. A special Mass with the Imposition of Ashes for the parish community will be held 7:00 p.m. 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. 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.**

**SOCIETY OF ST-VINCENT DE PAUL 'CATCH THE ACE' FUNDRAISER**: **The Ottawa Central Council (OCC) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is working with the Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI) to build a housing complex, called the Anchor, to be located at 7 Rossland Ave., Nepean. Through various fundraising activities, the OCC aims to raise sufficient funds to cover the down payments of 4- 6 apartments for Indigenous and Inuit families in need. Studies have shown that Indigenous and Inuit people are overrepresented in the homeless population in Ottawa. Supporting this project contributes to the Archdiocese of Ottawa - Cornwall's commitment to supporting initiatives for healing, truth and reconciliation. The SSVP will provide ongoing support to those tenants according to its mission. When their housing is affordable, people can pay for other basic necessities such as food, clothing, health needs and transportation. They can then achieve health and dignity and participate more fully in the life of the community with employment and education. Affordable housing is an investment in the future of our community. Info: www.ssvpottawa.ca. Cost: $10 per ticket. Winner of the First draw is Jennifer Heal who won $444.00.**

**A TWO-FOLD CHALLENGE:** **The renewal of the Lenten Season gives us an opportunity to look beyond the ordinary, materialistic, pleasure-oriented approach so many us live in day to day. Ash Wednesday reminds us that life will have an end and calls us to turn back to God for real happiness in this mortal life. Thus Lent calls us to two powerful actions: turning away from sin, and also turning back to God. Simply treating Lent as a time of fasting and penance gives us only half the story. As the fasting empties us, we also need an active filling of Christian charity and renewed faith. This makes Lent a double challenge: It brings us closer to death and life. Both prayer and good works. Both denial and generosity. The season of Lent, beginning today, can be a doubly blessed opportunity for renewal, if only you see both sides of the story.**