**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETRE SUNDAY**

**“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means sent. So he went and washed, and came back able to see……**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, March 18, 5:00 p.m. Mass – For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Pro - Populo**

**11:00 a.m. Mass – For the success of the surgery of Absera by the Teodros Family**

**Monday, March 20, No Mass**

**Tuesday, March 21, 7: 00 p.m. (Healing Mass)**

**Wednesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Thursday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Friday, March 24, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Stations of the Cross, 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 25, 5:00 p.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, March 26, - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**9:30 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - Pro - Populo**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT REFLECTION: Once again on this Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday weekend, we have a lengthy passage from the Gospel of John, the story of the man born blind. Only the opening verses are given here and you are invited to complete the reading in your own Bible, by reading up to verse 41. This is another story of a journey in faith, which invites us to consider our own journey. The words of Jesus at the very start (verse 5) give us the theme: Jesus is the light of the world. Like the man born blind, we too have the opportunity of seeing again, seeing with greater clarity. Even in the opening verses given above the man has already had to defend the reality of the healing. Yes, he is indeed the man who was blind from birth and he has indeed been given his sight. As the chapter continues he bears witness to Jesus more and more strongly and more and more indignantly. In the end it is clear that there are none so blind as those who will not see. The religious leaders refuse to see that Jesus brings light into the world. They refuse to acknowledge their own blindness. It may seem strange that we have the story of David’s anointing as king in the first reading. This reminds us that, as we were given the light of faith in baptism, we were also anointed for God’s service. St Paul tells the Christians of Ephesus in our second reading: ‘You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord.’ What might we learn from the courageous witness of the man born blind? Are we to some extent still blind and unwilling to see? We pray for those who are still seeking the light and discouraged by darkness. We pray for all those to be baptised at Easter.**

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Children’s Liturgy of the Word is back! Please join us at 9:30 a.m. Mass every Sunday. Parents are welcome to participate with their young children. We ask that masks be worn at this time.**

**Tax Receipts for 2022: Your 2022 tax receipts are available for pick - up on the table behind the last pew in the church. If you have any question about your tax receipt, please contact the parish office**

**THE SEASON OF LENT - Witness to the Truth:** **It is not always so easy for us to know the truth, and to know it with such simple, powerful certainty. Yet we face the same kind of attacks. If we, as witnesses to the Truth, can be persuaded to deny it, then others need not feel challenged by it. We then encourage the darkness to grow. To be able to withstand these kinds of attacks, we have to work at knowing the truth. This means learning about our faith. It also means identifying and understanding the blindness in our own lives, and asking the Lord to lead us out into the Light. Seeing our sinfulness, we can repent and leave it behind. This conversion of our hearts allows us to see better and more easily know the truth. It becomes more obvious, more certain. We are less likely to be confused or shaken by any kind of challenge.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** **Reflecting and praying the Stations of the Cross is a popular devotion practiced in the church, especially during the Lenten season. Come and Walk in the 14 steps with Jesus. The Stations of the Cross is held every Friday evening during lent at 6:30pm, here at the parish. Please join us.**

**LENTEN MISSION: WITH BISHOP Yvan MATHIEU**, **Scripture scholar and Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, will explore what it means to be “Baptized in God’s love…Sent to the world.” There will be a Reconciliation Service during the Tuesday mission. All are welcome. Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 153 Woodroffe Ave., Sun., March 26 - Wed., March 29, 7 pm. Info: 613-722-7661**

**DIOCESAN NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**: **The Diocese invites you to take advantage of their new social media platforms. You will find prayers, inspiring messages, photos, videos, and even quizzes! Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are updated several times a week in both official languages. They invite you to share your comments on the posts, send them your stories, and encourage those you know to register. Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ottawacornwall/?hl=en Twitter: https://twitter.com/OttawaCornwall Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ottawacornwall YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@archdiocese-archidioceseot854 LinkedIn:** [**https://ca.linkedin.com/company/ottawacornwal**](https://ca.linkedin.com/company/ottawacornwal)

**Way of the Cross on Good Friday:** **Communion and Liberation (CL), Ottawa, is organizing it’s annual Way of the Cross, led by the Most Rev. Marcel Damphousse, Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, through the streets of downtown Ottawa on Good Friday, April 7, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. From St. Patrick's Basilica to Notre Dame Cathedral. Further info:** **clonottawa@gmail.com****.**

**Development and Peace - Share Lent Sunday in the Diocese of Ottawa – Cornwall** - **Special Collection” There will be a special Share Lent collection held next weekend, Solidarity Sunday, March 25/26, in support of Development and Peace - Caritas Canada (DPCC). Your donation supports projects that transforms lives and communities! The broad theme for the next five years is Create Hope and this year’s focus is on Stand for the Land. Envelopes will be available in the vestibule. For information on Development and Peace: https://www.devp.org/en.**

**Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass**: **For those celebrating 60 (or more), 50, 40, 30, 25 and 20 years of marriage. At Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, April 30, 2:30 pm. The registration form is available at https://forms.office.com/r/jpBDLwD0Kg. Please register before Easter to ensure your spot.**

**COLLISIONS IN THE DARK At this point in Lent, Easter joy and hope are in sight for those who see with eyes of faith. John’s Gospel story of the blind man healed by Jesus invites us to reflect upon the many ways we see and the many ways that we can be blind as well. The good news at the heart of the story shines a light on all our darkness. If we open ourselves to Jesus as our Good Shepherd and Light, then we can be healed of every blindness, physical and spiritual. Jesus’ healing gift empowers us to walk safely in valleys of darkness, His light guiding us on the journey. Yet too often we Christians rely only on our physical eyes or the eyes of our intellect. We forget that a brighter light burns within us, enlightening our spiritual eyes with the gift of faith. If we continue to ignore this purer light we can become blind intellectually and spiritually. Do not despair! If today’s lesson finds you stumbling in darkness, simply reach out in faith as the blind man did. Jesus will touch again the eyes of your heart, washing away doubts and darkness spilling His pure light on your life from today forward.**

**Spiritual Motherhood of Priests (SMOP):** **An invitation to any Catholic woman interested in becoming a Spiritual Mother of Priests. Formation Weekend and Induction/Renewal Promises Mass—June 2, 3, 4, 2023 at Holy Redeemer Parish, 44 Rothesay Dr., Kanata. Details on ww.spiritualmotherhoodofpriests.ca. Please register by email to spiritualmotherhoodottawa@gmail.com by Wed., May 24. More info: 613-254-7220.**

**“HEARTS FOR THE MARITIMES” FUNDRAISER: The estimated damage to Atlantic Canada caused by Hurricane Fiona is $800M. The storm damaged not only homes and infrastructure, but for many it destroyed their livelihood, too. In support of our eastern neighbours, St. Theresa Parish (95 Somerset St W.) is hosting a Ceilidh lunch on Sunday, April 16 at 12:30pm. This fundraiser will ensure genuine Maritime hospitality with great Maritime-themed food and lively Down-East music and dancing. Tickets are $40, available at 613-727-5763.**

**Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 20th: To mark the Solemnity of St. Joseph, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, there will be a bilingual Solemn Mass (with cantor and organist) at 7:30 pm on Monday March 20th, Notre Dame Cathedral.**

**FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER – March 19**: **Heavenly Father, lift up the example of St. Joseph to us today. Teach us his acceptance of Your plan, even when it brings the unexpected. Show us through his devotion to Your Son, a willingness to adopt all the world’s children in Your name. May St. Joseph’s silent service be a shining example of humility all days of our lives. Amen.**