**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, February 17, 5:00 p.m. Mass + For the repose of the Soul of Erroll Kennedy by Alice DeSouza - Joseph and Family**

**Sunday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For the Soul of John Carroll by his Family**

**For world peace, the sick and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**11:00 a.m. Mass – Birthday Thanksgiving and prayer for healing and long life for Mrs. Rose Mary Effiong by the Family**

**Monday, February 19, No Mass**

**Tuesday, February 20, No Mass**

**Wednesday, February 21, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Thursday, February 22, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Feast, the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle**

**Friday, February 23, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

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

**Saturday, February 24, 5:00 p.m. Mass + For the repose of the Soul of Zena Mariados by Alice DeSouza - Joseph and Family**

**Sunday, February 25, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Second Sunday of Lent**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT REFLECTION: It is an ancient custom in the Church that the story of the temptation of Jesus in the desert should be read on the first Sunday of Lent. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. At the beginning of the forty days of Lent the Church always puts before us his time of solitude. The temptation of Jesus is recounted in the three gospels known as 'synoptics', the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. While Matthew and Luke give an extended version of the tradition, telling us that Jesus fasted for forty days and reporting a dialogue between Jesus and the devil, Mark simply gives the outline of the story. Jesus has just received baptism from John in the river Jordan and he is filled with the Spirit. This same Spirit drives him into the wilderness, the place of desolation and loneliness, thought to be the habitat of evil spirits. Jesus' forty days in the desert remind us of the forty day journey of the prophet Elijah to the holy mountain where his call is renewed in the 'still, small voice'. We may even compare Jesus' stay in the wilderness with the forty years of wandering by Moses and the people. The central statement is that Jesus was tempted. To be tempted is the fate of all human beings. That Jesus was tempted shows his humanity. He was 'like us in all things but sin'. He did not give way to temptation. Mark balances his statement about temptation with the laconic declarations 'he was with the wild beasts' and 'the angels looked after him'. The evangelist shows that this Son of Man is at peace with all creation and cared for by the providence of the Father. Our gospel reading concludes with a reminder of Jesus' mission, to preach the 'good news' from God, to announce that the time has come and that the kingdom is approaching. These statements of Jesus have a particular resonance as we begin the season of Lent, a time of self examination and self-denial. We are invited to welcome God's special time of blessing and the coming of the kingdom into our lives. How does the story of the temptation enrich our understanding of the humanity of Jesus? How does this story strike us as we begin Lent? Let us pray for the Church as we begin this season of fasting and prayer. Let us pray for the hungry, and let us work for a fairer distribution of the world's goods.**

**1st Sunday of Lent- Echo of the Week: As little children, Lent was a kind of a terrible season, because the only things we had in life to look forward to in those days were not allowed during Lent, because we were supposed to fast and abstain. We didn’t know what fasting and abstaining meant, but all we knew was that everything we cherished in life, we had to give up: no more ice-cream, no more candy, no more fooling around. We had to behave. We had to go to confession. We had to do all of these things. Now I can see not only the wisdom of Lent, but it’s not really a sad time. And so, during this time, we do three main works of Lent namely Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Prayer really means to open up your mind and heart to a loving God who thirsts to become close and once again one with you, not only in theory but in practice. It is the intimacy of relationship. The second one is Fasting. Fasting means to give up food. What this kind of fasting is, is to make people who have, realise and become one with, people who do not have. The third is Almsgiving. Almsgiving means money given to the poor. Alms is something that you give to a beggar who is in need. Almsgiving is probably the most popular, and we know it very, very well, because each Lent we have various collections for the poor: we give alms. But the basics of almsgiving is remembering what Jesus said. Remember, Jesus once said, “Whatever you give to the least, the least, of my brothers and sisters, you give to me.**

**Special Collection - Diocesan & Missionary Works: The special collection for Diocesan & Missionary Works is held annually on the 1st Sunday of Lent (February 18th, 2024). It allows for the Archbishop to respond generously to the many requests for support that he receives from those in need. Moreover, it allows the Archbishop to provide financial support to local, national or international ministries, organizations, or projects that are advancing the Kingdom of God: through efforts in evangelization and discipleship, and giving witness to Christ through their spiritual and corporal works of mercy. To give to this cause, we invite you to use the special envelopes already included in your box of envelopes. If you do not have giving envelopes, you may use the envelopes in your pew by indicating “special collection” and the date. Thank you for your generosity!**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**: E**ach Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 pm. Come and join Father Jonathan here at the parish , as we walk through the fourteen stations to experience this powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus’ gift of himself to us.**

**“40 Items for 40 Days” Food Drive: During Lent, we invite parishioners to collect one non-perishable food item each day for our neighbors in need. International foods and baby foods/formulae welcome. Thank you for filling our Feed the Poor Grocery Cart! Food donations go to the Heron Road Emergency Food Centre. St Vincent de Paul for the Poor envelopes are available in the church entrance for money donations. We are all God’s instruments; through Christ, may we continue to serve the poor with open and loving hearts.**

**THE HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS: Month of February 2024 ……** **For the terminally ill We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.**

**2023 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:** **The income tax receipts for 2023 are available for pick up today in the main entrance area of the church. Please note they are in alphabetical order for your convenience. God bless you for your continued support of our Parish.**

**Collection – February 12 – 13, 2024: Envelopes: $891.00, Loose: $451.85, St. Vincent de Paul: $103.85; Vigil Lights: $51.00; Clergy Support: $30.00; Grand Total: $1,527. 70. THANK YOU for your generosity and support.**

**Special Mass: Communion and Liberation Ottawa want to invite you to the Memorial Mass for the death anniversary of the Servant of God, Msgr. Luigi Giussani, and to mark the 42nd anniversary of the pontifical recognition of the Fraternity of Communion & Liberation. The Mass will be at Notre Dame Cathedral at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 21.**

**Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass – Registration Form**: **For couples of the Archdiocese who are celebrating 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 60+ years of marriage in 2024. The English Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, April 14, 2:30 pm. Info & link to the online registration form: https://en.archoc.ca/anniversary-mass. Please register before April on the diocese website.**

**CCCB Lenten Video Series** “**Journey Through Lent” begins Feb. 14 for Ash Wednesday and each Sunday in Lent including Palm Sunday. Go to:** [**https://www.cccb.ca/**](https://www.cccb.ca/)

**Social Action Committee:** **“Please support your fellow brothers and sisters in need by donating non-perishable foods.  Financial donations are also welcome.  Please use the provided envelopes and place in the collection basket." Proverbs 22:9: "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."**

**SHARE LENT CAMPAIGNE 2024: …** **Established in 1967, Development and Peace ― Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We address the root causes of poverty, oppression, and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity. We champion women and social movements as key agents of lasting change. Our transformative work is possible thanks to the generosity and support of our members and Canadians who stand by us. Join the movement of over 12,000 members and help us bring our campaigns to life in your community. Visit devp.org/membership. For more information, contact Ruth Dubois at ruthmdubois@gmail.com or 613-371-4236.**