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ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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Tuesday March 21

12:05 + Deacon Bill Carson
Requested by Sharon, Allan and Roger

Wednesday March 22

12:05pm + Danuta Powazka, Madeline (Claire) MacGregor Requested by the family

Thursday March 23 -Lenten Day of Confession

Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

12:05 +Simone Flaim
Requested by John and family

Friday March 24

11am - Holy Hour

12:05 +Mary and Dave Woods
Requested by the family

7:00 Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

10 am Special Intention requested by a parishioner

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass - Saturday March 25

5 pm +Verna Marchand Requested by Theresa Young

Sunday - March 26

9am +Josephine Small

Requested by Charles and Dolores Maguire

11:30 am Mass for the People



The Pope's Prayer Intention for March

ShareLife

For Victims of Abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Forget Not Grace

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, a time which we normally associate with not eating meat on Fridays, the Stations of the Cross, giving up things for greater ones and the suffering and dead of Jesus. Surprisingly, we do not typically put grace in the mix.

But we have stories of grace this Sunday, both in the First Reading (1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a) and in the Gospel (John 9: 1-41). The former relates how David was chosen by God to be Israel's king. The shepherd boy did not ask for it nor did he expect it. I bet he was cool with being a shepherd. More or less, we see the same idea in the gospel story about a man who could not see. St. John narrates that he was born blind and most probably was past caring about seeing. And unlike others, he did not ask to be healed.

During these times, some of us may watch again Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*' and feel embarrassed and guilty about causing unimaginable pain to Jesus, our Lord and King. I have also read and heard some people say, 'Hey Jesus, with all due respect, I didn't really ask *you* to carry that cross and be crucified on it for me.'

Perhaps this is why grace should be the theme this Sunday, which is also often referred to as Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday. For if I'd ask Jesus, then what He did would have just been an answer to my prayer. And, if I'd work for it, then it would just have been a reward for a hard work. Nothing special, just plain physics – every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

They say baptism is the key to understanding the season of Lent. And I would like to specify, infant baptism, where the baby just cries and sometimes pees and has absolutely no clue about

what is taking place. If this is not grace, then I do not know what is.

David and the blind man did not ask for what they had become. But I am sure they don't complain – watching over a kingdom beats watching over a flock of sheep; seeing the sky and faces of loved ones must be better than seeing nothing. You and I didn't ask to be saved. But admit it, hanging out with angels, saints and our deceased loved ones someday trumps dying, rotting, and becoming nothing.

Grace and peace,

Father R C R A

Lenten Day of Confession

Thursday, March 23

There will be priests available to hear individual confessions after Mass until Benediction at 5 PM.

<u>ShareLife Sunday – March 26, 2023</u>

ShareLife Sunday is March 26 and we once again ask you to give generously to support Catholic agencies, who in turn care for the most vulnerable in our communities. Caring for those in need is fundamental to who we are as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto. For over 175 years, Catholic agencies have served those among us who are poor, sick and marginalized. We invite you to continue this legacy of "living the Gospel by providing for those in need."



Please remember the following people in your

prayers: Sherry Archer; Abigail Brown; Romelda Morson; Nicole Marchildon; Stephen Roach; Lilah Bates; Shelley Smith; Nadine Adams; Peter Pattenaude; Bob Kokron; Brenda Bylow; John Jerome; Marshal Laurin

Please pray for our recently deceased relatives and friends: Norma Jivcoff; Verna Marchand; Deacon Bill

Carson; Mary McCarthy;

2023 Holy Week/Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. We encourage parishioners to enter fully into the spirit of these sacred days by participating in the church's liturgy.

Palm Sunday

Saturday Vigil April 1 5:00 pm

Sunday April 2 9:00, 11:30 am

Holy Week

Tuesday April 4 Mass 12:05 pm

Wednesday April 5 Mass 12:05 pm

Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday April 6

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 9:00pm

Good Friday April 7

<u>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</u> 12 noon

3:00 pm

Good Friday is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Easter Saturday April 8

(No 10 am Mass today)

Blessing of Easter Food 11:00 am

Easter Vigil 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 9

Mass 9:00, 11:30 am

(Note: No confessions will be heard today.)



Sanctuary Lamp

March 19-25

This week the lamp burns for the intentions of

Maria Lajner

Please contact the parish office with your prayer requests for so we may add them to the prayer list and respond.

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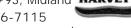
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