



**MASSES OF THE WEEK**

**Monday, March 27 – Ferial: Weekday**

**7:30a.m.** – Intentions of Maria Semlak, Bruno & Ida Favrin

**Tuesday, March 28 – Ferial: Weekday**

**7:30a.m.** – Loreen Bolliger

**12:10p.m.** – John Richard Synnott, Audrey Favrin, Terry Smith & Margaret Smith-Schooley

**Wednesday, March 29 – Ferial: Weekday**

**7:30a.m.** – Charles Gregory “Bud” Weadick, Maria Fischer (Austria), Intentions of Bell Kane

**Thursday, March 30 – Ferial: Weekday**

**12:10p.m.** – Eleanor Sorbara, Debra Fischer, Carlo Aimola

**Friday, March 31 – Ferial: Weekday**

**7:30a.m.** – Erwin Ballivian

**7:00p.m.** – Roy Ferraccioli, Jean Sheehy

**Saturday, April 1 – Ferial**

**5:15p.m.** – Samantha Noelle Williams, Harold Wilcox, Intentions of Monsignor Fabian Pedacchio, Joan Malak

**Sunday, April 2 – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.**

**Stewardship of Treasure:**

*Thank you for your gift of \$11,027.00 in support of your parish community in gratitude for God's blessings.*

**+We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family of Stanley Sweeney who was called to eternal life. May he and all our loved ones be at peace with God.**

**PARISH NEWS**

**WELCOME**

We welcome into our Catholic Faith Family through Water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism: Sabrina Maria Berthiaume; Jeffrey Leonardo Jagers; Joshua Clark Manahan; Carmen Rose Moran; Mateus Wolfgang Ries and Grace Ann Speirs. We congratulate their families.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: LENT 2017**

*Participating in Lent we are engaging to patterns that have endured across the centuries. From very early times, we have the sense of accompanying the elect on their journey to the font. From long ago as the fourth century, we receive Lent as forty days to shake the dust from our spirituality and reorder our conduct. Then, fasting was not seen as a strict duty, yet it seems it was widely observed. Think of the rules of politeness and courtesy that everyone agrees on. Fasting was also seen as a social duty, since food was in short supply as winter wore on and the weak and the sick had the first claim on what remained on hand. As a boost to the fasting of the body, the church developed a richer spiritual fare, including the celebration of daily Eucharist. This practice began in Rome by the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Weekday Mass was only at designated stations. The pope would arrive on horseback at the stational church. In those days, although the catechumenate was already in full preparation mode, there were pre-baptismal activities at the stational Masses – the giving of the Lord's Prayer, prayers for the godparents and constant reference to baptism.*

**LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE**

**OUR LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday-7:30a.m.**

**Tuesday & Thursday – 12:10p.m.**

**Friday: 7p.m. Stations of the Cross followed by Mass**

**SHARE LENT – WOMEN AT THE HEART OF CHANGE**

If we also turn our gaze in this way we can see the challenges that women face around the world. In Afghanistan, only 18% of adult women are able to read and write, compared to 45% of adult males. Eighty-seven percent of women confess to experiencing domestic violence. The United Nations and the World Health Organization report that women age 15-44 around the world are more at risk of violence than from cancer, and up to 70% of women experience violence in their lifetime. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country where women are the target of systematic sexual assaults, we are witnessing a normalization of sexual violence. Thus an estimated 48 women are raped per hour. Such horrifying statistics call us to pause. If we take even the briefest of moments to imagine the human faces behind these numbers, we cannot help but be moved. A simple tear from us may betray what we feel inside, for their pain is surely held in our own hearts. Indeed, compassion should be at the root of every loving and Christian response to not only suffering, but to what we may properly call horror. Resisting against such sexual and gender-based violence is often hampered by impunity, when the rule of law is either unknown or ignored. Judicial and social constructs other further demonize the victims of such systematic violence and promote the practice of victim blaming. In contrast we have the example of our Lord who defends the adulterers against the violence of the law itself (John 8:1-11). We must like Jesus courageously put love and mercy first and stand with victims. We must give them a voice and a place at the table instead of shaming them into silence and invisibility. OUR ANNUAL SHARE LENT COLLECTION . APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Keep April 23<sup>rd</sup> open to attend our brunch in the church hall catered by the Knights of Columbus to honour CWL members for their service to the League. RSVP our president at 519-821-6858 or email [cwl.dianejones@gmail.com](mailto:cwl.dianejones@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Fun, faith and fulfillment! Free will offering.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

Couples who will be married in our parish this year or next are encouraged to register for our Spring Marriage Preparation Course March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. You may register at the Parish Office or online.

**OTHER NEWS****SPRING MARKET**

St. Joseph Parish Guelph will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Marketplace April 22<sup>nd</sup> 9a.m. to 2p.m. New vendors are welcome, tables are 6 feet and can register by calling parish office by April 18<sup>th</sup> at 519-822-4614.

**GUELPH SPIRITAN PRAYER GROUP**

The Guelph Spiritan Prayer Group is hosting a retreat that welcomes everyone to a day of celebrating the work of the Holy Spirit in our Diocese with a time of praise and worship, powerful talks, insightful teaching based on Sacred Scripture and a healing service before the Blessed Sacrament. Father Pierre Ingram, who is currently a professor at Sacred Heart Seminary Detroit and a native of Guelph, will be our speaker April 8<sup>th</sup> 8a.m. to 3p.m. at St. Joseph Church, Guelph. Mass will be at 9a.m. Registration is \$10. Bring your own bagged lunch. To register contact Ana Percic at 519-824-8456.

**CELEBRATION OF PRIESTHOOD & CONSECRATED LIFE**

The Serra Club of Hamilton are celebrating the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Priesthood & Consecrated Life on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Liuna Station Banquet Centre, Hamilton. Tables accommodate 10 people. The following priests are celebrating 50 years of priesthood . Fathers: Peter Coughlin; Edward Hinsperger; James Malone; Francis Trzuppek; and Monsignor Edward Sheridan. Also celebrating 50 years in Religious Life are: Brother Edward Benson CR; Fr. Francis Geremia (Scalabrini) and some School Sisters of Notre Dame.

**ARE YOU SEPARATED OR DIVORCED? LET US HELP**

Level 1 (Learning to Cope) Level 2 (Accepting the Situation) Level 3 (Enhancing Self-Esteem) are self-help programs intended to help separated and divorced persons move forward from their divorce healthier and stronger. Topics are meant to offer hope and personal growth and include the process of divorce, self-image, stress, anger, guilt, loneliness, forgiveness, trust, singleness and children. Course fee \$35 (Level 1); \$45 (Level 2); \$40 (Level 3) and will be held Tuesday evenings for 11 weeks starting March 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-9p.m. Level 1 & 2 will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Queen & Westmount Sts. Kitchener); Level 3 will be held at St. Mark's Parish, 55 Driftwood Dr. Kitchener. Contact the Family Ministry Office at 1-905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or St. Francis Parish at 1-519-745-7301.

**WREATH REMOVAL**

Families are kindly reminded to remove all wreaths on stands and other winter decorations from their cemetery lots by April 1<sup>st</sup> to facilitate the Spring clean-up. Any wreaths and decorations remaining after April 2<sup>nd</sup> will be removed and discarded. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH**

Observing Lent as a couple is an excellent way to deepen both your spiritual and marital bond. Talk about each of your Lenten resolutions and then assist each other to achieve it. Challenge each other to keep to your resolve, pray for each other on your 40 day journey, and take up activities as a couple that will deepen your faith. Take the three Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving into your relationship and journey the path together. Consider 40 acts of kindness toward each other for the 40 days of Lent. When you focus on achieving goals together, it strengthens your relationship bond as a couple and with God it's a win-win Lenten season. (Diocesan Family Ministry Office . 1-905-528-7988 ext. 2250).

**VOCATION SEEDS**

We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Are you being called to a life as an ordained or consecrated person? If God is calling you to serve Him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister contact Father Michael King, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation of the Diocese of Hamilton at 1-905-528-7988 or email: [mking@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mking@hamiltondiocese.com) .

**DIOCESAN CHOIR**

The Diocesan Choir is seeking new members . the ability to read music and previous choral experience is an asset. The choir rehearses weekly on Monday evenings in Hamilton for major liturgies at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. If you are interested in singing in the choir contact Sharon Fazari at [sfazari@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:sfazari@hamiltondiocese.com) .

**EASTER BRUNCH AT LOYOLA HOUSE**

Be sure to book a spot for this year's Easter Brunch! There will be a smorgasbord of breakfast and lunch favourites that is sure to delight your palate! Tickets are \$25 each; seniors and children under 12- \$16 with children under 6 . free. Reserve seating 10a.m. or 12noon by calling 519-824-1250 ext. 221 or email [administration@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:administration@ignatiusguelph.ca) by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CYO CAMP BREBEUF**

CYO Camp Brebeuf in Rockwood will be offering six weeks of children's residential camp and seven weeks of day camp in 2017. If you are looking to develop leadership skills Camp Brebeuf will offer you a one week youth leadership program. For more information phone 519-856-4671.

SUNDAY (do not change anything here, we'll put a correct header each week)

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