

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 12, 7pm

Lenten Retreat Mass

Tuesday, March 13, 9 am

Lenten Retreat Mass

Wednesday, March 14, 7 pm

Lenten Retreat Mass

Living & Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 15, 9 am

+Winnie Yates req by the Yates Family

Friday, March 16, 7 pm

+William Bankhead & All Souls in Purgatory req by Flo Bankhead

+Connie Elford req by the George Family

+Rocco Martino req by Maria & Family

+Anastacia Diorico req by the Diorico Family

+Edmund Vernetta req by Sheila Tobin

+Marc Belcourt req by Rosary Visitors of St Theresa

Saturday, March 17

9 a.m. +Angela Adriano req by Angie Campanelli.

5 p.m. +Ted Mizzi req by his Wife & Family

CARD PARTY

Holy Family CWL is hosting a Card Party (Euchre night) on Sat, Mar 17 in the Parish hall. For more information contact Mary 905-666-4061 or Mary Hawkey 905-668-1644

CWL ORIENTATION GATHERING

All CWL members are invited to a Welcome/Orientation Gathering on Sat, March 17th from 9:30am-12pm in the Church Hall. We will start with a Spiritual activity followed by an overview of our League, its objectives and programs. Please join us and invite a friend. For information please contact Evette D'Cunha 289-892-2399 or Maureen Licsi 905-426-0851

NEW BEGINNINGS

Separated/Divorced Support Group

There will soon be a support group for separated /divorced people in the Durham Region at St. Leo's Parish in Brooklin in the spring with the Archdiocese of Toronto's New Beginnings Ministry. If anyone is interested in finding out more information or knows someone who would benefit from this group, please attend a free **Seminar March 12** by signing up at the following site:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/new-beginnings-seminar-beating-the-winter-blues-tickets-42919246622>

or contact Denise Lobo at 416-939-6763 or by email lobopryce@hotmail.com



OUR NEXT BIBLE STUDY STARTS April 16th

One of the most remarkable things about our Faith is that by God's grace, we have become his adopted sons and daughters. In your day-to-day life, what does it mean to be a son or daughter of God—an heir to his promises and blessings? When you sit in the pews each Sunday, what does it mean to you to be part of His family, the Church? **Join us Mondays starting April 16th** (choose morning 10:30 or evening 7:30 sessions) as we begin *Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance*. You will not only discover your unique gifts and calling as a member of Christ's Church; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together. Register and purchase your workbook \$40 at the back of the church after all Masses.

FLOWER FUNDRAISER!



With the help of the wonderful Vandermeer Nurseries, our Youth Ministry is fundraising to support those who need a helping hand to get to Steubenville, Life Teen Camp, and EDGE Camp! Pick up an order sheet at the back of the church after Masses, place your order for some beautiful flower arrangements, and return your form to Camille or the office before March 21st (orders will be arriving on April 28, just in time for Easter!). Endless thanks for your prayers and support! Camille, Holy Family Youth Minister.

JOIN US FOR ALPHA NEXT THURSDAY, March 22!



If you have questions about faith, or are searching for the meaning of faith in your life, then this is a great place to be for good small group discussions with others! Our next Alpha Series will run from **March 22nd to May 31st** Thursday mornings (10:30am) or Thursday evenings (7:00pm). Sign-up sheets are located at the back of the church, register on our website www.holyfamilywh.achtoronto.org or call the parish 905-665-6470 to register. **Please Join us!**

MAKING A PRAYER REQUEST

If you are in need of prayer, we encourage you to use our **Prayer Request Box** located in the back of the church. Simply fill out the provided Prayer Request Card, place it in the envelope and drop it in the box. You can also send us your prayer request using the 'Prayer' icon in our parish app. Once your prayer request is received, one of the Holy Family Intercessory Prayer Groups will pray for you. All requests are sacred and you can be assured that your prayers will be kept strictly confidential.

HOLY FAMILY MINISTRY FAIR

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the parish Ministries and groups who were represented at our Ministry Fair last Sunday. It is through the personal and welcoming connection with others that they come to understand more about the many ways to volunteer in our community of faith, and to possibly be inspired by our joy of serving to become more engaged by joining a ministry. Thank you so much to the many parishioners who took the time to come downstairs and explore the Ministry Fair. We are grateful for your interest and support, and especially for those who felt the call to sign up. A very special thank you to the coordinator for the Ministry Fair, who leads our Fellowship Ministry, Paola Polzl, and the assistance of Angie Baglieri, Dave Hyatt, Tess Bondoc and some of our amazing youth: Emily, Rebecca, Nigel, Kyle and James. Thank you all for a very successful Ministry Fair. "Encounter Through Serving"



EDGE



LIFE TEEN

Along with March Break, our Life Teen and EDGE Ministries will be taking some time off, too! Continue spending time with Jesus and your loved ones, and have fun! Life Teen and EDGE will return on the week of the 26th.

LIFE TEEN CAMP is happening from August 11-16 and **EDGE Camp** is happening from August 26-30. For more details and registration, email Camille hfwym91@gmail.com

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS RETREAT (gr 11 & 12): The Office of Vocations is hosting a day retreat at St Augustine's Seminary on Sat. Mar 17 from 9am-5pm. Please email vocations@archtoronto.org for more information or register online at: www.vocationstoronto.ca (under programs).

WHY GO TO CONFESSION?



One of the most characteristic parts of the Catholic Faith is the Sacrament of Confession (also known as Penance or Reconciliation): privately confessing one's sins to a priest. However, we may be tempted to think that it is not really necessary or important, especially when we consider that God is all-knowing and would certainly already know that we were sorry for our sins without needing us to confess to a priest. So, why confess our sins to a priest? Isn't it enough simply to ask God's forgiveness in my private prayer?

The fact that Reconciliation is a sacrament, and like all the sacraments, was instituted by Christ Himself, is attested to by scripture ([Matt 16:19](#), [Matt 18:18](#)). It is also clear from the writings of the early Church Fathers—Saint Ambrose ([On Penance I.2.6](#)) and St. John Chrysostom ([On the Priesthood III.5 sq.](#)), for example—that this sacrament was celebrated through the outward confessing of sins to a priest since the earliest centuries of the Church. To be sure, no man forgives sins, but God has granted that He will forgive sins through the agency of His ministers, who, while performing the sacraments, stand *in persona Christi capitis* (in the person of Christ the head).

Having a sacrament such as Reconciliation in the Church makes a lot of sense. To understand this, we should first remember that sacraments are outward signs that reveal the certain action of God's grace. As such, therefore, sacraments must have some visible ritual or action, otherwise they couldn't be signs (an invisible Stop Sign, for instance, would not be very useful). The sacraments, by being signs we can outwardly experience, and therefore can know with certainty have taken place, give us a sure knowledge that the salvation God promises though Christ has taken place in our own personal lives. If God saw it fitting to give us a sacrament to wash us clean from all our sins, from Original Sin, and to birth us anew in the Spirit—the Sacrament of Baptism—it seems perfectly fitting for God also to give us a sacrament by which we can be reconciled to God if we sin after our baptism. We know that we can completely turn away from God, even after our baptism; this is what we call *moral sin*. Such a state requires reconciliation with God. But how could we know for sure that our apology to God was sufficient to reconcile our relationship with Him? He gives us this certainty by allowing us to experience this acceptance and forgiveness in a sacrament: Reconciliation. Just as the pouring of water in baptism signifies what grace is doing in the soul—cleansing from all sin—likewise the outward contrite confession of our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation manifests our desire to be reconciled to God, and the words of absolution from the priest manifests to us God's certain forgiveness. None of this could really happen if we simply "say sorry" to God in private.

Another aspect we can consider is that our sins are never simply sins against God. As baptised Christians we have become members of Christ's own Mystical Body, the Church. Whenever we sin, no matter what the sin, we are harming the unity and harmony of this Body, we are harming our fellow Christians. In Reconciliation, therefore, we are being reconciled not only to God, but also to Christ's Body, the Church, and thus, to our fellow Christians. The priest as the Church's minister by God's power in the Sacrament of Reconciliation also reconciles us to the Church. We could never do this ourselves with a private apology in prayer. We can then see in Confession God's loving mercy seeking not only to be reconciled with us, but also to announce to us this reconciliation.

Michael Czesnik, Dir. of Faith Formation, Holy Family Parish.

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Confession

- Helpful Confession guide
- See available times
- Set useful reminders for your next Confession

Learn more or download our parish app at [myparishapp.com](#)

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

NEED HELP PREPARING FOR CONFESSION?...THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Has it been a while since your last confession? Download the **myparishapp** and click on our Parish App Feature-of-the-Week- **'Confession' icon** to help guide you. The **'How-to Guide'** tab will walk you through it step by step, the handy **'Examination of Conscience'** tab can help you to call to mind your sins & failings with handy check marks so you can keep track, and there is an **Act of Contrition** tab as well. With this useful tool you can also keep track of your last confession and set reminders. Download the app on your Apple or Android phones and start using this convenient feature today!

LENTEN RETREAT

Please join us this week for our Lenten Retreat entitled 'The Spiritual Combat'

"Lent is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." - Pope Benedict XVI.

Holy Family Parish Lenten Retreat
THE SPIRITUAL COMBAT
 Fr Giuseppe Scollo of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary.

Join us this week
Monday March 12th 7pm
Tuesday March 13th 7pm
Wednesday March 14th 7pm
 Lenten Reconciliation will follow on Wednesday.

The Masses Lawyer: An Evening with Felix Morka of Nigeria. Tuesday, March 13th at 7pm, St. John the Evangelist Parish Centre.



Development and Peace, a Sharelife Agency, invites you to hear how the Solidarity of Canadians is empowering the poor in the Slums of Lagos, Nigeria. Felix Morka is a Harvard trained lawyer and the executive director of SERAC, a Nigerian organization and partner of Development and Peace. Felix is visiting Canada to share the work SERAC is doing empowering people to develop their communities instead of being forced to leave them. 300,000 people living in the slums of Lagos facing the daily threat of eviction.