

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 12, 7pm

+Maureen Keogan req by Maureen Moloney

+Pat Moloney req by Bernadette & Patrick Shannon

Tuesday, February 13, 9 a.m.

+Maureen Keogan req by Kate Hudson

Wednesday, February 14, 9am & 7pm.

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 15, 9 a.m.

+Pat Moloney req by Ministry for the Sick

Friday, February 16, 7 p.m..

+Dolly Goddard req by Steve & Marie Sergeant

+Marc Belcourt req by Alan & Carmelle Perron

+Giuseppe Calabrese req by the Calabrese Family

+Maureen Keogan req by the George Family

Sp Int for Fr Matthew req by Sanchez Villavarayen

Spt Int for Kate Hudson- In Appreciation req by pat Belcourt

Saturday, February 17

9 a.m. + Rocco Martino req by the Martino Family

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

PLEASE PRAY for all of the sick members of our parish especially: Linda Vidulich, Jim Cushnan, Reginald Wade, Grace Hancock, and Shirley Barrett.

ITALIAN DINNER DANCE

Join us on **Feb 24th** for our Italian Dinner Dance. Includes a full course meal, dessert & open wine bar. 50/50 draw, door prizes, dancing and lots of fun! **Tickets, \$50.00/person are on sale now** at the back of the church and will go fast! Please call Ange at 905 721-8878 for more information

YOUTH MINISTRY

This week at Edge and Life Teen we will be talking about the season we all know called Lent. Please join us! I also encourage you to read my bulletin message on fasting in the next column. For more information about our youth ministries, Steubenville Conference, EDGE Camp (Aug 26-30), and Life Teen Camp (Aug 11-16), please email me at hfwym91@gmail.com. Camille, Holy Family Youth Minister.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent, the Holy Rosary will be recited at 6:00pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm. Mass will follow at 7:00pm.



ALPHA IS BACK!

There will be another Alpha Session starting **Thursday March 8th**, we will offer morning and evening sessions. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the church after all Masses. 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!

HOMOSEXUALITY, GENDER IDENTITY AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH

The Catholic Teachers Guild of Durham will be hosting a presentation entitled 'Homosexuality, Gender Identity and the Catholic Church: Welcoming and Accompanying with the Heart of Christ' with Fr Kevin Belgrave on **Feb 21st at 7:30 at Holy Family Parish**. This talk will explore the Catholic vision of the human person, love, and sexuality. It will look at how this vision guides pastoral care for our brothers and sisters experiencing same-sex attraction or navigating questions of gender identity. Fr. Kevin Belgrave teaches moral theology, bioethics, foundations of moral theology and Human sexuality at St. Augustine's Seminary. **All are welcome.**



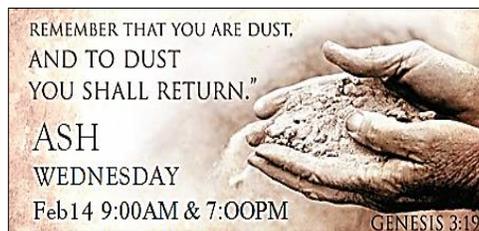
START USING THESE APP FEATURES TODAY!

With this handy app you can receive daily quotes, inspirational messages from Father Laszlo, homily 'teasers' and stay on top of all the happenings at Holy Family! You can even see our weekly bulletin. Use the 'groups' feature to join one of our many groups and engage in meaningful conversations with other parishioners. The 'Prayer' button will direct you to a list of traditional prayers, allow you to set prayer reminders and even has a link so you can send us your prayer request directly. In the 'Reflect Daily' feature you will be able to read, ponder and reflect on the daily Gospel. All this and so much more at the click of a button! Visit myparishapp.com and download on your mobile device. 



NEW APP FEATURE JUST FOR LENT

Watch for this new '**Lenten Reflection**' button to appear on the app where we will get daily Lenten reflections, as well as a new temporary background in observation of the holy seasons of Lent and Easter.



FASTING FOR LENT

During the 40 days of Lent that lead up to Easter, we are asked to fast from something. What is fasting, you ask? Well, it means intentionally giving something up that we may be attached to so that we can give greater attention and time to prayer. Did you know that fasting doesn't just apply to food? You could give up video games, television, time spent on your phone - or even add something to your day, such as reading more bible passages, helping out more at home, or doing some random act of kindness every day. Basically, by fasting, you are taking things slow and turning to God!



PRAYER REQUEST BOX

NEW! If you are in need of prayer, we have a couple of options for you. We invite you to use our new **Prayer Request Box** located in the back of the church. Simply fill out the provided Prayer Request Card and leave it in the box. Another option is to send us your request using the parish app. Once your prayer request is received, the Holy Family Intercessory Prayer Group will pray for you. Whatever your needs are or whatever situation you may be faced with, trust in the Lord. All requests are sacred and you can be assured that your prayers will be kept strictly confidential.



JOIN OUR INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAM

"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:10)

If you feel in your heart that you are being called to pray of the needs of others then we encourage you to please come and join our **Intercessory Prayer Team**. Sign-up sheets will be available at the back of the church after all Masses. We invite you to attend the meeting on **Thurs. Feb 15th at 7:00PM** to learn more about this powerful way of praying.

The Biblical Foundation of the Intercessory Prayer



Intercessory prayer is prayer for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case. The Bible defines intercession as "holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention."

The Biblical basis for the New Testament believer's ministry of intercessory prayer is our calling as priests unto God. The Word of God declares that we are a holy priesthood ([1 Peter 2:4](#)), a royal priesthood ([1 Peter 2:9](#)), and a kingdom of priests ([Revelation 1:5](#)).

The background for understanding this calling to priestly intercession is found in the Old Testament example of the Levitical priesthood. The priest's responsibility was to stand before and between. He stood before God to minister to Him with sacrifices and offerings. The priests also stood between a righteous God and sinful man bringing them together at the place of the blood sacrifice.

[Hebrews 7:11-19](#) explains the difference between the Old and New Testament ministries of the priest. The Old Testament Levitical priesthood was passed on from generation to generation through the descendants of the tribe of Levi. "The Melchizedek priesthood" spoken of in this passage, is the "new order" of spiritual priests of whom the Lord Jesus is the High Priest. It is passed on to us through His blood and our spiritual birth as new creatures in Christ.

Jesus Christ is our model for intercessory prayer. Jesus stands before God and between Him and sinful man, just as the Old Testament priests did: For there is one God, and one mediator (intercessor) between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ([1 Timothy 2:5](#)). It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us ([Romans 8:34](#)). Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them ([Hebrews 7:25](#)).

Jesus brings sinful man and a righteous God together at the place of the blood sacrifice for sin. No longer is the blood of animals necessary as it was in the Old Testament. We can now approach God on the basis of the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross of Calvary for the remission of sins. Because of the blood of Jesus, we can approach God boldly without timidity ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#)).

As New Testament believers, we no longer sacrifice animals as in Old Testament times. We stand before the Lord to offer up spiritual sacrifices of praise ([Hebrews 13:15](#)) and the sacrifice of our own lives ([Romans 12:1](#)). It is on the basis of this intimate relationship with God that we can then stand "between" Him and others, serving as an advocate and intercessor in their behalf.

Jesus was an intercessor while He was here on earth. He prayed for those who were sick and possessed by demons. He prayed for His disciples. He even prayed for you and me when He interceded for all those who would believe on Him. Jesus continued His ministry of intercession after His death and resurrection when He returned to Heaven. He now serves as our intercessor in Heaven.

Jesus said, "Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks" (Luke 11:10). Those words mean: keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking. In God's time, your persistence in intercessory prayer will reap a spiritual harvest in your life and the lives of those around you! True intercessory prayer seeks God's glory, not our own.

The Bible is clear that *all* Christians are called to be intercessors. All Christians have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and, just as He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will ([Romans 8:26-27](#)), we are to intercede for one another. This is not a privilege limited to an exclusive Christian elite; this is the command to all. In fact, not to intercede for others is sin. "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you" ([1 Samuel 12:23](#)).

God is calling you to join in intercessory prayer. He is not looking for perfect prayer warriors, just willing hearts who want to see His will come to pass on the earth. All you have to do is turn to the Lord in prayer:

"Father, I come into Your presence and ask You to give me the heart of the intercessor. Help me to be persistent in prayer until the breakthrough comes. Thank You for this powerful weapon of spiritual warfare -- and for Your faithfulness in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen."