

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



### **Monday, March 5, 7pm**

+Joyce & Jeanette Coe req by Maurice Coe

### **Tuesday, March 6, 9 a.m.**

+Marg Borg req by the Borg Family

### **Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.**

+Josefina Martinez req by the Ycong-Mendoza Family

+Dorothy Williams req by Sheila Tobin

+Marc Belcourt req by Pam Mc Arthur

CWL Members Living & Deceased

### **Thursday, March 8, 9 a.m.**

+Sibilla Porca req by Rosa Falsetti

### **Friday, March 9, 7 p.m..**

+Marc Belcourt req by the Society of St Vincent de Paul

+Mike Pulla req by Cesina Pulla

Sp Int Bob Weindorfer req from a friend

Sp Int Sheeren & Brett Herod req by

Claudia Herod

### **Saturday, March 10**

**9 a.m.** +Tindara Giorgio, Sam & Umberto Saturno req by Rosaria Saturno.

**5 p.m.** +Maureen Keogan req by Cathy Fedak

### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

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

### **CWL MEETING**

Attention Catholic Women's League members! Please join us for the General Meeting on Wednesday, March 7th, at 7:30 pm in the Church hall. Find out about all the exciting activities you can be involved in and re-connect with your friends.

**New members are always welcome!**

### **CARD PARTY**

Holy Family CWL is hosting a Card Party (Euchre night) on Sat, Mar 17 in the Parish hall. Entry tickets \$10/ person. Doors open at 6:15 pm. There are 15 games and we start at 7:00pm sharp. 8 games and a light luncheon then 7 more games. There is 50/50 draw and prizes. Come out and support the Catholic Women's League. For more information contact Mary 905-666-4061 or Mary Hawkley 905-668-1644

### **MARRIAGE PREP SPRING SESSION**

There will be a Marriage Prep Session starting on **April 19** for six Thursday evenings 7-9PM. Please call the parish for more information and to register.

## **FIESTA ITALIANA ~ THANK YOU!!**

Many thanks to the team who made this event possible! To the servers, the kitchen help, our Youth Minister Camille and her team, CWL, KOC, SABRINA'S CATERING (312 Stevenson Road Oshawa 905-240-4489) and to Joe Collura for entertaining us! For our many generous donations; Thank you to Salvatore Princiotta, Robert Micielli, Pat Parker, Tony Luele, Giacomo Colasuonno, Cesare Rizzuto, Giuseppi Lombardi, Luigi Gravina, Nicola DeBiase and Gino Romano for adding to our bar. Also many thanks to Alex Sgroi, Bianca Yurkoski Francesca Luele and Mena Lombardi and Louisa Romano for our many beautiful door prizes! A special thank-you to our Pastry Chef Angela Silipo and to Lena Gravina, Paola Polzl Chair of our Fellowship Ministry, and Dave Hyatt. For the support of Father Laszlo and Father Matthew we are blessed! To all of our friends at Holy Family and guests, a huge THANK YOU!! Until next year, God Bless, Angie Baglieri.

### **LENTEN RETREAT MARCH 12, 13 & 14 at 7PM, HOLY FAMILY PARISH**

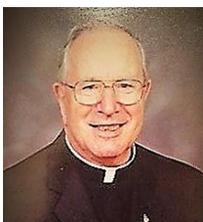


"Lent is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."- Pope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

### ***Please join us for our Lenten Retreat entitled 'The Spiritual Combat'***

The Retreat will be conducted by Fr Giuseppe Scollo of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary and will take place at **Holy Family Parish** on Monday March 12, 7pm Mass, Tuesday March 13, 7pm Mass & Wednesday March 14, 7pm Mass. Lenten Reconciliation will follow the Mass March 14<sup>th</sup>. **We hope to see you there!**

### **REV. FR. GERARD SCOTT**



Our beloved **Fr Gerry** was called home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. He was 87 years old and in his 60<sup>th</sup> year of the priesthood. We will remember him fondly here at Holy Family Parish for his joyful spirit & kindness.

**VISITATION:** Sunday, Mar 4<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm & 7-9pm (Prayer service 7:30pm) O'Connor Funeral Home, 1939 Lawrence Ave E, Scarborough.

**FUNERAL:** Monday, Mar 5<sup>th</sup> 11am. St. Joseph's Parish, 200 Morrish Rd. Scarborough. Followed by a light reception in the church hall.



**LIFE TEEN:** is a youth ministry for high schoolers. We'll be meeting Monday night from 7-9 PM to spend some time in Adoration! Please join us!

**EDGE:** is a youth ministry for middle schoolers from grades 5-8. On Thursday we'll be talking about all things social media. Come and see what Edge is all about!

**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](mailto:hfwym91@gmail.com)

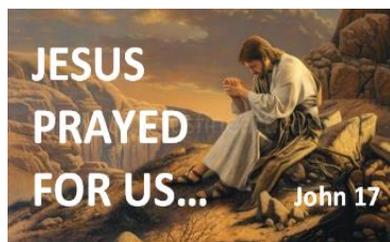
**HIGH SCHOOL BOYS RETREAT (gr 11 & 12):** The Office of Vocations is hosting a day retreat at St Augustine's Seminary on Saturday Mar 17 from 9am-5pm. Please email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) for more information or register online at: [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)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

### **VANDERMEER FLOWERS FUNDRAISING ~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~ MAR 10/11 & 17/18**



In an effort to fundraise for this year's camps, the Youth Ministry will be selling some beautiful flower arrangements from Vandermeer Nursery. We will be at the back of the church taking orders on the weekends on **March 10 and 17!** Questions and orders can also be run through Camille at [hfwym91@gmail.com](mailto:hfwym91@gmail.com) or [647-869-5124](tel:647-869-5124). Thank you in advance for your support and prayers!

## A THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON INTERCESSORY PRAYER



Intercessory prayer is an important component to the spiritual life of a Christian. Christ Himself modeled intercessory prayer for us: He prayed for his disciples, for the Church He would establish (Jn 17), and even for those who persecuted Him (Lk 23;34). Often times, however, the confusing part is understanding how intercessory prayer works. How does asking God for things change anything? Doesn't God have an infinitely wise plan for the world? Why would He change anything on account of my prayer? This dichotomy is a real one, which often leaves us concluding either that our prayers alter the course of history and "change God's mind", or that our prayers can't possibly change anything and, therefore, are pointless. There must be some middle-ground that avoids these two extremes.

In numerous places scripture attests both explicitly and implicitly to God's sovereignty over creation, and His all-encompassing providential plan for everything and everyone (Lk 12:6-7). How can we be changing God's plan by our prayers, or at all? It is not only, however, that God's plan is pre-ordained in a sense, but that He is eternal. This eternality of God means that He is completely without time in His being and actions. No time also means no change. So, when we consider His act of creating a universe that is subject to time, we must also take this into account. That means that God creates all moments of time "at once"; all the moments of time for creation are simultaneously present to God as they are all being created by Him in His eternal "Now". God's great act of creating the universe was not an action simply occurring at the beginning of time, but is an action occurring at every time. It is not even just that His plan is pre-ordained, but also that His plan has already unfolded; our future exists for God just as much as our present does. So then, how can our prayers change anything? If anything, this idea seems to make the problem worse!

To try and answer this we should first look at the purpose of prayer. All prayer, even intercessory prayer, is ordered to a growing union with God, as is everything in the spiritual life, everything that pertains to following Christ. This union with God is charity, as God Himself is Love. This is the meaning behind the idea that "prayer changes us". Part of that growing union, and perhaps the more important part of that union, is a union of wills: ours with God's. It is good for us to express our desires to God, in a simplicity of heart knowing that He can and will grant us what is best. Interceding for others or "requesting" certain future outcomes with this simplicity can open us to the work of God's grace in conforming our will to His. A heart praying with this simple and trusting orientation to God can learn from His grace and the unfolding of His providential plan. This in turn aids a greater union with God and with His will. The greater our union with God, the more we'll find that our wishes for the future align with His, and our prayers seem the more to be granted. So, this isn't to say that requesting certain things from God is pointless, or *per se* "bad", but that it's efficacy might be different than we may initially expect.

Another thing to consider is that God wants us to have an active part in the work of salvation. This is why He entrusts to us the task of evangelization or instituted the Sacraments of Service (Marriage and Holy Orders). Certainly, our prayer also has a part to play. Perhaps it is helpful to think about our requests in prayer not so much as working to "change God's mind" or alter His plan, but more so as being components of that providential plan, and perhaps even sometimes being the reasons why things have already come about in the future as they have/will. Thus, our prayers can become for us a way of taking part in God's providential plan for creation.

**If you feel in your heart that you are being called to pray for the needs of others then we encourage you to please come and join anyone of our Intercessory Prayer Groups. We have groups that meet as follows: Thursdays 7pm (CWL room) and Fridays 1pm, 2pm & 7:30pm (upstairs in the church).**

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

### 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.

### ALPHA STARTS THIS THURSDAY!



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 Session starts this week, **Thursday March 8th**, we are offering morning (10:30am) and evening (7:30pm) sessions. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church after all Masses or call the parish to register. **Join us!**

### THE RCIA JOURNEY CONTINUES...



Our RCIA Candidates, Sponsors and Team Members travelled to Pickering last Sunday to meet with Bishop Vincent Nguyen who led a packed church in celebrating the Rite of Election for 25 parishes in Durham and Scarborough. Jacqueline Herbert and John Reid have now been declared by the Bishop to be eligible for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Our whole RCIA group has been preparing diligently to receive their Sacraments at Easter, so **please continue to keep them in your prayers**. And, if you see Jacquie, John, David, Marlon, Sue, Albert, Tom or Lukas, please offer them your support and encouragement. We are privileged to have them among us!!!