

Pastor's Note:

I tend to have a total trust in God under certain circumstances. When things are going smoothly, according to plan, then my trust is solid. I thank God in my prayers for his fidelity and care, for listening to my requests and wants. In my words to others, I preach that God never forsakes us, that we just have to have trust and faith. When things don't go my way, when uncertainty enters my life, when I await some difficult news for myself or a loved one, my trust quickly disappears. My trust and faith "turn on a dime" and I become confused and feel alone. Indeed, I begin to live the words of Jeremiah: "Cursed is the one who trusts in mere mortals and makes mere flesh their strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person shall be like a shrub in the desert." The remedy for us, if we feel our trust in the Lord slipping away, is to remind ourselves of what St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians.

When Paul writes to the early Christians at Corinth, he speaks to them of the pre-eminence of the resurrection in our faith. Some Christians in Corinth had begun to question the lasting consequences of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for us. Some may have denied that Christ rose at all, while others may have agreed that he rose but that this didn't mean we also would be given eternal life. St. Paul wrote that "if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile . . . [and] we are of all people most to be pitied." Without the resurrection, we are like lifeless cardboard cut-outs, i.e., lifeless and empty. But with the resurrection in the forefront of our minds and hearts, we become "like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." The resurrection means eternal life in the life to come, but it also means eternal life in our lives now. The resurrection is the eternal word and promise of God that we will never be alone, that he is always with us and that we will be with him. It means that we are not lifeless cardboard cut-outs, rather we are forever surrounded by the understanding and compassionate love of God our Father. Our trust and faith is not in an idea, it is in a person. And this person has given to us his word, his promise. In Christ he has

shown us the infinite extent of his fidelity, "even accepting death, death on a cross." This person is our God. And so "Blessed the one who trusts in the Lord."

Take Care and God Bless,

J.R. John

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***"Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping and with mourning:
rend your hearts and not your clothing."***

– Joel 2:12-18



On March 6th Lent begins. The symbol of ashes is a reminder of our humanness and of the passage of time. Ashes symbolize our desire for God's mercy and compassion. They are an expression of our sorrow for our sins and of our desire to resist temptation in the future. Ashes will be distributed during each of our Masses on Wednesday, March 6. **In addition to our usual Masses at 8:00 am, 12:10 pm and 5:15 pm, a Mass has also been scheduled for 7:00 pm.**

Fasting & Abstinence

As Catholics we are aware of the practices of fasting and of abstinence. Fasting is about how much or how little food we take in over a period of time. Abstinence has to do with the kinds of foods we deny ourselves (e.g. meat, chocolate). Fasting for religious purposes is a practice of self-discipline and has a long tradition in many religions and in the Church. It is used as an aid to concentration in prayer and it also helps develop a sensitivity to those in need. As a Church abstinence calls us (aged 14 years or older) to refrain from the eating of meat. Fasting allows only 1 full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and the evening. In addition, eating between meals is prohibited. Fasting applies to those between the ages of 18 – 59. In Canada Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the required days of fasting and abstinence.

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THE WAY OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 7:00 pm during Lent the Way of the Cross will be celebrated in our Church. This is a wonderful way to deepen our relationship with Jesus throughout Lent. Come and pray the Way of the Cross with us and invite a friend.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 18

8:00 am Special Intention of ANA [Ana Z.]
 12:10pm SYLVIA MURRAY + [Daughter]
 5:15 pm Thanksgiving [Ruth Buslon]

Tuesday, February 19

8:00 am LYDIA Z. AZORES + [Blessie Azores]
 12:10 pm Magno Romana + [Romana Families]
 5:15 pm MERCES CARDAO + [Ceilia]

Wednesday, February 20

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10 pm Esmeraldo & ISABEL Pardinias + [Family]
 5:15 pm Allwyn D'Souza + [Jason & Lovlyn]

Thursday, February 21

8:00 am Thomas & Brian Alles + [Florence Anandappa]
 12:10 pm Epifanio Salve + [Sofie Salve]
 5:15pm Lloyd + [Grace Colella]

Friday, February 22

8:00 am Eulalio Torio + [Gloria Torio]
 12:10 pm All Souls in Purgatory [Oliver Family]
 5:15pm Brian Tracey + [Carole Tracey]

Saturday, February 23

8:00 am PAULINA ULIT LORENZO + [Claudine Jove]
 12:10pm MARIA WAI FONG CHUNG + [David Chin]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

*Agatha Kapawan, Sheila Willis
 Brian Alles, Anthony Cinquina*

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EDGE

For youth aged 12-14

Edge is a Catholic youth ministry program that provides a safe, fun for youth to find solid Catholic community, get answers to their questions about faith, and most importantly, experience Jesus in a profound and personal way.

**EDGE Meets
 Every Thursday evening
 6:30 pm to 8pm
 Upstairs Halls**

For more information: Michael: 416-458-8119,
 Madelaine: 647-453-1925, or Lorenzo: 647-291-8380

Rummage Sale: The CWL will hold their annual **RUMMAGE SALE** on **Saturday March 2 in Bernadette Hall and Lynch Hall from 9:30am to 2:30 pm.** If you have items you would like to donate, such as used clothing, appliances that are not used anymore or other things, please drop them off on Friday, March 1. Thank you.

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St. Jamestown Youth Centre Black History Month Concert: The St. Jamestown Youth Centre is holding its concert featuring the Steel Orchestra on **Friday, February 22 at 7pm** here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. A Warm Welcome to All!

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Tax Clinic: The Our Lady of Lourdes Volunteer tax clinic is on March 16, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the 2018 tax year. Please call the parish office @ 416 924-6257 for an appointment.

For those unable to attend the clinic, we have the "Drop-Off Service". This service is now available all year!! Please call the parish office @ 416 924-6257 for more information.

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Pre-Authorized Giving allows those who wish, to have their monthly donations debited directly from their bank accounts. We have this option available for you. We respect that giving is a very personal thing, but we hope the implementation of this optional plan will be a source of convenience for some of you. Brochures are available for information contact us at 416-924-6257 or parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

Frequent confession is the cause of great good to the soul, because it purifies it, heals it, and confirms it in the service of God: we ought not therefore to omit confession on our fixed days for any business whatsoever; but go to confession first, and to business afterwards, and the first will help the last.

~St. Philip Neri

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of February 17 to 23, 2019						
Sun 17	Mon 18	Tues 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23
4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Kids at Mass RCIA 1 st Confessions Class 1:30 pm	Family Day Parish Office Closed	Alpha: How and Why Should I Read the Bible?		EDGE 6:30 pm		