

**Pastor's Note:**

As a young man in my late teens and early twenties, I struggled with knowing happiness, joy and peace in my life. I felt a sadness over my father's death a few years before. I felt a discomfort in my "own skin," that I needed to show the world a different person because I felt who I was, was in the end, not very much. I remember thinking that my life was something I had to endure for the next sixty years, finding release and freedom only with heaven. At the same time, I began to wonder whether or not God may have a different idea or plan? I began to feel that God wanted to offer something more to me, that my resignation that life was something to be endured, didn't sit so well with God. Could it be that God had a different wish and dream for us?

In a way, I believe that God has a most beautiful dream for each of us. And his dream is not that we simply endure life, rather it is that we experience and come to know a love that is utterly life-giving. God's dream doesn't necessarily mean that our activities on the outside, such as, our jobs and responsibilities, have to change, but that his offer, his dream is accepted in our inside, that is, in our hearts. This week we hear the story of the Lord's Transfiguration. Peter, James and John were brought up the mountain where Jesus was transfigured. They were shown the full person of the Lord – perfectly God and perfectly human. They saw Christ speaking with Moses and Elijah. While Peter offered to make three dwellings for them, the scripture says that "a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud." From the cloud, a voice spoke: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" In Christ, God was and is offering his dream for us.

We may put our lives in cruise control, just trying to get through it, but again, could it be that God had a different wish and dream for us? The Lord Jesus has come with a particular mission. He has come to save us, to offer eternal life. As we live our lives, our salvation can begin to grow within our hearts. We see in the Gospel how God spends his entire self for us. Christ searches us out and proclaims the kingdom of God. And God's kingdom is our true home. It is his kingdom of which we are citizens, as St. Paul wrote. The proclamation of the Lord is life for us because it is

love for us. If we feel as if we are in the doldrums of life, we can listen to the ever present cry of God. We can listen to Jesus Christ who tells us, over and over again, that we are loved by an eternal love. That we are not just going through the motions in life, that we are not just an anonymous number in God's creation, rather we are the child, the beloved child of God. So indeed we know, "the Lord is my light and my salvation."

God bless and take care. *Fr. John*

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**With Fr. John O'Brien, S.J.  
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
March 25, 26 & 27  
7 pm in the church**

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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.

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**Baptism? Communion? Confirmation?**

Are you considering baptism? Are you a baptized adult who has not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation or made your First Communion? We've got just the thing for you! Call Anna at 416-924-6257 x3295 or email [ourladyoflourdes1556@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyoflourdes1556@gmail.com)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, March 18**

8:00 am P.T. Thomas + [Mary Philip]  
 12:10pm ELISA, Felimon, Elimon & ANACLETA Gines +  
 [Cabamungan Family]  
 5:15 pm IDELTA COUVINHA + [Celeia]

**Tuesday, March 19**

8:00 am Thanksgiving & Intentions [Connie & Family]  
 12:10 pm Thanks to St. Joseph [Joseph Kaposi]  
 5:15 pm Nadur Balatero + [Cora Balatero]

**Wednesday, March 20**

8:00 am Dionisio & AURORA Dela Rosa + [Dela Rosa Family]  
 12:10 pm MADAME GRACE BAFFOEH & Ebenezer Acheampong +  
 [Benedicta]

5:15 pm Thanksgiving [Ramona]

**Thursday, March 21**

8:00 am Deceased Aunt of NANCY PHAM [Family]  
 12:10 pm Ramon Lejarde & Jose Manalo + [Weena Lejarde]  
 5:15pm Angel Tarampi + [Carlina & Eveline]

**Friday, March 22**

8:00 am Bienvenido Torio + [Gloria Torio]  
 12:10 pm Fermin, Eladio & Ventura Monge + [Oliver Family]  
 5:15pm George Camacho + [Gaby Camacho]

**Saturday, March 23**

8:00 am Alex Rodriguez + [Mel & Lynn Verastigue]  
 12:10pm Mario Alumaga + [Prescy Alumaga]

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

*Lourdes Burgos Dolendo, Wenceslao Maban  
 Fr. Remi Limoges*

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**Living the Gospel by helping young mothers**

Anika became a mother at the age of 19. Soon after, her fiancé became increasingly controlling. Feeling isolated, she reached out to a ShareLife agency called Rose of Sharon. She and her son attended almost every program offered, including one called Healthy Relationships. Anika realized she didn't have to tolerate her partner's behavior. Rose of Sharon helped her find an affordable apartment so she and her son could move out. "I never thought I could make it on my own," says Anika. "But with the help of Rose of Sharon, here I am doing it."

**March 31 is ShareLife Sunday.**

**Please give generously.**



**OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!**

Join a strong and vibrant team, committed to making the Gospel a joyful and fun experience for children. Our Children's liturgy, which takes place during our 10 am and 11:30 am Sunday Masses is growing and we can use your help. If you are interested or would like more information please contact us by emailing [ourladyoflourdes1556@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyoflourdes1556@gmail.com) or contact Sarah through the parish office at 416-924-6257.

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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](mailto:parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca)

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**BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH**

*Mercy is to fasting as rain is to the earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out your vices and sow your virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will not bear fruit. When you fast a thin sowing of mercy will mean a thin harvest. When you fast what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. So do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering.*

~ St. Peter Chrysologus

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of March 17 to 23, 2019						
Sun 17	Mon 18	Tues 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Kids at Mass RCIA		Alpha 6pm		EDGE 6:30 pm	Way of the Cross 7pm	