

Third Sunday of Lent

Parish Update: March 8th, 2026



*“Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never be thirsty”
(John 4.42, 15)*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK MARCH 9TH TO MARCH 15TH

- Monday, 9th** *Ferial*
Office Closed No Mass
- Tuesday, 10th** *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. Holy Souls (N Vendittelli)
+Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)
- Wednesday, 11th** *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. +Luigino Minicucci (M Minicucci)
9:30-10:30 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Thursday, 12th** *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. Sp. Int. of the Daily Mass Group
(J Mascarin)
6:45-8:15 p.m. Choir Practice, Church
- Friday, 13th** *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. Holy Souls (N Vendittelli)
+Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)
9:30-10:30 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
4:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross
5:00 p.m. All Souls in Purgatory
- Saturday, 14th**
3:30-4:30 p.m. Confession
5:00 p.m. +Brian Armstrong (L&M Leonard)
- Sunday, 15th** *4th Sunday of Lent*
9:00 a.m. +Caryl (Carol) Stephens (D Aranda)
11:00 a.m. +Joseph Poniatowski (J Poniatowski)

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends: At the end of the 1st Century, St. Justin Martyr, in explaining to an outsider how the Eucharist is celebrated, has this to say about monetary support, “The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.” It must be noted

that at the very beginning, the fledgling faith community had no overhead costs to contend with. There were no buildings, salaries, or other expenses save the care of those community members who were in need. As the Church grew and gained civil acceptance and legal protection, a host of expenses were incurred. As this developed, the infrastructure and works of the Church demanded ongoing support from all members, not merely the wealthy. Pretty well everyone understands that and the vast majority of practicing Catholics want to accept some responsibility to contribute financially to the mission of the Church. The question is, how much is reasonable and pleasing in the eyes of God, whose Church it is?

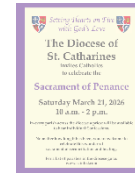
I have shared with you the formula I have been using for decades now and it has never been without its blessings. The Lord has supported me in my personal finances, including helping me to limit expenses and more carefully discern how I am to use that which has been entrusted to me. Beyond that, God has always richly blessed the parishes I have been given charge of. While serving in Thunder Bay for 13 years, two of my parishes were in financial need upon my arrival as I recall. In the first case, the parish had little in the bank and was in need of upgrades for both the church and rectory. I was stationed there for only a little over 3 years and in that period of time, we were able to do the necessary upgrades as well as enhancing our youth (trip to World Youth Days in Toronto) and music ministries (new sound system) leaving money on deposit with the diocese and a sturdy current account. In the second instance, at the largest parish in the city, I inherited a \$200,000 debt with the church and rectory needing refurbishment and upgrades, as I recall. In addition, the annual campaign named “Sharing the Challenges” which required that the parishes raise \$450,000 on top of the 10% annual church tax owed to the diocese were both amply provided for.

Most dioceses do have an annual campaign similar to the one in Thunder Bay and going forward, ours will be no exception. Without this annual campaign, the Diocese of Thunder Bay would have been severely handicapped in its work. Given that the needed funds ultimately came from the faithful, it is clear that a deeper understanding of intentional giving would eliminate the need for such campaigns. As for the financial health of my parish, at the time of my departure, pretty much everything was up to date, and there was a vibrant youth and music ministry going as well as an effective outreach to the needy and a stable bank balance. Over time, as we worked together and saved for the needed improvements, our Lord's words in Malachi would regularly come to mind, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” Mal 3:10 And He did just that, even in a sluggish economy. He did what He always does, accepted what was offered with generous and trusting hearts and multiplied it for His glory. May He be forever praised! *Fr. Richard*

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The 2026 Message of Pope Leo XIV for Lent is titled “Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion.” In his message, the Holy Father writes: “Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.”



Diocesan Day of Reconciliation On Saturday, March 21, 2026 in every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available from 10:00am – 2:00pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.



Do you know Development and Peace — Caritas Canada? Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, is a democratic movement for global solidarity rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada addresses the root causes of poverty, oppression and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity. The organization also champions women and social movements as key agents of lasting change. To learn more, visit devp.org.

40 Days for Life, a campaign of peaceful prayer and fasting to end abortion, runs from Feb. 18 to Mar. 29. **Star of the Sea Parish** has been designated to keep vigil on Thursday March 12 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Please sign up with a friend for an hour outside the hospital or, make plans to offer an hour in adoration right here in the church! It is prayer that can change hearts! Can you spare an hour to help save a life? Volunteers with sign-up sheets will be at the back of the Church next Sunday. You can also visit 40daysforlife.com and click on “Niagara Falls” to sign up online

Annual Diocesan: Respect for Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 67 Church St. St. Catharines, ON. Rosary for Life & Confessions at 6:15 pm, Mass with Bishop Bergie at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 25, The Annunciation of the Lord. A collection will support the diocesan Family & Life Office. Reception to follow in the parish hall.

PRAYER ANGELS Our ministry is set up to pray for the parish's intentions. Please send by email or phone your concerns or cares and they will be passed on to the members of this group who will daily offer up your intentions to the Lord. Prayer is powerful. Let us help ease your troubles or shower the Lord with praises. Please call or email Marg 289-214-6679 mgmartin113@gmail.com
*‘He who prays most receives most.’
St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori*



CWL CORNER
(Catholic Women's League)
“Blessed are the Poor”

E-transfer payments for CWL may be made to cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com. Please remember to indicate which event in the subject line.

Thank you to all who participated in our CWL Lenten Retreat on February 28. We gathered in prayer, reflection and song in order to Walk in Trust during our Lenten journey.

Plans are underway for our **Parish Photo Directory!** Families will be able to schedule their photo shoot appointments beginning on March 21/22 before and after all Masses. Online scheduling will also be available! The photographer will be here from April 28-May 2 and then May 28-30. We invite **all members** of the Star of the Sea Parish community to take part in this project. Stay tuned for more details.



As we celebrate **International Women's Day** this weekend, we offer this prayer: Lord, may women gain gratitude and joy as they give love, care, and support to those around them. God of Love, may the world gain from women's contributions, and may they in turn gain respect, love, and fulfillment. Amen



March 14/15	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	B/L MacNeil	K Zacharchuk	Dn Maurice
Lector	MJ Stacey	A VanKralingen	C Dutta
Hospitality Ministers	J&P Merritt C Tracey	C DeLuca K Gilmore W Riddle	G LaRoche H Green M Ford

WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

March 1 st , 2026	
Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 4,425.00
Loose Collection: CAD	\$ 259.00
USD	\$ 5.00
Total Offertory Collection:	\$ 4689.00
February E-Transfer Contributions:	\$ 625.00
Our Special Needs	\$ 1,075.00

*Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU*