

Living the Gospel

ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 16/17

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 **ShareLife**

St. Joseph The Worker Parish

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GOSPEL REFLECTION: AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

Everyone who believes in him . . . (John 3:16)

Today's Gospel reading is full of promises to "everyone who believes" in Jesus. They will have eternal life (John 3:15). They will not perish (3:16). They will not be condemned (3:18). But what does it mean to believe in him?

We might think that believing in Jesus means being convinced that he is who he says he is. And it does. We agree with the truth that he is the Messiah, the Son of God. We acknowledge his miracles and the wisdom of his teachings. But intellectual assent will get us only so far. As James says, "Even the demons believe that and tremble" (2:19).

The belief that Jesus is talking about here is an act of the will; it's a decision to place our trust in Someone whom we know and love. That kind of personal connection with the Lord can spark a deep faith that changes the way we think and behave. St. John Henry Newman talked about the importance of our relationship with Jesus when he said, "No man will be a martyr for a conclusion" (An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent).

But even deeper, and at the heart of everything else, faith is a gift of grace from God. Our belief is more than intellectual assent or an act of the will. It's a response to God's initiative. His grace opens our minds to the truth and moves us to place our lives in Jesus' hands. Belief isn't possible without God's initial intervention. The Catechism puts it succinctly: "In faith, the human intellect and will cooperate with divine grace" (155).

Today is a day overflowing with grace. So turn to the Lord and affirm your faith. Tell Jesus that you believe he is who he says he is. Entrust your life to him. As you do, your faith will continue to grow, and you will trust even more deeply in Jesus' promise of eternal life.

"Jesus, I believe in you!"

MASS READINGS

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36.14-17, 19-23

Second Reading: Ephesians 2.4-10

Gospel: John 3.14-21

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 10 March, 9:00 AM (Italian)
+ Gregorio & Giacomina Barbieri & Family

Sunday 10 March, 10:30 AM
For all Parishioners

Sunday 10 March, 12:00 PM
+ Rudy Pinto

Tuesday 12 March, 9:00 AM
+ Deceased Members of the Bellissimo Family

Wednesday 13 March, 7:00 PM
+ Virginia de la Cruz
+ Leonardo & Nilda Kison
+ Aris Miranda
Blessings for Joseph DeMedicis

Thursday 14 March, 9:00 AM
+ Parents & Brothers of Luciano Andrade

Friday 15 March, 7:00 PM
+ Salvatore & Giuseppe Cortese
+ Franco & Vincenzo Cortese
+ Maria Cortese
+ Victoria & Florencio Collantes
Blessing for Norlyn Relente

Saturday 16 March, 9:00 AM
+ Domenico Luca

Saturday 16 March, 5:00 PM
+ Linda & Domiano Caporrella

STREET PATROL

Our upcoming Street Patrol trip is on Saturday, March 16. We will meet downstairs in the Church Kitchen at 9:00 am to make meal packages before we head downtown. In the days leading up to our deliveries to the needy, we welcome the following donations, which can be dropped off at the church office:

- Food items (sliced bread, cheese, deli meat, juice boxes)
- Gift Cards to shop at Walmart, No Frills, McDonalds etc.
- As well with the harsh winter season, we also encourage the donation of socks, tuques, mittens, and other winter accessories.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Our Lenten Reconciliation Day will be taking place on Thursday March 21st, from 10 am – 12 pm, and 7 – 9 pm.

We shall have 2 priests available in the morning for English and Italian. But there will be several priests for the evening session to hear confessions in a variety of languages. Mark your calendars!

PARISH SPRING CLEANING

We are looking for volunteers to participate in our Annual Parish Spring Cleaning. We will meet on March 16 from 10 am – 12 pm. Please bring your own gloves!

MARCH BREAK

We wish our students in the different parish schools and otherwise a great March Break! God bless your teachers and families too. Use it to recoup energy and get ready for the latter part of the academic year.

Happy preparations to our students that are now intensely preparing for their sacramental preparations.

FRAUDULENT E-MAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION - WARNING

In recent days, a Facebook account and e-mail communication claiming to come from Archbishop have been circulating through the Catholic community. Archbishop Leo does not have a Facebook account and any office e-mail correspondence should come from an archtoronto.org e-mail address. If you receive fraudulent correspondence, please delete the content from your inbox.

Sadly, we have seen this type of fraudulent activity on a regular basis.

Please review the email address on your correspondence and be mindful of these impersonation accounts.

Same goes for the parish, we never solicit for funds via emails, calls or social media. Please do not entertain these scams.

SHARELIFE 2024

The ShareLife campaign for this year 2024 will be starting soon. This campaign is more than a collection of funds; it is a way we as a Catholic community put our faith into action through the work of several agencies. It is one massive way by which we evangelize, and the Archdiocese of Toronto reaches out to our diverse community, near and global. We look forward to continuing to provide for our agencies as they carry out their efforts, reflecting the message of the Gospel to love one another.

By supporting agencies that serve those who are poor, vulnerable and marginalized, and that operate in line with the values of our faith, we bring the hands of Christ to people in need.

ShareLife Sunday Collections this year will be held on **March 17**, April 28, and June 2, 2024.

What are you doing for Lent?

10 IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL LENTEN SEASON

1. Give up sin

Show your love for God by keeping his commandments. Turn away from sins.

2. Fast

An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Give the money you saved on food to others in alms.



3. Pray

Be in constant prayer. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.

4. Do good works

Help those in need. Pray for them and be ready to serve them in their time of need.



5. Give alms

Help the poor and support the good works of the Church. Give cheerfully to God who has given us everything we have.



6. Abstain

Give up meat or other desirable foods during Lent, especially on Friday, the day of Christ's saving death on the cross.



7. Do meditative reading

Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day will open your heart to the Spirit, and let God's thoughts and ways influence yours.

8. Control desire for possessions

Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Cut down on material possessions, eliminate frills, lessen wants, share yourself – your time and your talents – with others.

9. Control desire for entertainment

Too much entertainment and other distractions can lead to less or no time for the works of the Lord.

10. Carry out duties in life

Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day. God is calling each of us to be a living sacrifice. Offer your daily life through Christ!

JOIN THE PARISH MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The parish is looking for competent hands to help us in the maintenance committee.

We need a few persons in the trades ie. plumbers, electricians, general builders/contractors, carpenters.

BUILD A HABIT OF PRAYER THIS LENT WITH HALLOW!

Hallow has incredible guides walking beside us in prayer, fasting, and serving others this Lent.

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<https://hallow.app.link/pray40>



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