

■ ■ AROUND SAINT PETER'S

THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF LENT DURING A PANDEMIC



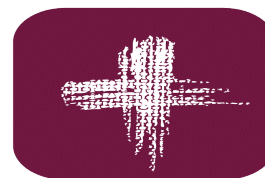
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. The celebration of Easter, of being reborn in the Risen Lord to a new life, will only have meaning to the degree that we 'die to the old self'. Thus, the Church asks us to live this period of Lent, with Christ in the desert, as a period of forty days devoted to inward renewal through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let us prayerfully consider before Lent how we might make best use of this time to imitate the Lord in His dedication to the Father so that His resurrection may take deep root in our thoughts, words and actions throughout Lent and forever.

- ❖ **Lenten Confessions:** Fr. Michael is in the church Monday to Friday from 7:30 to 9:00 A.M., Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M., and Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. Confession can be celebrated at those times by simply asking him to hear your confession.
- ❖ **Stations of the Cross:** A great Lenten spiritual exercise that can be prayed privately in the church. The church is open every Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.—maximum 10 persons at a time.
- ❖ **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of fast (one full meal, and two lighter meals a day with no eating between meals), and abstinence (no eating of meat). The law of abstinence obliges those 14 years of age and older, and the law of fast obliges all those from ages 18 through 59 years of age.
- ❖ **Lenten Retreat:** This year, due to the pandemic, there is no parish retreat in the church. You may find many excellent virtual retreats online. Sister Gabriel is recommending A Lenten Retreat called **Journey into the Wilderness** by the Irish Jesuits-- an 8-session audio presentation of 15 minutes each, with time for personal prayer and reflection. It can be found at: www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/wilderness-lent-retreat. The following schedule is suggested: start first session on Ash Wed; 2nd session on First Sunday of Lent; 3rd session on Second Sunday of Lent and continue each Sunday of Lent and then conclude on Good Friday. (If you start late then adjust to your own pace.) Sister Gabriel will make herself available to discuss the sessions with those interested on parish phone on Mondays - leave message at 416-534-4219 ext. 231 or by email: gabrielriddle66@gmail.com.
- ❖ The Church recommends that we observe not only Good Friday, but the other Fridays of Lent as days of abstinence, or that we perform some act of charity as an alternative - *the choice is yours*. Lenten penance should be external and social, as well as internal and individual.

The highest point in the Church's year of prayer is the *Easter Triduum* of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. We prepare for this three-day period by the season of Lent and prolong it for the great 50 days of the Easter season. Arrangements for the celebration of the Easter Triduum will be announced closer to the date according to the Provincial Pandemic Protocols.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

- ❖ Fr. Michael is in the church every day to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and distribute the Eucharist (Monday to Friday from 7:30 to 9:00 A.M., Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. and Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.). To celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation any day, simply ask to celebrate it. If you desire a longer discussion, please consider booking an appointment for a longer period of time. These times will change if we are permitted to once again celebrate Mass as a community.



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Change in Mailing address

If your mailing address has been changed kindly call the parish office or email us at contactus@stpeterstontoronto.ca to update our records and mail your tax receipts to the correct mailing address

Remembering the Parish in Your Will

A bequest is a beautiful way to express your faith and your gratitude for a lifetime of blessings! A gift to the parish or any of our diocesan charities in your will creates a lasting legacy that will help the church continue its heritage of service and pastoral care to the faith community. When making your will, please consider a bequest to our parish. To learn more about making a bequest, please call the parish office or the Development Office of the Archdiocese at 416-934-3411 ext. 519 or visit www.archtoronto.org/development.

Teach me your way O Lord so that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name!

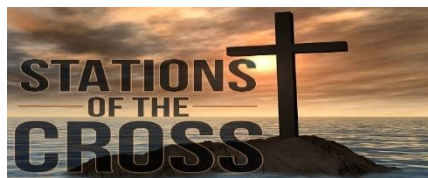
Psalm 86:11

Bereavement Support Group Virtual Sessions

During this time of pandemic and grief, we are pleased to be sponsoring Bereavement Support Group virtual sessions on **Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

"Grieving with Great HOPE" is a Catholic faith-based program that consists of a five-week grief support workshop using an on-demand video format that is available on Formed. It offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. These sessions will be facilitated by **Sr. Gabriel Mary Riddle, CPS, pastoral assistant at St. Peter's Parish in Toronto**, and assisted by seminarians from St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto. There is no cost to attend, but online registration is required. To those interested, please register by Tuesday, February 23 at: <http://bit.ly/BS-RegisterMar20>.

Helpful Resources for Stations of the Cross



1. Stations from St. Alphonsus Liguori <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEIvGC1WsbM> (traditional)
2. Stations of Cross - prayers-Catholic online www.catholic.org prayers - stations (video presentation -taken in Holy Land)

This spiritual exercise is encouraged especially on Fridays during Lent but can be prayed daily as desired.

2021 Offertory Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2021 are available at the back of the church along with the Pre-Authorized Giving Plan Form (PAG). Instructions are on the form. The boxed sets are organized alphabetically. Please make sure to pick up only the box with your name on it.

Please discard the 2020 envelopes.

PLEASE USE THE 2021 ENVELOPES

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG)

The Pre-Authorized Giving Plan, authorized and supported by the Archdiocese of Toronto, is a direct debit program allowing you to support our Parish through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. Now you can lend us your support in the same manner that you currently pay many of your current financial obligations without writing cheques or searching your wallet for cash every Sunday. PAG brochures and sign-up forms are available at the back of the Church and in the parish office. The form is also available on our website for download. To enroll in this convenient program, simply fill out the form, attach a void cheque and drop it into the weekly collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. For additional information on PAG please contact the parish office. A tax receipt will be issued to you for the donations you contribute for that year. For reference link below

http://www.stpeterstontoronto.ca/assets/forms/E-Giving_Brochure.pdf