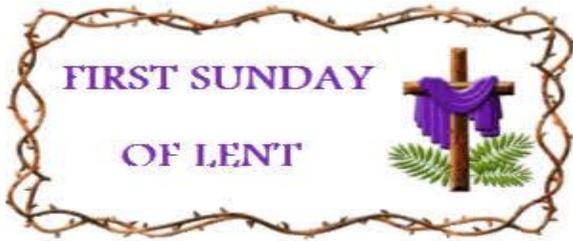


March 10th, 2019



Stewardship Reflection

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." (Deuteronomy 26:10) This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is left over? Second, do you recognize that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

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The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And the Wisdom to know the difference.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March:

'Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities'
That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

❖ **IC School Spring Break: March 25 – 29**

❖ **PREP at Immaculate:**

Please note there will be no class on March 19 & 26. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 2.



Children Reaching Out to Children

'Children Reaching Out to Children' is an opportunity for the children in our parish to be in solidarity with children in another part of the world. This year we are going to reach out to the children in Cameroon. Many children in Cameroon are extremely poor and in need of basic things like paper and pencils. The children's collection will be sent to a catholic school in Cameroon to help them purchase basic school and sport supplies.

At our Sunday Masses during Lent all of our children will be invited to come up to the front of the Church with their offering (5 cents to a Toonie). A special basket will remain in front of the Altar for their offering throughout Lent.

At Easter we will send everything that is collected through this offering to school children in Cameroon. We have a Missionary priest from Cameroon visiting our Archdiocese and he will be our liaison. During Lent Father George will join us one weekend to tell us about the Church in Cameroon. Archbishop Miller is asking that we as a Parish do what we can to help the Church in Cameroon. This hopefully will be a Lenten Project we can do together in the name of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Cameroon.

May our 'Children Reaching Out to Children in Cameroon' this Lent inspire us to reach out to the Church in Cameroon!

Holy Hour and the Angelus



You are invited to come and spend some time in prayer every Wednesday during Lent. After Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be placed on the altar for Adoration until 12:30pm. We also invite you to place your prayer intentions in the Prayer Jar located in the Marian Chapel. Join us as we gather as a faith community to spend time with Jesus.

Taizé Prayer Service at Immaculate Wednesday, March 20 at 7pm



Please join us for a contemplative prayer in the tradition of the Taizé community. The evening will feature candlelight, music, and time for quiet in the midst of our busy lives.

IC Ash Wednesday School Mass

It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents joining us at our Ash Wednesday School Mass on March 6. It is a moving experience as we gather as a community to spend time with God. **Our next school Mass will be Wed, April 3 at 9am.**

Catholic Schools' Reconciliation Schedule:

St. Patrick High School – April 2
Little Flower Academy – April 3
Vancouver College – April 9
Immaculate Conception School – TBA
PREP – TBA



On Ash Wednesday the Church invited us to embark on a journey, the journey of Lent, which is a journey towards Easter. We are a baptized people but haven't yet lived fully the life of a Christian. Lent calls us to a change of heart and a fuller living of the Gospel. In the Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent we see Jesus struggling against temptation. Jesus knows our struggles and comes to our aid when we struggle.

In Lent let us think of Jesus led into the wilderness. He was tempted there to go away from the work God wanted him to do. He was tempted by the attraction of power, of wealth, and honour.

This was time he spent strengthening himself for his future work: for his preaching, healing, concern for people – work which would lead him to death on the cross. He needed this time to deepen the choices he had already made. He was led into the desert by the Spirit; God wanted him there.

We might think, of the times we have felt we were in the wilderness; when we felt that life was very rough, when we were in conflict with our family, when we were lonely, when we feared failure.

Jesus comes looking for us when we feel like that. In Lent let us ask God for the grace we need to keep doing what we know is right, especially at times when our good intentions may waver.



Repentance Alone is Not Enough

Repentance of itself is not enough – Grace must be available.
But if grace is offered and not accepted, then nothing comes of that either.

There is no point in putting up a sail if there is no wind.

There is no point in planting a seed if the ground is frozen.

There is no point in pruning the tree if spring does not come.

It is not enough to cut into people's hearts in order to save them – they must be touched by grace.
Lord, this Lent, touch our hearts with your grace, so that we may produce the fruits of repentance.



❖ An Evening of Reconciliation/Holy Hour at Immaculate Tuesday, March 12: 7pm - 8pm

Save the Date!

2019 CWL Brunch – Sunday, April 28th

Don't miss out on our Annual CWL Brunch. Come join us for fun, fellowship and sharing. All women in the Parish and their friends are welcome!

Date: Sunday, April 28 at 11:30am

Place: Shaughnessy Golf Club

Please contact Caroline 604-266-0371 for tickets

Young People and the Church Young adults and those who work with young people are invited to a panel discussion followed by small group conversations responding to the 2018 Synod on Youth. The panelists and hosts include experts in theology, educators, and young people who live active faith lives. March 14 at 7pm at St. Mark's College in Van. www.rcav.org/event/young-people-and-the-church/ to register.

CWL Membership Renewal



We are now accepting CWL membership renewals during the next two weeks. Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership. You can do this by giving the membership fee (\$35) to Dell or Caroline after the 10am Mass or to Lucy after the 5pm Mass. You may also give it to Kathy at the Parish Office. Please place your cheque/cash in an envelope with your name on it and update us if there is any change to address, phone number or email.

PLEASE JOIN US! You Are Invited to Join the Catholic Women's League at Immaculate

*We are looking for new members! If you did not renew last year you are also invited to renew this year!!
You might also think of asking a friend to join us!!*

Mark Your Calendar

Evening of Reconciliation/Holy Hour – March 12

Holy Hour and the Angelus – March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17

Taize Prayer at Immaculate – March 20

Palm Sunday – April 14

Holy Thursday – April 18

Good Friday – April 19

Easter Sunday – April 21

First Holy Communion – May 5

Confirmation – May 15

MayFair – May 25

KOC Pancake Breakfast for Altar Servers – Jun 23