

# Third Sunday in Lent - March 7, 2010



Week of March 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>

Mon. 8:30 am - Sp. Int. (Simon & Helen Leung)  
Tues. 8:30 am - Kai Kai Chau †  
Wed. 8:30 am - Deceased members of the Arrigo /  
Ryan families †  
Thurs. 12:00 noon - Ray Chin †  
Fri. 8:30 am - Bill Mackrell †  
Sat. 4:30 pm - Arthur Lobo †



For March 14<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Joshua 5: 9 - 12  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17 - 21  
Gospel: Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11 - 32

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:



The monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held this Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be preceded by Mass at 7:00 pm.



## The wonder of family!

Personal well-being and family stability are constantly challenged as we go through life. These challenges are amplified during periods of economic instability when job losses and financial stress can lead to low self-esteem, family breakdown, poverty, addictions and violence. ShareLife's network of Catholic Family Services offices collectively served more than 100,000 people in 2008 through a myriad of service programs, working wonders to ensure that no one has to face a crisis alone.

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGE:



### A gift of kindness, twice as nice ...

Contributions to ShareLife can have a bigger impact than ever this year through the ShareLife Community Challenge!

A generous donor has pledged to match all new and increased gifts to the 2010 ShareLife campaign, up to a total of \$500,000. If you are a new ShareLife donor, your gift will be doubled. If you have given in the past but didn't contribute in 2009, your gift this year will be doubled. If you're a regular ShareLife donor and you increase your gift from the amount contributed last year, the increased amount will be matched. Help us to maximize the impact of your gift to ShareLife this year.

**YOU CAN WORK WONDERS!**

## LENT

*Attendance at parish Lenten devotions is a must.*



**The Stations of the Cross:** will take place in the Church this Friday at 7:00 pm. Join us as we follow the path of Christ.

**The Rosary:** Join us at 4:10 pm each Saturday, preceding the afternoon Mass, as well as Monday through Friday at the completion of our daily Mass.



## CHRIST IN THE CONCRETE CITY



**MUST ATTEND REHEARSALS....** For everyone participating in our Good Friday production on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, after the 12:00 noon Mass each Sunday in the parish hall.

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:



On Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm, we will have 8 – 10 priests available for individual, personal confession. Please mark your calendar and plan to prepare your heart for the Resurrected Christ.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:



Our general meeting will be next Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm.

The CWL would like to thank all those parishioners who donated their Canadian Tire money for MaterCare International. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## SALT + LIGHT TELEVISION:



Each week during Lent, Salt + Light is posting a new Lenten reflection to its website as well as airing them on the network. Join Fr. Rosica as he guides us through this season of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Contact your cable or satellite provider to subscribe today or visit [saltandlighttv.org](http://saltandlighttv.org) for more information.

## LEGION OF MARY:



The Legion of Mary invites all legionaries (active and auxiliary) and their families to attend the Acies Ceremony on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Aidan Parish, 3501 Finch Avenue East from 2:30 to 5:00 pm. For further information contact Geraldine Osborne at (416) 756-3485.



***“It may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.”***

Mike was sixteen years old when he landed in juvenile court. He blamed his troubles on “mixing with the wrong crowd”. Today he’s twenty-four, finishing his degree and heading for medical school. It’s a monumental turnaround. But how did it come about?

He was luck enough too be offered a scholarship from Canada’s Second Chance Scholarship Foundation, which provides finance for young offenders and those at high risk of offending. Those behind the foundation - judges, solicitors, police officers, government officials and concerned citizens – believe any young person can become an educated, responsible and contributing member of society if they are given financial and other support. There’s an interview process and the young offenders must have support from probation and parole officers.

This foundation has also established library programmes in four youth detention centres, and steel-band programmes aimed at confidence building; and detainees are taught to repair and maintain bicycles, and sharpen and care for skates. Those items are then distributed to low-income children, providing the young people behind bars with a chance to give something back to the community and instilling in them a sense of pride – something most of them are sadly lacking. A judge who is a patron of the foundation says: “I’ve always believed in giving young people a second chance and the results pay dividends, not just to the kids but to society.” Mike himself is grateful for the second chance. “They supported me,” he says. “I was given hope when there wasn’t any hope.”

Today’s parable has been called the parable of the second chance because it teaches that God offers people a second chance, as the apostles Peter and Paul could testify. The gardener tells the owner of the vineyard that it is necessary to give the fig tree another chance to produce fruit. With nourishment and care, something may come from the life of the tree.

When Jesus asks people to repent, He is not simply asking them to do something religious; rather, He is asking them to dare to see differently, to look at God, the world and themselves through a different lens. The time to repent is the time to let go of one way of seeing and thinking in order to embrace the risk of seeing and thinking differently and therefore, living differently.

Lent is an opportunity for new beginnings for ourselves, and perhaps we should also take the opportunity to give one another a second chance.

Consider someone whom we really don’t like, perhaps someone who has wronged us or someone who is socially unacceptable. What can we do to give them a second chance? Do we know of any young offenders or young people who are unemployed and harbouring a grudge that society has let them down? What measures

can we take to help give them a second chance? **ShareLife** supports a number of Christian projects that work with young offenders trying to reintegrate into society, or help unemployed youth to gain work skills. We could find out about such initiatives and support them.

And what about ourselves? The death and resurrection of Christ assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves. Perhaps we need to give ourselves a second chance and allow those around us, particularly those who love us, to help us start anew. All kinds of assistance can be given, but it is up to us to be responsive to the care that is given. We can think of the little fig tree, and find those things that nourish us and urge us to grow stronger and more faithful as we strive to turn our lives around.



### **LENT: Sacrifice**

#### **Now is the time to ...**

- Make the stations daily;
- Turn your eyes frequently to the Crucifix;
- Get serious about Lenten Devotions;
- Quit attending shows and dances for the remainder of Lent;
- Think over: “Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return;”
- Plan to go to confession;
- Prepare your offering to ShareLife.

### **PRAYER REQUEST FOR THE ORDINANDI:**



Our future priests need our prayers and support for the work they have to do to spread the Good News. Please consider them in your Lenten prayers, Masses, Stations of the Cross and personal sacrifices as they prepare to take their vows in 2010.



### ***On the Lighter Side!***

Choose your words carefully!

One Sunday morning, none of the regular ushers showed up. Each one was away for one reason or another. So as head usher, I had to enlist members of the congregation to help take up the collection. I approached a couple of gentlemen I know by saying: “Since the normal ushers are not here, would you be willing to take their place this morning.” They gladly did it, but ever since they delight in taking every opportunity to remind me each time we meet that they are not normal.