



Sat. Mar. 2

5:00pm +**Pietro Collia**

Sun. Mar. 3

8:00am **Donato Ranieri**

9:15am +**Bob & Mary Hughes**

10:30am +**Nick Bertucci**

12:00 noon **For the People of the Parish**

Mon. Mar. 4

7:00pm +**Roman Pazder**

Wed. Mar. 6

7:00pm +**Alfonso Tullio, +Sister Carmelina**

Fri. Mar. 8

9:00am – +**Vito Malfara**

Feast Days This Week

Mon. Mar. 4 – **St. Casimir**

Wed. Mar. 6 – **Ash Wednesday**

Thurs. Mar. 7 – **St. Perpetua & St. Felicity**, martyrs

Fri. Mar. 8 – **St. John of God**, religious

Sat. Mar. 9 – **St. Frances of Rome**, religious

Change in Time – next weekend our clocks “spring ahead” on hour on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00am. This keeps us in line with North America.

First Reconciliation – We offer our congratulations to the children of St. Padre Pio School who will be receiving their First Reconciliation this Monday, Mar. 4th at 7:30 in the church. Also, a special thank you to the teachers and families who helped to prepare the children for this sacrament.

Ash Wednesday – A Day of Fasting and Abstinence – Ash Wednesday is a day of universal fasting and abstinence from meat. Fasting means one small meal during the day and a little nourishment at two other times of the day. The law of fasting binds those from 18-59 years of age. Abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 and older. Christian fasting and abstinence obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open for prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving, and to save money to give to the poor. Fasting among Christians is a penitential discipline intended to open our hearts to God and others, a means of purification and spiritual liberation, a witness to the depth of our faith.

Masses for Ash Wednesday – March 6

9:00am – St. Andrew School

10:30am – St. Padre Pio School

1:00pm – St. Stephen School

2:15pm – Pope Francis School

For the four Masses, ashes will be distributed at the end of each Mass. All Masses will be held at the schools. Please note that some schools will only allow family of students to attend because of security reasons.

7:00pm – The Parish of St. Padre Pio. Ashes will be distributed after the homily of the Mss. There will be no Life in the Spirit tonight due to the Ash Wednesday Mass.

Farewell to the Alleluia - On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday we say farewell to the ‘Alleluia’. God’s people do not sing ‘Alleluia’ during Lent until the believing community has undergone conversion and is ready to sing this chant with renewed meaning during the Easter Vigil. In the 15th century choir boys marched in procession with a cross, tapers and holy water, carrying a small coffin with an ‘Alleluia’ banner inside. In Paris a straw figure bearing an ‘Alleluia’ of gold letters was carried out and burned in the churchyard. It was always a solemn, emotional farewell to a well-loved song. In our church the Alleluia banners in the Sanctuary are carried out at the end of the Mass, not to return until the Easter Vigil.

Customs of Lent

Carnival – from the fourteenth century on, the days before Ash Wednesday turned into a time of general feasting and worldly celebration of eating, drinking, dancing etc. The word “carnival” comes from two Latin words, ‘carne’, which means ‘meat’, and ‘vale’ which means farewell. So the celebration was a farewell to meat and all other enjoyments that people would give up during the Lenten period. Today carnival is still held in many countries including the famous Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Shrove Tuesday – In medieval times the faithful used to go to confession on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday in preparation for Lent. That’s why it was called ‘Shrove Tuesday’ (the day in which people were shriven or forgiven for their sins).

Pancake Tuesday – The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is also called Pancake Tuesday. In the Roman Empire the faithful kept a very strict fast all through Lent: no butter, no cheese, no eggs, no cream and of course, no meat. A lot of these products had to be used up before Ash Wednesday. And so the custom began of having a meal of pancakes the day before.

Lenten Penance – Lent begins this week. It's time for penance, for almsgiving and prayer, for working to change attitudes that are not pleasing to God. We do penance during Lent for a variety of reasons. We are freely taking on suffering with Jesus for the salvation of the world in order to build up the Body of Christ. (see Col. 1:24) We express our sorrow for our own sins and offer prayer for others by the penance we undertake. By our penances God purifies our hearts and helps us to control our desires and so serve him in love. As we do our penitential actions during Lent, we are praising God and proclaiming that we are indeed God's people, brothers and sisters of the Suffering Servant. The following penances are found in scripture or in the traditional practices of Christians.

Giving Up Sin **Praying**
Fasting **Doing good works**
Giving Alms **Meditative reading**
Carrying out our duties of state
Controlling our desires for possessions
Abstaining from meat and other foods
Controlling our desire for entertainment

Stations of the Cross – will be celebrated this coming Friday evening at 7pm in the church.

Tax Receipts - Tax receipts are available for pick up. Tax receipts are sorted alphabetically by last name. Receipts are issued for donations over \$50.00. Family of Faith tax receipts will be sent to you from the Family of Faith office.

Baptism – There will be a baptism preparation class for the parents of the children being baptized in March, this Monday, February 25th at 7:30pm in the Chapel.

Side by Side Grief Support Ministry will meet this Tuesday, Feb. 26th at 7pm in the Chapel.

The CWL will be having a food drive for Canadian Food for Children beginning March 9-10 and ending March 30-31. The items we are collecting are:

**Bars of soap/body wash,
toothpaste/toothbrushes,
peanut butter
rice.**

We would like to thank all who contributed in the past and ask for your generosity to continue in helping our brothers and sisters in need....God Bless
Canadian Food For Children – bar soap, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, rice peanut butter

Knights of Columbus will hold their General Meeting on Thursday, March 7th at 7pm. New location is at the Passionist Sisters, 1431 Clarence Street.

Pastoral Visitors - Pastoral Visitors are available to bring the Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass due to illness. If you know of someone in the Parish in need of this ministry, please call the office at 905-893-7879.

Altar Servers Needed – The Parish is currently inviting individuals grades 4 and higher to join in the Altar Server Ministry. This ministry is a way for parishioners to express their active participation in the life of the Church, and learn their faith on a personal level. If you or your child is interested, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893-7879.

Stained Glass Windows – Only 3 portions left! - Feeding the 5,000 – 3 portions available.

The window will be sold in 10 portions at a cost of \$6,500 per portion. A plaque will be placed below the window, once your portion has been paid in full. This is a wonderful way to honour those who are still living or to remember those who have died. For more information, please contact the office at 905-893-7879.

Longo Gift Cards - Longo gift cards are available. You can purchase the cards from the parish store in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$25. For each purchase, Longo's will donate back to our Mortgage Fund. These make excellent gifts for your family, friends or employees. Please contact Maria at 905-893-7879 ext. 201

Items for Completion of the Church

Narthex: Acoustical Ceiling Panels
Back Sacristy: Upper Storage Room with stairs
Basement: Meeting Rooms and Kitchenette
 Washrooms
 Hall and Stage
 Kitchen
 Storage
Outside: Outdoor amphitheatre at rear of church
 Top coat for paving
 Two wells at sides of church – rocks
 Landscaping (trees, shrubs, plants, flowers)

If you or someone you know would like to assist in any way with these projects, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893- 7879.