



Sat. Feb. 22

5:00pm **Nicola & Stellina Barbieri**

Sun. Feb. 23

9:15am **+Girolamo Meleca**

10:30am **+Anna Duhkovna**

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

Mon. Feb. 24

7:00pm **+Maria Miceli**

Tues. Feb. 25

9:00am **+Rev. Pier DiCicco**

Thurs. Feb. 27

7:00am **+Maria Angela La Bella (Felicia)**

**+Antonino Di Luciano**

**Holy Souls in Purgatory**

Fri. Feb. 28

9:00am **+ Marie-Andrée Vergis**

### **Feast Days This Week**

Wed. Feb. 26 – **Ash Wednesday**

**First Reconciliation** – We offer our congratulations to the children St. Andrew School who will be receiving their First Reconciliation this Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm in the church. Also, a special thank you to the teachers and families who helped to prepare the children for the sacrament.

### **Masses for Ash Wednesday – Feb 26<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am** – St. Stephen School

**10:30 am** – St. Padre Pio School

**1:00 pm** – St. Andrew School

**2:15 pm** – Pope Francis School

For these four Masses, ashes will be distributed at the end of each Mass. All Masses will be held at the schools. For security reasons, only family members of the children may attend.

**7:00 pm** – For the Parish of St. Padre Pio. Ashes will be distributed after the homily of the Mass.

**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.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Call to Lenten Renewal** – In the R.C.I.A. programme, besides the Catechumens who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, there are also baptized Christians who are seeking reception into full communion of the Catholic Church. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the Church celebrates the rite of Calling Candidates to

Lenten Renewal. This rite acknowledges the seriousness with which baptized adults begin the Lenten Season. With the entire community of the faithful, they are invited to use this holy season as a time of intense spiritual preparation for the renewal of their baptismal promises at Easter as they prepare to become full members of the Catholic Church. In our parish, this year, we have one candidate to be received into full communion with the Church:

**Steve Nephew**

**CWL Membership Drive** – This weekend the Catholic Women’s League are having their annual membership drive after all the Masses. The Catholic Women’s League of Canada (CWL) is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.

**Baptism** – We offer our congratulations to the parents of the children who were baptized last weekend.

**Ariana Diana D’Agostino  
Natalia Maria Resende  
Scarlett Emma Serpe**

**Side by Side Ministry** – will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

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

**Canadian Food for Children** - The CWL will be hosting their next food drive for Canadian Food for Children beginning the weekend of February 15/16 and continuing for 4 weeks, ending March 7/8. The food items requested by CFFC are: Rice, Sugar, Vegetable Oil, Salt, and Canned Beans. We thank all parishioners who contributed in the past and hope that you continue to support this mission to help feed our brothers and sisters in need.

In addition to the food items, we will be collecting eye glasses. If you have any used eye glasses that you have no use for, please bring them to the church. We will have a collection box available throughout the food drive and throughout the year. Let's help our brothers and sisters to see and put a smile on their faces.

**Income Tax Receipts** – are available to be picked up for 2019 for donations over \$50.00. Family of Faith donations will be sent to you from the Family of Faith Office.

**The CALLED BY NAME** vocations program begins today, which allows each of us to nominate those in our parish whom we feel may have a call to the priesthood, religious life, or consecrated single life. Nominations are kept strictly confidential and are based on the character qualities described in the nomination form. Nominees must be between the ages of 17-45. Please return your nomination forms located in the narthex, either to the Parish office, or drop them in the special box in the narthex. *CALLED BY NAME* culminates in a final gathering event for nominees with Cardinal Collins.

**Longo Gift Cards** -are available for purchase in the gift store. They are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$500. Longo’s supports our parish by donating a percentage of the cards purchased to our mortgage fund. If you shop at Longo’s why not purchase a gift card from the store and in doing so, help your parish. If you require large purchases for your company event etc., please call Maria in the Parish Office at 905-893-7879.

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

**Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)**

Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). It is a convenient, easy and automatic way to support your parish. Donations can be made to your weekly offering and/or the mortgage fund. All donations are tax deductible and can be stopped at any time. Donations will be withdrawn from your account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. This allows the parish to meet its monthly obligations such as hydro, heat, payroll etc. Thanks to all of our parishioners who give so generously.

**The Indoor Stations of the Cross**, “Jesus Falls the Third Time” is available. There is one portion left at a cost of \$5,600.00. This is a wonderful way to honour those who are still living or to remember those who have died. For more information, please call the office at 905-893-7879.

**Sympathy** – We offer our deep sympathy to Franca Lisella and her family on the death of her father, Natalino Masucci. May God grant him His eternal peace and joy and send comfort to all who mourn his passing.