

4th Sunday of Lent, March 30, 2025

Intentions:
March 30 - In loving memeory of **Roger St. Martin**, requested by requested by Avelina Bercades.
Mass Intentions: \$15.00


Offertory Collection
March 23 - \$710.00 Thank You

April 2

Saint Francis of Paola: Francis of Paola is the founder of the Minim Friars, *minim* coming from the Latin *minimi*, meaning ‘the least’ in God’s household. Born in Italy, Francis lived from about 1416 to 1507. A hermit, his disciples became so numerous and were so dearly loved by the townspeople that they built the young order a church and a monastery. Living under an austere rule, the Minims spread throughout Italy, and Francis was known as a saint, prophet and miracle worker. Summoned to France by King Louis XI, Francis remained there until his death at 01. He was canonized in 1591 and is a patron of seafarers.

“May our Lord Jesus Christ, who repays most generously, reward your labour.”
~ Saint Francis of Paola

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass 2025: For those celebrating 60 (or more), 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 & 5 years of marriage in 2025! At Notre Dame Cathedral on **Sunday, May 4, 2:30 pm**. The registration form is now available at <https://forms.office.com/r/jpBDLwD0Kq>. Please register before Easter to ensure your place! For questions, please contact Annmarie at annmarie.brown@ottawacornwall.ca.

 **Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for the sick among our families and friends, especially Fran Bernard, Roy Campbell, Patricia Cassidy, Bridget Floysvik, Suzanne Lafontaine, Priscilla Rowley, and Lorraine Stafford. *The names will remain on the list until we are otherwise advised.*

Pope’s Intentions for the Month of March
For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences.

Gospel Reflection: It is the father in the parable who models for us the mercy of our heavenly Father. The prodigal son is brought to repentance because he was “dying from hunger.” There is nothing he does to deserve the response of the father except to repent and to return. What leads *us* to decide to repent? Like the prodigal son, “changing our minds” is probably precipitated by some specific catalyst—probably not physical hunger, but possible by spiritual hunger. The penance of Lent can be the external factor that brings us to realize our life is much richer when we turn from our sinful ways and turn to God who gives life. (Living Liturgy, p.84)

Vincentian Meditation: This parable tells us most about the meaning of conversion, and is found in two verbs. The request the younger son makes to his father is this: “Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.” Toward the end of the parable, when the younger son returns home, the request he makes of his father is this: “Father, make me one of your hired servants.” Between the “*give me*” at the beginning and the “*make me*” at the end lies the story of conversion. There is an altogether different attitude of mind expressed in the “give me my money” and “make me one of your hired servants.” In the story of conversion you will find that the starting point is a selfish demand, and the finishing point is a readiness to be a servant. (McCullen, Deep Down Things, p.698)



Holy Week Schedule			
Thursday	10 April	- Parish Easter Confession (St. Gabriel)	4:00 p.m.
Friday	11 April	- Stations & Mass (St. Gabriel)	2:00 p.m.
Saturday	12 April	- Passion (Palm) Sunday (St. Michael)	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	13 April	- Passion (Palm) Sunday (St. Michael)	11:00 a.m.
Sunday	13 April	- Passion (Palm) Sunday (St. Gabriel)	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday	15 April	- Chrism Mass (Notre Dame Cathedral)	5:00 p.m.
Thursday	17 April	- Mass of the Last Supper (St. Gabriel)	4:00 p.m.
Friday	18 April	- Passion of the Lord (St. Michael)	3:00 p.m.
Saturday	19 April	- Easter Vigil (St. Michael)	7:00 p.m.

Administrator's Corner

The prodigal son and the prodigal father

When we hear the word "prodigal," we often think of someone who is wayward or rebellious. But did you know that it also means extravagant or lavish? This paradox is at the heart of Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, a story that teaches us about God's extravagant love and mercy. In the parable, the second son demands his inheritance while his father is still alive, a request that is both shocking and culturally wrong. By doing so, the son is essentially wishing his father dead. This is a powerful metaphor for sin, which is a form of wilful rebellion against God. As the second son journeys away from home, he experiences a downward spiral of immorality, poverty, and disgrace. But when he reaches the lowest point of his life, he comes to his senses and returns to his father. As St. Ambrose notes, "He rightly returns to himself, because he departed from himself. For he who returns to God restores himself to himself and he who departs from Christ rejects himself from himself."

The father's response to his son's return is a powerful example of God's extravagant love. He was eagerly looking out for his return. On sighting him from a distance, despite his son's ritual uncleanness, the father runs towards him, embracing and kissing him in front of everyone. Further he clothed him not with any garment but with the best robe and with the family's signet ring symbolizing his full restoration as a son. More still he showed his prodigality towards him by declaring a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community and his God.

In addition, the father noticing that the elder son out of jealousy and anger refused to join the party went out and met him admonishing him on the need to treasure who he is (son of the kingdom) and what he has (loving relationship with the father) encouraging him to enter the party. We were not told the elder brother's response.

The parable also highlights the importance of confession and forgiveness. The four conditions for a valid confession are contrition, confession, sincere promise to avoid occasions of sin, and absolution. As we reflect on our own lives, we may realize that we have been away from our church and the sacraments, especially reconciliation. But it's never too late to return to God, once we make a step towards Him, He will run towards us and lavish His unconditional love and forgiveness on us.

Dear friends, the parable of the Prodigal Son is unfinished, leaving us to complete the story in our own lives. Will we respond to God's extravagant love with gratitude and obedience, or will we remain stuck in our sin and rebellion? The choice is ours.

As we journey through Lent, let us imitate the prodigality of God by living compassionate lives. Compassion is the art of recognizing the other person's needs and getting involved to help. We can show compassion in practical ways, such as giving attentive listening ears to the hurting, meeting physical needs, practising forgiveness and praying for others.


Blessings. Fr. Anthony

Pastoral Directory

Baptisms:	Father Anthony Nwaohiri	623-3419
Financial Council Chair:	Janne Campbell	832-4290
Pastoral Council Chair:	Martine Messier	808-4573
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Deacon James Kubina		
Cover Photo:	Mark Brisson	

EMERGENCY: anwaohiri@gmail.com For emergencies, email this address with EMERGENCY in the subject or call the church office at 613-623-3419.

West Carleton Food Access Centre: (WCFAC) Please remember our local Food Bank each week by donating items to St. Gabriel's grocery cart. Cash donations of \$20.00 and over will receive a tax receipt. Please include your name and address on the envelope. See Suzanne Lee if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.




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All Welcome



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Weekly Eucharist

St. Gabriel's (Constance Bay) **St. Michael's** (Fitzroy Harbour)

Sunday 11:00 am Mass	Saturday 4:00 pm Mass
	Sunday 9:00 am Mass

live streaming link on YouTube St. Michael's Mass at 9 am Sunday

StMStG-Live

Confessions and Sacrament Of the Sick are also available by request.
Please contact Fr. Anthony directly to book an appointment.

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