5th Sunday of Lent, April 06, 2025

Intentions:

April 06 - For the **holy souls in purgatory and those who have no one to pray for them**, requested by Janne Campbell.

Mass Intentions: \$15.00

Offertory Collection

March 30 - T.B.A. Thank You



April 7

Saint John Baptist de la Salle: John Baptist de la Salle was the founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a teaching order well known in North America and around the world.

John's great achievements began quite unexpectedly. Born in 1651 in France, he inherited the position and riches of his family. Destined for a successful career in the Church, he was ordained in 1678 and soon was asked to help establish some charity schools. He quickly realized that the teachers had to be trained and he provided housing for them. His desire to be in the same position as his teachers inspired him to resign his canonry and to give up his private fortune.

In 1684 the group became a religious community. Their rule stated that no brother could become a priest and no priest could join the order, a rule that has been reserved. Despite much opposition and hardship, by the time of his death in 1719, John Baptist had established the first teacher training college, schools for both the poor and the privileged, and written several education manuals, now classics in the field of education. Hi is a patron of teachers.

"Leave the result in God's hands."

~ Saint John Baptist de la Salle



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.*

Gospel Reflection: A story that begins with deathly accusation ends with divine mercy. Where the community's condemnation would have led the adulterous woman to death, Jesus' mercy leads her to new life. A story that begins with exposing the sin of an individual ends with exposing the sinfulness of all. Where the community begins with awareness of the woman's sinfulness, they are transformed through encountering Jesus into awareness of their own sinfulness. A story that begins with human testing of the divine ends with divine invitation to repent. Jesus reveals a new order in which all are called to repentance and the experience of divine mercy. Jesus' desire for us is not death but new life. (Living Liturgy, p.90)



Redemption and Salvation: A Loving Dance between God and Humanity

In a beautiful illustration of God's love and redemption, a story is told of a man who had a dream in which he saw flashes of different events in his life. He noticed that when he was not facing problems, he saw two pairs of footsteps, but when he was in trouble, he saw only one pair. He asked Jesus, "Why is it that when I'm okay, I see two pairs of footsteps, but when I'm in trouble, I see only one?" Jesus replied, "The two pairs of footsteps represent you and me walking side by side on your journey of life. But when things get tough, that one pair of footsteps is mine, because I carry you to protect you."

The concept of redemption is rooted in the Latin word "redimere," meaning "repurchase" or "buyback." In the Christian perspective, redemption refers to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, which paid the debt humanity owed due to sin. Through His suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus restored humanity to its original state of grace.

Our salvation is dependent on our cooperation with Jesus. As one writer puts it, "God who created us without our cooperation cannot save us without our cooperation." While our redemption occurred once, our salvation is a process that unfolds past, present, and future. As the Apostle Paul writes, "By His grace we have been saved" (Ephesians 2:8), "by the gospel we are being saved" (1 Corinthians 15:2), and "for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Hence this holy season of lent offers us rich opportunity to grow in our salvation.

The story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11) in this weekend's gospel, illustrates the tension between law and mercy. The Scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus with the question "do you approve that we stone her according to the law" this was a trap for Jesus. If Jesus answers no then he will be in trouble for disobeying Moses law, also if he says yes then he will be contradicting his teaching on mercy. Jesus response was bending down to write on the ground. His action is full of symbolism; shifting attention from the tensed situation to buy time, He chose humility, silence and reflection to arrive at grace. Some commentators hold that Jesus action shows how God can rewrite our broken life; finances, relationships or situations and give us a second chance. Each mark on the ground shows forgiveness awaiting those blindfolded by their self-righteousness.

Jesus' response to the accusers, "Let him who has not sinned be the first to throw stones at her," This highlights the importance of self-examination and the danger of self-righteousness. This wisdom is echoed in the timeless proverb "He who lives in a glass house should not throw stones" both reminds us that we should be careful not to judge others lest we would be judged ourselves.

Jesus' words to the woman, "Neither do I condemn you, go and do not sin again," demonstrate the transforming power of grace and mercy. Forgiveness is not a license to continue sinning, but a call to reform our lives. Jesus opens a new path for the woman, one created by mercy and requiring her commitment to change.

As we navigate the complexities of life, we are reminded that every person has a unique journey and that we are all at different levels of goodness. May we approach each other with empathy and understanding, recognizing that we are all in need of God's mercy and redemption.

Pope's Intentions for the Month of April

For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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.
Sunday	20 April -	Resurrection of our Lord (St. Michael)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	20 April -	Resurrection of our Lord (St. Gabriel)	11:00 a.m.

Pastoral Directory

Baptisms: Father Anthony Nwaohiri 623-3419 Financial Council Chair: Janne Campbell 832-4290 Pastoral Council Chair: Martine Messier 808-4573 Mass Intentions & Bulletin: Marilyn Deslauriers 222-3762 Pastoral Care: Suzanne Lee 832-8063 Lorraine Brisson 832-3351 Advertising Ministry:

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 remem-

ber 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.



This space could be yours. Call Lorraine Brisson (613) 832-3351











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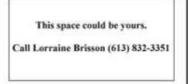
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St. Gabriel's

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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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