

Ascension of the Lord, 01 June, 2025

Intentions:

June 01 - For the **Holy Souls in Purgatory, and those who have no one to pray for them**, requested by Janne Campbell.

June 06 - For the parishioners of St. Michael and St. Gabriel parishes. Mass Intentions: \$15.00

Offertory Collection

May 25 - 480.00 Pastoral works \$135 Thank You



June 2

Saint Marcellinus and Saint Peter: Though we know very little about these two martyrs under Diocletian, there is no question that the early church venerated them. Evidence of the respect in which they were held are the basilica Constantine built over their tombs and the presence of their names in the first Eucharistic prayer.

Pope St. Damasus says that he heard the story of these two martyrs from their executioner who became a Christian after their deaths. Marcellinus, a priest, and Peter, an exorcist, died in the year 304. According to a legendary account of their martyrdom, the two Romans saw their imprisonment as just one more opportunity to evangelize and managed to convert their jailer and his family. The legend also says that they were beheaded in the forest so that other Christians wouldn't have a chance to bury and venerate their bodies. Two women found the bodies, however, and had them properly buried.

Bulletin Bloopers

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?'
Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Pope's Intentions for the Month of June

That the world might grow in compassion: Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



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

Gospel Reflection: Sometimes we Christians can get so caught up in the *doing* that we forget simply taking time to *be* with our God, is as important to our Christian witness, as actually doing Christian acts. Taking care with our Sunday worship and even taking time to rest on Sunday can be acts of witnessing to Christ. It's a challenge to keep some balance in our lives between the demands of our everyday activities and our desire to give God homage and praise. When things get hectic, the first temptation is to skip prayer time because that seems to have the least immediate results for us. Our deadlines and schedules don't change, but it seems prayer time can be dispensable. In fact, cheating on our prayer time over time can radically affect everything we do. Christian witnessing means God is our focus. (*Living Liturgy, p.132*)



NOTE:

St. Gabriel's Friday Masses

Please note that all Fridays in June there will be confession/Mass at St Gabriel 8.30am and 9am respectively.

Administrator's Corner

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

Fortitude or Perseverance:

The gift of fortitude, also known as perseverance, is a powerful tool that enables us to stand strong in our faith, even in the face of adversity. This gift grants us the courage and perseverance to continue collaborating with Jesus in serving others. As we reflect on the gift of fortitude, let's explore its significance and examples of its application. Fortitude helps us grow in faith, hope, and love, and to cast off doubt, despair, and destructive patterns of thinking. It prevents us from becoming half-baked Christians and sustains us in trying circumstances, enabling us to hold fast to our faith and good works. A person with courage is willing to take risks and stand up for their faith, even if it means facing rejection, verbal abuse, or physical harm.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes fortitude as a gift that "strengthens the soul against the resistance of those who oppose the good, whether interior or exterior" (CCC 1831), such as the evil spirits of our times that seek to lead us away from God's path. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, these evil influences can manifest in various ways, including improper dressing, human respect, and the tendency to seek comfort and sensual pleasures. Fortitude gives us the moral courage to stand against these influences, strengthening our souls against internal and external challenges and enabling us to overcome obstacles that stand in the way of our salvation and service to others.

Let's consider a few examples that illustrate the gift of fortitude. St. Pope John Paul II shared three inspiring stories that demonstrate the importance of this gift. Firstly, think of a woman who is already a mother of a large family and is advised to undergo an abortion. Despite the difficulties and pressure, she firmly replies, "No." She knows that the new life conceived in her womb is a value too great and sacred to give in to such pressure.

Another example is that of a man who is promised freedom and an easy career if he denies his principles or approves something against his sense of honesty. Despite threats and attractions, he courageously replies, "No." This man stands firm in his convictions, demonstrating the gift of fortitude.

We can also learn from the story of St. Stanislaus Kostka, the patron saint of young people, students, and seminarians. Coming from a noble family, St. Stanislaus chose to follow Christ and join the Jesuits, despite firm opposition from his circle. With great love and firmness, he realized his resolution, contained in the motto, "*Ad maiora natus sum*" ("*I was born for greater things*"). He travelled from Vienna to Rome on foot, escaping from pursuers who tried to force him to abandon his intentions.

Dear friends, even today, there are many remarkable individuals around the world whose lives are a testament to the power of fortitude. We may know someone personally or have heard stories of people who, despite immense challenges and suffering, have remained steadfast in their faith. These hidden saints inspire us to persevere in our own struggles. Let's reflect on their examples and ask ourselves: If they can remain faithful in the face of adversity, can't we do the same? Let's humbly ask the Lord for the gift of fortitude, that we may be strengthened and empowered to live out our faith with courage and conviction.

Come, Holy Spirit, pour on us your gift of Fortitude. May we always love and follow you, come what may. Amen

Pastoral Directory

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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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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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