

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2026

Intentions:

March 15 - In loving memory of **Leon Adriaenssens**, requested by Suzanne and Ludo.

Mass Intentions: \$15.00

Offertory Collection:

March 8 - T.B.A.

Thank You.

March 17

Saint Patrick: Although legends abound concerning the life and work of Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, he tells us about himself in his Confession. At 16, Patrick was carried off from Wales in a pirate raid and sold as a slave in Ireland. He was made a swineherd, living in solitude on a mountain, where a life of prayer and asceticism marked him forever.

After serving his master for six years, Patrick heard an inner voice tell him that he would return to his homeland, and he escaped. Landing in Gaul (Western Europe), Patrick had many adventures before reaching his parents in Britain. Later, he returned to Gaul to study for the priesthood, eventually becoming a bishop.

When the missionary to Ireland, Saint Palladius, died, Patrick took his place. By the time of his death in 492, he could see the fruits of his work; a native clergy was in place, Christianity had reached nearly all of Ireland, and churches and monasteries had been established.

He is a patron of Ireland and Nigeria, of engineers, of several Canadian dioceses, and of those who fear snakes.

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

Stations of the Cross

Please join us at St. Gabriel's for the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent (except Good Friday) starting at 3:00 p.m.

Please take a look at the poster in the church vestibule named **"FORMED"**. Formed guides and supports you along your spiritual journey. **It is also available on our Web Site.**

NOTE

Reflection: It is the man born blind—but who can now see—that is “sent” to bear the good news. As beggar and sinner the man is not worth of the miracle. But Jesus came precisely to save sinners! In our baptism and confirmation we are anointed. Like the man born blind in the gospel, we are transformed from not seeing (sinner) to seeing, from darkness to children of light. We are light. And also like the man born blind, we are sent to help others see and come to believe. (Living Liturgy, p.76)



Holy Week Schedule

Thursday 26 March - Parish Reconciliation	(St. Michael)	7:00 pm.
Friday 27 March - Stations of the Cross	(St. Gabriel)	3:00 p.m.
Saturday 28 March - Passion (Palm) Sunday	(St. Michael)	4:00 p.m.
Sunday 29 March - Passion (Palm) Sunday	(St. Michael)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday 29 March - Passion (Palm) Sunday	(St. Gabriel)	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 31 March - Chrism Mass	(Notre Dame Basilica)	5:00 p.m.
Thursday 02 April - Mass of the Lord's Supper	(St. Gabriel)	5:00 p.m.
Friday 03 April - Passion of the Lord	(St. Michael)	3:00 p.m.
Saturday 04 April - Easter Vigil	(St. Gabriel)	8:00 p.m.
Saturday 04 April - Easter Vigil	(St. Michael)	8:00 p.m.
Sunday 05 April - Resurrection of our Lord	(St. Michael)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday 05 April - Resurrection of our Lord	(St. Gabriel)	11:00 a.m.

Pope's Intentions for the Month of March: For disarmament and peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Administrator's Corner

THEY HAVE EYES YET THEY CANNOT SEE

This weekend we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally known as Laetare Sunday. The term laetare is a Latin word for 'rejoice' which was derived from the opening antiphon in today's liturgy as seen in the book of Isaiah (66:10) where the prophet invites the people of Israel to rejoice. As at the time of this message from the prophet, the Israelites were still undergoing the devastating effect of exile yet the prophet exhorts them to rejoice and be joyful. It can only take a man of faith and hope to rejoice amidst suffering and pain and so in order to do this, one needs a spiritual sight which will enable him to see from a Divine perspective. As St. Augustine said, "You were made by Him, for Him; you are restless until you rest in Him."

In the first reading of today, Samuel was unable to comprehend the reason behind the rejection of Eliab and the choice of David who was the least of Jesse's sons because he did not view it from a Divine perspective. Samuel who has once anointed Saul whom the scriptures described as the most handsome man in Israel (1Sam 9:2) was equally expecting God to choose Eliab who also had a lofty stature hence God told him; "take no notice of his appearance or height for God does not see as human beings see" (cf. 1Sam 16:7). Faith in God therefore goes beyond the eyes, it rather requires a kind of spiritual sight to see as God sees and perceive as God perceives.

Similarly, in the gospel reading of today we notice that the Pharisees who had the physical sight to see Jesus and even witnessed His miracles on several occasions still found it hard to believe in Him. On the contrary, a man who has been blind from birth and therefore lacked the physical eyes to see Jesus was able to believe in Him as someone from God. Note that the man did not have the opportunity to see Jesus even after his sight was restored because Jesus told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam and did not go with Him yet he was able to testify strongly that Jesus must be a prophet from God. A strong indication that his belief in Jesus was not built on his ability to see Jesus physically. Pope Francis remarked, "Faith is not the ability to see, but to believe in what we cannot see." It is on this note that the letter to the Hebrews (11:1) describes faith as the realization of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. It was only towards the end of the gospel narrative that the man was able to see Jesus physically and further professed his faith and worshipped Him.

Laetare Sunday is a gentle reminder that we are already halfway in Lent and gradually approaching the Easter celebration. Unfortunately, many of us are still groping in spiritual darkness and are unwilling to open ourselves to Jesus who is always ready to walk us through conversion just as he did last Sunday with the woman at the well. The healing of the blind man was not just a healing from physical blindness; the making of a paste of clay and spittle which is evocative of God's creation of man through clay and the washing at the pool of Siloam which is evocative of our baptism suggests a kind of spiritual rebirth which is what is expected of us during this Lenten season. St. Irenaeus said, "The glory of God is man fully alive."

One of the most disturbing features of today's gospel is not the man's blindness but the confidence of those who think they see perfectly well. The Pharisees were so certain that they can judge what is true, what is faithful and what is pleasing to God and that certainly blinds them. While the man born blind gradually ascends into the light, they descended into the darkness. While the one who was blind sees, those who could see became blind.

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: Father Anthony Nwaohiri 623-3419
 Advertising Ministry: Lorraine Brisson 832-3351

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

Lost and Found: Periodically, please check the lost and found basket at the church entrance for articles you may have left behind.

Sts Michael and Gabriel helpinghand ministry: Her objective is to serve needy families periodically in a timely and confidential manner. More details will be announced soon. The administrators can be reached at stmichaelshelpinghands@gmail.com or (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.
 Pastoral Directory on inside flap