



# FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2024

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

As we embark on the solemn season of Lent, a time of reflection, prayer, and penance, I am reminded of the profound journey we are all called to undertake in our spiritual lives. Lent offers us a unique opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, to turn away from our sins, and to renew our faith through acts of charity, fasting, and prayer.

This Lenten season, I encourage you to embrace this time of spiritual renewal with open hearts. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on our lives, identify areas where we can grow closer to God, and make meaningful sacrifices that reflect our commitment to our faith and one another.

As your priest, it is my privilege and duty to accompany you on this spiritual journey, offering guidance, support, and prayer. However, as some of you know, I will fly to the Philippines tonight (February 25th) to visit my beloved parents. I will be back among you on March 18th. Though physically distant, be assured that you remain close to my heart and in my prayers wherever I am.

In my absence, I entrust our parish to the capable hands of our dedicated staff and volunteers. This includes the significant event this Wednesday at 7 PM, where our Grade 7 students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Lobsinger will be with us to confer this vital sacrament. Let these young community members pray as they take this significant step in their faith journey.

Let us support one another in prayer, especially during this Lenten season, as we strive to grow closer to God and live out the Gospel daily.

I look forward to being reunited with you in March, refreshed and renewed by the grace of this holy season and the joy of family. Until then, may God's peace and blessings be upon you and your loved ones. Let us keep each other in our prayers, particularly our young ones preparing for Confirmation, as we journey through this sacred time of Lent together.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Arpee  
Pastor

### **World Day of Prayer Worship Service-Friday March 1st at 1:00pm-Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**

This year's service is written by Christian women in Palestine with the theme "I Beg You...Bear with One Another in Love". We will be viewing the video of this service, produced by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, along with members from Freelton Strabane United Church, Carlisle United Church and Millgrove United Church. There will be light refreshments served and a time spent in fellowship with our friends and neighbours. Please join us on March 1st as we pray in solidarity for the women of Palestine and peace in our world.

The following is the closing prayer for the Rosary. The Rosary is said every Sunday beginning at 8:30 am prior to Mass

### Closing Prayer

O God, whose only begotten Son, by his Life, Death and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation, Grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, That we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

### Week 2: February 25

#### Last chance to sign the *Stand for the Land* petition

*Today is the deadline for signing a letter to Honduran ambassador to Canada asking her government to protect those who are fighting to defend forests and rivers in a Honduran national park against pollution from a mine. The letter is part of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's last fall campaign.*

*Over 20,000 Canadians have signed in solidarity with these struggling communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. Join the effort and add weight to our demands. Sign now at [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act). Thank you for your solidarity!*



Please be advised that there will be a temporary adjustment to our daily mass schedule during Father Arpee's absence. The changes will be effective from Tuesday, February 27, to Tuesday, March 19. Daily masses will resume on Wednesday, March 20.

#### Schedule:

- **No Daily Mass:** Tuesday, February 27, to Tuesday, March 19
- **Resumption of Daily Mass:** Wednesday, March 20

**Note:** Weekend masses will not be affected by these changes.

We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Stanley Nwokeji, who will be with us for the weekend of March 2/3, and also to Father Don Sanvido for the subsequent two weekends.

### Mass Intentions: March 2/3

Saturday  
5 p.m.

**Frank Jamieson—Don & Jean Aubin**

Sunday  
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

**Our Parishioners**