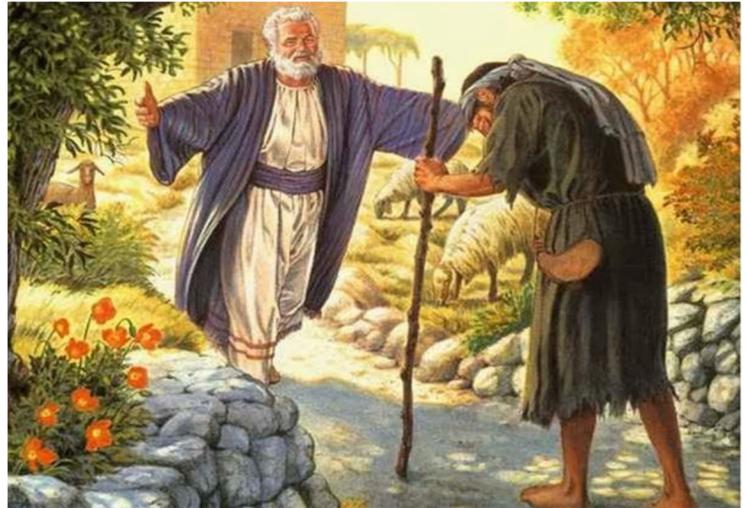


March 31, 2019 4th Sunday of Lent

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Gospel: Luke 15.1-3:11-32 All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them a parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. The young man would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. The slave replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' "Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' "Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"



"He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

In the parable of the Prodigal Son the wayward son leaves, having rejected both his family and his family's values. Later, in desperation he comes to his senses and returns home. Occasions of such repentance are not the time for recriminations but for celebration! One who was as dead is alive again. The father of the Prodigal Son who is illustrative of our heavenly Father was watching for his wayward son's return and runs to welcome him home. Unfortunately, neither the Pharisees and scribes, nor the two sons understood that the Father does not receive us based on our worthiness. Rather, having been made worthy through the merits of Christ we can be assured of the Father's mercy and grace. During this Lent let us stop listening to the voices that may condemn and hear the voice of invitation to "Come, eat and commune with me."

Receive Christ's Mercy in Confession Jesus truly forgives us and loves us. During Lent, we are encouraged to go to confession as one way to prepare for Easter. Through confession, we receive Christ's mercy, forgiveness and healing. Here is a list of nearby Penitential Services. For a broader listing go to <http://rcav.org/lent-penitential-services/>

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Sun, Mar 31 | 4:30 pm | St Francis Xavier | Van |
| Tues Apr 9 | 7:00 pm | Corpus Christi | Van |
| Tues Apr 9 | 7:00 pm | Our Lady of Fatima | Van |
| Wed Apr 10 | 7:00 pm | Holy Cross | Bby |
| Thu Apr 11 | 7:00 pm | St Judes | Van |
| Thu Apr 11 | 7:00 pm | St Theresa | Bby |
| Thu Apr 11 | 7:00 pm | St Helens | Bby |
| Fri Apr 12 | 7:00 pm | St Francis of Assisi | Van |
| Tue Apr 16 | 7:00 pm | St Mary's | Van |
| Thu Apr 18 | 7:00 pm | Our Lady of Sorrows | Van |



Stations of the Cross The Stations are a beautiful way to ponder Jesus death and the depth of his love for us. Come and pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6 pm during Lent.

First Friday Mass First Friday Mass will be offered this Friday, April 5 at 7 pm.



Bake Sale Next Weekend The Mt Carmel Society is hosting a Bake Sale after the Saturday 5 pm and Sunday morning Masses April 6/7. Bring some cash so you can take home some delicious goodies!

Lasagna Fundraiser The Madonna di Pompei Prayer Group will be selling large (9 ½" in x 11 ½" trays, serves 12) lasagnas for \$50.00, ready for pick up the weekend of April 27 & 28. Why not make it easier on yourself and order delicious pre-made lasagna for your celebration of First Communion, Confirmation or even for Mother's Day. Order forms will be available at the back of Church starting next weekend April 6. Bring your completed form and money to the Office or drop it in the collection by April 20.



Faith Study - Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues This new faith study lead by Patrick Foster every Monday evenings for 8 weeks begins this Monday, Apr 1 at 6:30 pm. Examine the great spiritual blocks that inhibit our flourishing in relationship with God and one another.

Share Lent 2019 Collection April 7 Archbishop Miller has written a letter encouraging us to support the efforts of Development and Peace. An excerpt of his letter: *Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, During the season of Lent, we are called to conversion. For 40 days and 40 nights, we walk together with Jesus, drawing closer to the Lord through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This year, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is adding its voice to those of Pope Francis and Caritas Internationalis by inviting Canadians to "Share the Journey" with the 68.5 million forced migrants in the world today. This initiative focuses on forced migration, increasing awareness and coming to the aid of the world's tens of millions of displaced children, women, and men. You can donate through your Share Lent envelope or online at devp.org/give. Please be generous in helping to meet the needs of the suffering worldwide and, thank you for supporting the world's need by sharing in their journey.* A full copy of the Archbishop's letter is available at the back of the church.



SFA Gala This year's St Francis of Assisi Gala would not be complete without you! It's an evening for beginning new friendships, celebrating those we already count as friends, and reflecting on what this

school and parish community means to our families. Take in the 'Romance of Venice' on May 10 at the Croatian Cultural Centre, starting with a 6 pm wine reception, followed by a 4-course Italian dinner, cash bar and dance. Silent and live auction fundraiser will go towards building a new learning environment for our kids. Tickets are \$100 per person (\$85 for early bird before April 12). You can purchase tickets at www.sfaschool.ca/tickets/gala-2019 or at the Parish office. For more information, call 604-253-7311 or email galacommitee@sfaschool.ca.

| Mass Intentions | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Sat Mar 30 | 5:00 pm | † Perone family |
| Sun Mar 31 4th Sunday of Lent | 9:00 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm | † Maria Crescenzo † Domenica & Giuseppe Giustra † Scorsi family All Parishioners |
| Mon Apr 1 | 8:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm | † All Souls in Purgatory <i>PREP</i> <i>Faith Study - 7 Deadly Sins, 7 Lively Virtues</i> |
| Tue Apr 2 | 6:30 pm 7:00 pm | <i>Prayer for Virtues</i> Perpetual Novena - St Anthony |
| Wed Apr 3 | 8:00 am 7:00 pm | SFA Parish & School RCIA |
| Thu Apr 4 | 8:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 5:15 pm 7:00 pm | Demare family † Maria Spitale <i>Over 50 Club</i> <i>Legion of Mary meeting</i> <i>Choir Practice - Sat 5 pm</i> |
| Fri Apr 5 | 8:00 am 9:15 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm | † Marco & Antonio Hopkins School Mass <i>Domestic Abuse training</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i> <i>Choir Practice - Sun 10:30</i> <i>Discover Discipleship</i> First Friday Mass <i>Prayer for the Church</i> |
| Sat Apr 6 | 8:00 am 9:00 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm | <i>Domestic Abuse training</i> † Pasquale Faugno † Ben Santelli <i>Confession</i> <i>Rosary</i> All Parishioners <i>Mt Carmel Bake Sale</i> |
| Sun Apr 7 5th Sunday of Lent | 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 1:00 pm 5:00 pm | † Lovison family † Salvatore Tomassoli <i>Mt Carmel Bake Sale</i> SFA Parish & School <i>Mt Carmel Bake Sale</i> <i>Baptism - Welcome to Sebastian Lorenzo</i> <i>Baptism - Welcome to Colette Koppe</i> † Reale family |

Office Email Problems We are experiencing problems with our office email. If you send us an email and don't get a response by the next business day then we may not have received your email. Please call the office at 604-255-8855.

Baptisms and Weddings Please contact the parish office at 604-255-8855 to arrange an appointment with Fr Eugenio for all baptisms and weddings.

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