

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

March 16, 2025

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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Journeys of Faith

Fr. Ranjan D'Sa OCD

In the early church, Lent was observed for three weeks and started with the liturgy of our present day third week of Lent. So, all the readings were geared to the individuals who would embrace Christ in Baptism. In those days, baptisms were administered only on Easter Sunday, when the death and resurrection of Christ was commemorated. It made perfect sense, for in baptism we participate in the death and resurrection of Christ and thereby become the children of God our Father. The first two Lenten Sundays were added much later and the readings were chosen to initiate catechumens to faith and to the baptismal catechesis.

Today's readings speak of faith as a gradual and progressive journey of our life in God. Abraham is introduced as the father of faith. He was a rich man living a good life in the most civilized part of the world at that time. But, when he was 75 years old, God asked him to leave his cozy life behind and travel to a land that he had never seen. Abraham truly believed in God's promise. With his journey to a new place, Abraham's journey of faith began. Today's first reading gives us the story of the covenant God made to Abraham when he reached the promised land.

In the ancient Middle Eastern world, a covenant was carried out between two equals. A superior person could not make a covenant with the

inferior. But God contracted a lasting covenant with Abraham. We see in today's reading how the covenant was established – animals were cut into half and a passage was created between the two cut parts. God, through the lighted torch, passed through the sacrificed animals. Terms were clear: 'The fate of the person will be the same as the sacrificed animal if they break the covenant'. God kept his part of the covenant.

Abraham believed in God's promises. Did he inherit the Promised Land? Not he, nor his son or grandson owned the land. This promise was fulfilled many centuries later when a group of Hebrew slaves came from Egypt and occupied the land. For these settlers, this Promised Land eventually became 'the land flowing with milk and honey'.

In the Gospel, Jesus takes a long journey with his chosen disciples. Jesus takes them to a mountain to help them believe in him as they will soon face his imminent death and, thereafter, their persecution. The long six-day journey was just for a few minutes of the transfiguration. But those few moments created a lasting image on the minds of witnesses. "We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain" (2 Peter 1: 18). They saw the glory of the resurrection even before it happened.

Our journey of faith ends at the Cross and strengthens at the Resurrection.

PARISH LITURGIES

—SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—

Tuesday, March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:30 am Int. Liza Metz

Wednesday, March 19 - Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am + Charles Ward

Thursday, March 20 - Bl. John of Parma

8:30 am + Sean Kelly

Friday, March 21 - St. Enda

8:30 am + Benedict D'Sa

9:00 – 10:00 am Adoration

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

—THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT—

Saturday, March 22 - St. Lea

4:00 – 4:30 pm Reconciliation

5:00 pm For:

+ Mozart Eudaldo de Oliveira, + Christine Zaira Pestrin Doyle, + Horatio Figueiredo & Family, + Melchor Enano, + Frank Suklje, + Peter & Henrika Schuurmans, Int. Dial Family

Sunday, March 23

9:00 am For our

11:00 am Parishioners



Please pray for the health of Pope Francis!

All Catholics have a duty to pray for him, his health and his mission. He has been in hospital due to a respiratory infection and pneumonia. He seems to be recovering slowly.

For updates on his health, please visit vaticannews.va

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will be having Stations of the Cross to prepare ourselves adequately for the celebration of Easter. Please come and join us every Friday evening during Lent at 7:00 pm to celebrate the Way of the Cross.



Sometimes, it feels like Lent is just about giving up chocolate. But deep down, we all deserve to do something more for Lent—we just don't know how to do it. Join us for the next four Fridays after Stations of the Cross throughout Lent for a brief video reflection

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be held on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30pm for the children of St. Dominic and St. Nicholas Schools who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in the Spring of 2025

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION MEETING

There will be a Confirmation Preparation Meeting this Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00 pm. We strongly recommend and encourage all parents and children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation to attend this meeting.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS OF HOPE

During Lent this year, the Liturgy Office invites all Liturgical Ministers to gather for a Lenten retreat on the theme of Liturgical Ministers of Hope. Retreats will be offered on the following Saturdays from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm:

March 22, 2025, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph ON;
March 29, 2025, St. Matthew Parish, Oakville, ON;
April 05, 2025, Annunciation of our Lord Parish, Hamilton, ON.

To register, visit <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events>

SANCTUARY LAMP



*Our Sanctuary Lamp will be lit this week:
Intentions of the Habash Family*

*We pray for the repose of the souls of our dearly departed,
especially Tony Walker.*

May they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



PARISH PENANCE CELEBRATION IN LENT

Mark your calendars

Thursday, April 3rd from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

YOUNG VINCENTIANS

An important part of our Lenten practices is almsgiving. If you have any spare change, there will be a glass jar on the sanctuary steps for anyone who would like to donate to it for Lent. The change collected will be donated to our Young Vincentians Youth Group. Thank you for your generosity!

CWL INVITATION

Don't forget to buy your ticket for our CWL 'SOUPS ON' luncheon in aid of the DeMazenod Door, on sale in the Narthex. This year's goal to raise \$750 will allow us to co-sponsor their weekly Friday BBQ which feeds 300-400 homeless and hungry in Hamilton's inner city. In 2023 and 2024, your generous support enabled our \$750 and \$1000 single sponsorship which helped feed between 300-400 guests. The need continues to increase as more people turn to the door for their meals. Your \$10 ticket will allow you to enjoy a selection of 10 different delicious homemade soups and desserts!

What better way to practice Lenten alms-giving than supporting the wonderful work done.

*"From the bright cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him."*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 16, 2025

Peter, John and James had a mountaintop experience with Jesus by witnessing His transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's Will for our lives. If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: Vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

HOLY RELICS ON DISPLAY AT SAINT MATTHEW PARISH

As part of our parish's Lenten observance, we welcome Fr. Ross Campbell, a priest of our diocese, on the weekend of March 22-23 for a special event focused on our Catholic devotion to Holy Relics. Fr. Campbell will bring with him a multitude of Holy Relics and will lead us in reflection on the devotional practice. The event will begin with a talk on Saturday, March 22 at 12 noon in the Church with exhibition of the Holy Relics from 12:30 pm to 7:00 pm in our basement hall and there will be an opportunity to visit the relics on Sunday March 23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm as well. Visitors are allowed to touch their rosaries or medals to the relics but cannot take the relics/reliquaries off the table.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and Youth Ministry invite all parish ministers, and youth ministry leaders to join for the Annual Vacation Bible School workshop in preparation for another wonderful summer of children's ministry. Join us on April 9th, 2025, at 7:30 pm as we connect with one another, share new ideas and get a peak at new resources available this year. To register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/4hoP0Bc>

*“Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.”*

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, March 17	Rev. Peter Robinson
Tuesday, March 18	Rev. Saju Oreethaparambil, C.Ss.R.
Wednesday, March 19	St. Joseph, Spouse Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday, March 20	Rev. Kevin Upendran
Friday, March 21	Rev. Drago Gacnik, S.D.B.
Saturday, March 22	Rev. Ambroise Tshiaba Ntumba

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM! 

VOCATIONS RECOGNITION DINNER 2025

The Serra Club of Hamilton invites you to gather on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Liuna Station in Hamilton to celebrate the service of our Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, Permanent deacons, and consecrated Virgins Living in the World. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$90 per person. To order tickets or for information, send an email to serrahamilton1965@gmail.com. You can pay for your ticket through e-transfer using the same email or you can also pay by credit card using the following link: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events>. This event is co-sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT

Young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of Adoration, fellowship and music for Lent as you discern your vocation and as we prepare to celebrate Easter. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30 pm–7:30 pm), Social with food, Vocation testimony, Lenten music concert, and Compline (9:00 pm) on Saturday, April 5th at St. Ann's Church, Hamilton. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. Contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

2415 Rebecca Street,

Oakville, Ontario, L6L 2B1

Phone: 905-827-2373

Fax: 905-827-6055

Email: office@saintdominic.ca

Website: saintdominic.ca



Pastor: Reverend Ranjan D'Sa OCD
rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com

Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar
michael@saintdominic.ca

Deacon: Reverend Mr. Terry Murphy

Parish Accountant: Brian Thornton

Secretary: Mary Evans

Sacristan: Judi Kingry

Custodian: Peter Coffey

Parish Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (*Closed from noon to 1:00 pm*).

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