



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

March 23, 2025

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Issue 12 | Volume 6

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT *Fr. Ranjan D'Sa OCD*

Today's Gospel passage ends with a parable. Parables have one specific meaning and most often parables are left incomplete. So the original audience would get the meaning of the parables without any explanation, the objects and the materials discussed came from the daily lives of people at that time. Jesus uses parables to teach his disciples the truths about the Kingdom of God; the truths which cannot be disputed or contradicted. Parables, in a way, explain to us the heart and mind of Jesus.

In today's parable, we see that the owner of the vineyard comes to the fig tree in search of fruit. 'Fig Trees' have a popular place in Jewish culture and are mentioned about 60 times in the Bible. But in this parable, the owner of the vineyard doesn't speak about the fig tree favourably. It usually takes three years for a fig tree to produce fruit. If a fig tree does not yield fruit in three years, it is unlikely that it would ever produce the fruit. Moreover, the fig tree takes a lot of nourishment from the soil. Since there is not much arable soil in Israel, the fig tree must justify its existence.

The owner asks the gardener to cut down

the tree, but the gardener asks for a year of grace so that he can pay more attention to the tree. The parable ends abruptly without any conclusion. Did the owner give an extension? What happened to the tree? Did it produce fruit after a year or was it cut down?...

'Vineyard' is another important symbol in the scripture. It stands for something very dear to God like the 'Chosen people of Israel'. Allowing the fig tree to grow in the vineyard, the owner shows how much it is dear to him. The gardener's reluctance to cut down the tree also explains its value to the owner.

In this background, we need to complete this parable within our own lives. God is always ready to give us another Chance.

- Are we ready for that extended grace?
- Will we produce enough fruit?
- How do we respond to God's mercy and love towards us?

During this Lent we need to take time out from our busy schedules to evaluate our life in Gods eyes – ***Do we justify our existence from God?***

PARISH LITURGIES

—THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT—

Tuesday, March 25 - *The Annunciation of the Lord*

8:30 am + Edward Falgar

Wednesday, March 26

8:30 am + Eileen McCallion

Thursday, March 27

8:30 am + Mary Jo Marshall

Friday, March 28

8:30 am + Guido Bardaro

9:00 – 10:00 am **Adoration**

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

—FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—

Saturday, March 29

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Reconciliation**

5:00 pm For:

+ Darryl Ward, + Ann Childs, + John Hayes, + Irene Halpin, + Tony Walker

Sunday, March 30

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

Join us in praying the Stations of the Cross to prepare ourselves 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.

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!

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*

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH PASSION PLAY

We are looking for students in grade 7 to grade 12 - who will perform the Gospel Passion on **Friday April 18** at the **11am Good Friday Liturgy**.

Rehearsals are from 4 to 6 pm :
Friday March 21, Friday March 28
Friday April 4 & Friday April 11
at St. Dominic Parish (Food will be provided).

Please contact **Colleen & Claire Gamble** at colleengamble123@gmail.com or Michael Aguiar at the Parish Office if interested OR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MEETING

There is a First Communion Preparation Meeting on Wednesday, April 02 at 7:00 pm in the Church. We strongly recommend and encourage all parents and children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to attend this meeting.

*“My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.”*

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

MASS OF CHRISM



All are welcome to attend the Diocesan Mass of Chrism during which His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will bless the Oils for the Sick and Catechumens. He will also consecrate Sacred Chrism. The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Monday, April 14 at 2:00 pm. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged. The Cathedral Basilica will open at 12:30 pm. The celebration will be livestreamed with links on the diocesan website and the Cathedral Basilica’s website.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 23, 2025

The Lord is kind and merciful and calls us to proclaim His Name. Consider service in the priesthood or consecrated life. If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Mark Morely, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

WHEN LIFE CHANGES

Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person’s presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? You are not alone! The Hamilton Diocese is offering our six-week grief program from April 23rd to May 28th, 2025. The program runs from 7:00–8:30 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in Hamilton. To register, go to hamiltondiocese.com and look for the start date under upcoming events on the home page.

“The Lord is merciful and gracious.”

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, March 24	Most Rev. Matthew Ustrzycki
Tuesday, March 25	Annunciation of the Lord
Wednesday, March 26	Lay Parish Ministers
Thursday, March 27	Rev. Jarek Pachocki, O.M.I
Friday, March 28	Very Rev. Msgr Murray Kroetsch
Saturday, March 29	Rev. Luis Inacio

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH #167



Parents are the most influential people in their children’s lives. They watch every move, take every word and see how you navigate the world—then they become the mini version of you, their parents. All the traits they take in becoming part of who they are for life! Help them to be the best people they can be by looking inward and asking yourself if you are doing enough to

raise them to be the adults you would like them to be. If not, change how you interact and help them grow strong in mind, body and spirit. (Family Ministry Office).

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH #147

March is the start of Lent, a time when we reflect on our faith and our commitment to living as we are called as disciples of Jesus. It is a perfect time to discuss as a couple how your marriage, considered both a Sacrament and Vocation by the Church, is fulfilling its mandate to be the visible sign of God’s invisible love. Do you strive always to treat each other as God loves, in total self-giving with mercy and forgiveness, acting as strong pillars of your marriage? This Lent, make your Lenten journey a time to pray together and to work as a couple to strengthen one of the most important parts of your lives, your marriage. (Family Ministry Office: 905-528-7988 ext. 2250).

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

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Deacon: Reverend Mr. Terry Murphy
Parish Accountant: Brian Thornton
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Parish Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (*Closed from noon to 1:00 pm*).

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