



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 1, 2026

On this Second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed. Jesus takes Peter, James and John with him up the mountain and is revealed to them in all his beauty as Son of God (cf. Mt 17:1-9).

Let us pause a moment over this scene and ask ourselves: Of what does this beauty consist? What do the disciples see? A spectacular effect? No, that is not it. They see the light of God's holiness shining on Jesus' face and clothes, the perfect image of the Father. God's majesty, God's beauty is revealed. But God is Love. Therefore, the disciples saw with their eyes the beauty and splendour of divine Love incarnate in Christ. They had a foretaste of paradise. What a surprise for the disciples! They had had the face of Love before their very eyes for a long time without ever being aware of how beautiful it was! Only now do they realize it, and with great joy, with immense joy.

In reality, through this experience, Jesus is forming them, preparing them for an even more important step. Soon after that, in fact, they will have to recognize the same beauty in him when he is placed on the cross and his face is disfigured. Peter struggles to understand: he would like to stop time, "pause" the scene, stay there and prolong this marvellous experience. But Jesus does not allow it. Indeed, his light cannot be reduced to a "magical moment"! It would thus become something false, artificial, something that would dissolve into the fog of passing sentiment. On the contrary, Christ is the light that orients our journey like the pillar of fire for the people in the desert (cf. Ex 13:21). Jesus' beauty does not alienate his disciples from the reality of life, but gives them the strength to follow him all the way to Jerusalem, all the way to the cross. Christ's beauty is not alienating. It always brings you forward. It does not make you hide. Go forward!

Brothers and sisters, this Gospel traces a path for us too. It teaches us how important it is to remain with Jesus even when it is not easy to understand everything he says and does for us. In fact, it is by staying with him that we learn to recognize on his face the luminous beauty of love he gives us, even when it bears the marks of the cross. And it is in his school that we learn to glimpse the same beauty on the faces of the people who walk beside us every day — family, friends, colleagues who take care of us in the most varied ways. How many bright faces, how many smiles, how many wrinkles, how many tears and scars reveal love around us! Let us learn to recognize them and to fill our hearts with them. And then let us set out in order to bring the light we have received to others as well, through concrete acts of love (cf. 1 Jn 3:18), diving into our daily affairs more generously, loving, serving, and forgiving with greater earnestness and willingness. The contemplation of God's wonders, the contemplation of God's face, of the Lord's face, must move us to the service of others.

We can ask ourselves: Do we know how to recognize the light of God's love in our lives? Do we recognize it with joy and gratitude on the faces of the people who love us? Do we look around us for the signs of this light that fills our heart and opens it to love and service? Or do we prefer the straw fires of idols that alienate us and lead us to withdraw into ourselves? The great light of the Lord and the false, artificial light of idols. Which do I prefer?

May Mary, who kept the light of her Son in her heart even in the darkness of Calvary, accompany us always on the way of love.

POPE FRANCIS — March 5, 2023

LISTENING AND FASTING: POPE LEO XIV'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026

Pope Leo XIV's message for Lent 2026, entitled "Listening and fasting. Lent as a time of Conversion," was published on Friday, February 13, by the Holy See Press Office. To read Pope Leo's message, and download a helpful infographic, visit the Dicastery for Integral Human Development here: www.humandevlopment.va

Mensaje de Papa León XIV para la Cuaresma 2026
Escuchar y ayunar. [La Cuaresma como tiempo de conversion.](#)

St. John's Catholic Women's League, Day of Spirituality, Saturday, March 14th, in the parish hall. Gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. Guest speaker, Father Moices Caballero, will begin at 10:00 a.m. The morning ends with the Celebration of the Eucharist upstairs in the church. All are welcome to attend, both men and women, from St John's and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes. For further information, contact wendebedirian@gmail.com

Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation:
from Tuesday March 3rd until Wednesday, March 11th inclusive, *there will be no Daily Mass 11am and Reconciliation 11.30am.*

The weekend Mass will be celebrated as usual, Saturday at 5PM and Sunday at 9AM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday, March 7th 3:30-4:30PM.

Misas diarias & Sacramento de la Reconciliación: A partir del martes 3 de marzo hasta el miércoles 11 de marzo *no habrá Misa diaria (12pm) ni sacramento de la Reconciliación (11.30am).*

Las Misas del fin de semana se celebrarán en el horario habitual.

Sábado 7PM, domingo 11AM & 1PM.
Confesiones: Sábado 7 de marzo 3:30-4:30pm

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 28 **5:00 PM**
+Dolores Sedlmeir +Maria Rebelo +Morabito Family

Sunday, March 1 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, March 3 **NO MASS**

Wednesday, March 4 **NO MASS**

Thursday, March 5 **NO MASS**

Friday, March 6 **NO MASS**

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 7 **5:00 PM**
+Ron Ditner +Nicola Scarfone & Family

Sunday, March 8 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Stations of the Cross
will be at 10:30AM in English
each Friday during Lent.

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

II Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 28 de Febrero **7:00PM**

Domingo 1 de Marzo **11:00 AM & 1:00PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 3 de Marzo **NO HAY MISA**

Miercoles 4 de Marzo **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 5 de Marzo **NO HAY MISA**

Viernes 6 de Marzo **NO HAY MISA**

III Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 7 de Marzo **7:00PM**
+Olivia Espiritu +Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 8 de Marzo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

El Viacrucis se rezará todos los viernes
del tiempo de Cuaresma
a las 11:30AM en Español.

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil: Thursday, March 5 from 10 to 11 am. Opposite Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice, but our own! Parking - across the road, Schneider Park.