

Living the
Gospel

ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 29/30

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass  for Intentions Week

Tuesday, April 1st, 8:15 a.m.

Duilio Guido

Requested by the Family

Wednesday, April 2nd, 8:15 a.m.

Linda Jean Langero

Requested by the Langero Family

Thursday, April 3rd, 8:15 a.m.

Angela Biancolin

Requested by the Family

Friday, April 4th, 8:15 a.m.

Stella Sloan

Requested by Paul and Patricia Kennedy

LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSIONS

This Lenten season, parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a Day of Confessions between March 30 and April 5.

At St. Anselm, our Day of Confessions is this **Tuesday, April 1st**. The times are as follows:

9:30 - 10:30am

2:00 - 3:00pm

5:00 - 6:00pm

For dates and times of neighbouring churches, please visit www.archtoronto.org/confession



The theme for this Jubilee Year 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope". Help EcoAnselm sow "seeds of hope" throughout this Lenten pilgrimage of ecological discernment, prayer and action on behalf of our common home. "Integral ecology requires a cultural and spiritual conversion built on a "culture of encounter". It underlines how relationships should be based on an attitude of caring for one's common home; one's brothers and sisters; and one's relationship with God, the creator."

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/09/20/pope-francis-promotes-integral-ecology-combat-culture-waste>

Consider joining EcoAnselm's LENTEN-DRIVE to elevate our shared awareness and care of our common home. Each parishioner is invited to discern ONE commitment that you or your family can make to reducing waste and/or increasing eco-care. Cards are supplied near the EcoWall in the Millwood lobby. Print your commitment on the card and display it on the designated board.

Let's be positive difference-makers! Be part of the 25% tipping point needed to SHIFT SOCIAL NORMS regarding care for our common home.

Sample Lenten ecological-goals, as well as commitments made by other parishioners, are displayed on the EcoWall in the Millwood lobby.

THANK YOU to each parishioner who has taken the time to discern and post a Lenten eco-goal. Each commitment is a "SEED OF HOPE".

SCRUTINIES

The parish of St. Anselm will welcome several new members to the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil this year. In preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, these elect will celebrate the 3 Scrutinies during the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. The readings for these 3 weekend celebrations will be taken from the A cycle readings provided in your missalettes. The Scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. They are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Let us continue to pray with the elect as they take these final steps in their preparation to join us at the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist.

GROUP B casseroles will be collected on SATURDAY, APRIL 12th from 4-5pm in the parking lot. This date is sooner than the usual third Saturday because of Easter weekend.

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES
CAN YOU HELP?

Each month, parishioners across several churches in Toronto prepare casseroles to feed those in need at the Good Shepherd Refuge. This simple yet powerful act takes a time commitment of just a few hours every other month and each casserole feeds TEN hungry individuals.

This weekend, please take a moment to stop by the Millwood lobby where you can pick up a copy of the simple recipe, along with a pan and lid. We are hoping to increase our casserole offering by 10-20 casseroles and you can help! Speak with us to learn more and to sign up.

SHARELIFE 2025 PARISH CAMPAIGN

This weekend is ShareLife Sunday

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors, and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way.

As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments. Nick's life had an easy start – he came from a good home, where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son. But living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing, and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE Program at Good Shepherd.

"By the grace of God, I am still alive," he proclaims. "I'd love to be able to give back what was so freely given to me. I am taking roles of service, giving back as much as I can. I was afraid I'd never be able to feel the way I feel. I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be sober." Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving—he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise.

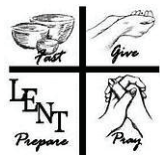
Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23

Eph 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want".



Have you ever noticed that, as we grow older and mature, our perception of ourselves and our world changes? Some perceptions change with maturity, while others evolve through suffering, trauma and loss. One of the signs of a truly mature person is that he

or she has learned to recognize what really matters. In today's Gospel, readers can watch and learn as the blind man's perception of himself and his world are blessed with clarity by Jesus. This unnamed man is transformed. Like a sacrament, he points to Jesus and challenges us to share his insight concerning the Lord of Light and Life. Sixth of the seven signs of the Johannine Gospel, this narrative offers graphic commentary on a claim Jesus had made earlier: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk

in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Through his healing of the man born blind, Jesus made good on this claim. For his part, the man not only received his physical sight but also opened his spiritual eyes, as it were, and came to believe in Jesus, certifying his faith by addressing Jesus as "Son of Man" and "Lord". Ironically, the Pharisees, who had eyes to see the added insights offered by the law, the prophets and the writings, did not see Jesus for who he was. Nor did they believe. They refused to be taken in by the joy of a young man seeing for the first time; seeing the faces of his parents, the village where he lived, the sun! Instead of joy they prefer lack of imagination. Instead of light they prefer the darkness. Instead of freedom, they prefer the prison of their own minds.

Another perception that was changed or corrected in this narrative was the long-held notion that sickness (blindness) was an unhappy consequence of sin. Jesus corrected this notion and insisted that the man's infirmity be regarded as an opportunity for the good works of God to be revealed in him. That good work required the man to do as Jesus instructed; he allowed himself to be anointed with clay, and then he went off to wash in the pool of Siloam. For readers unfamiliar with the place or its name, the Johannine evangelist explains that Siloam means "Sent." This explanation signals a connection between the pool and Jesus, the One sent by God so that all may have life. Through the conversations between Jesus, the blind man, his parents and the Pharisees, the evangelist was able to build a fine and strong argument that Jesus was indeed from God; that he had come into the world to reveal the truth to those who had eyes to see; that those who believe in him might know and understand the salvation he had come to bring to sinners. When he experienced a glimpse of that salvation in Jesus, the blind man grabbed hold of it and declared his faith: "I do believe, Lord." This same faith was declared either for us or by us at our baptism. We, for our part, are called each day to renew our faith in the One who can bring light into every darkness. God abides by God's own rules and one of those rules is respect for free will. God will not impose sight on those who choose blindness or light on those who choose darkness. But God is tricky. If there's just the tiniest crack in the façade, the light might break through. One of the ministries of those preparing to enter the church this Easter is the vision they have been given. Their eyes have been opened and they see differently than they saw before. They see what we might fail to see. By looking through their eyes, we may see the Christian community and the gift of word and Eucharist as precious and realize that such gifts are evidence of how much we are loved by the Giver. As the elect among us, our catechumens, face their second scrutiny this weekend, we too are invited to examine our lives. Which path will we choose — life or death, blessing or a curse? The Pharisees have chosen the easier path defined by human laws and regulations. The beggar, healed and given sight that surpasses mere physical sight, has chosen relationship with Jesus. Which path will you follow? *For the Church, that we may share the light of the Gospel with all who are struggling to recognize good from evil, truth from lies and selfless love from self-serving activity...Lord, in your mercy...*

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