

Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of:

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish

Lost Nation & Toronto

Sacred Heart Parish ~ Oxford Junction

Ss Philip & James Parish ~ Grand Mound



March 24, 2019 - Third Sunday of Lent



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**Sacrament of Baptism**

Please contact Parish Office to schedule a baptism.

**Sacrament of Matrimony**

Marriage Preparation at least 90 days prior to your wedding date. Please contact Parish Office.

**Pastoral Care**

Contact Parish Office for Home visits, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion

**Sacrament Reconciliation**

Before Mass or call Parish Office for arrangement with Priest.

**“Is Christ here or not?”** Jarred by the sudden and insistent voice as I exited the Church, I looked up, turned and found a woman standing beside me. She said, again, “Is Christ here or not?” “Excuse me,” I replied, “what do you mean?” With an incredulous shake of her head, she spun around and started walking away from me. Both alarmed and intrigued I followed attempting to keep pace saying, “Wait! Yes! Christ is here!” She turned back in my direction halting my step. “Yes, Christ is here! That’s the right answer!” she said smilingly. Quickly she resumed her stride away from me and disappeared around the corner.

The recollection of the encounter makes me smile as I retell it. “Is Christ here or not?” It’s a powerful and thought-provoking question. In faith our response is a resounding “yes!” Yet, there are times when we are acutely aware of how absent Christ seems from aspects of our life. Those times when despite our faithful zeal for the Gospel, our best intentions and our love of others, the patterns of self-centeredness, self-righteousness and self-brokenness blind us to the miracle of Christ’s presence alive and active all around us - and even in us.

The sacrament of penance is an encounter with the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Regularly celebrating this sacrament is a spiritual exercise of a healthy disciple. The practice of self-searching goes beyond looking at single acts, by challenging us to look at our patterns of choices and evaluate them according to the ways of the Gospel and the habits of faithful discipleship.

God alone forgives sins. When we celebrate the sacrament of Penance we experience the healing and reconciling presence of Christ through the word of God proclaimed, through our contrite confession of sinfulness, through the support and prayer of the community gathered together, and through the ministry and words of absolution of the priest.

But the sacrament of penance is not just the work of God and a priest. The sacrament of penance is the work of us all. At our baptism we were clothed in Christ and entrusted with his mission. In this case that mission calls each disciple - the entire church community - to be reconcilers, each according to their vocational call.

Each of us is challenged to be reconciled and become reconcilers clothed in Christ’s mercy, compassion and love. Each of us is called to be an encounter with Christ who promised to be with us always. Each of us is called to welcome the sinner, who surprisingly looks a lot like us.

Can you say with confidence, “Yes, Christ is here

Catholic Review/Sharon A. Bogusz

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**How Do We Break The Power of Sin** If we could see into our souls and see the damage our sin causes to our souls, to others, and the whole Church, we would flee from committing sin. This is a true story and excerpt of a letter written by Jacques Fesch to his mother before his execution which took place by guillotine in France on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1957. The 27 year old was beheaded for the murder of a police officer shortly after he bungled an armed robbery three years earlier (February 25<sup>th</sup> 1954). He underwent a conversion experience while on death row and the publication of his letters touched many, especially young people. Cardinal Lustiger of Paris signed a decree that maybe one day see Jacques Fesch declared “Blessed.” This is part of Jacques Fesch’s letter to his mother:

**“This execution which frightens you is nothing compared to what awaits sinners in the next world. It is not for me you should weep but for sinners who offend God. As for me I am happy Jesus is calling me to himself and great graces have been given me. If you could only taste for a single instant the sweetness of the transports of divine love and could realize the absolute gravity of the slightest offence. God must come first, do not forget it. He calls you and believes in you, you are rich in his love. Many souls are linked with yours and you will have an account to render. You must go to Christ without whom you can do nothing. If you seek him you will find him. But you must seek him with all your heart. Above all do not seek your own will but his.”**

If we all pointed out each other's faults and sins, that's all we would ever do and our lives would be a large sin, because it does so much long-term damage. There is much spiritual damage to others that sometimes causes Christians to confuse the slander of men with the work of God in their lives. They assume God is doing to them what is really the work of human sinfulness. They begin to doubt their faith, fall away from active worship attendance; sometimes slander keeps those who do not know Christ from coming to faith.

The season of Lent will be drawing to a close in a few weeks. Will we have overcome sin in our lives? How will our lives be different at the end of Lent? The evilness and hatred in our country and world is sin driven by evil; can you see and feel the damage this has done to us? What is happening to us this Lent that will last beyond Lent for the rest of the year? If we could see into our souls and see the damage our sin causes to our souls, to others, and the whole Church, we would flee from committing sin. Meditate on this.

Fr. Tommy Lane

# PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

## NEWS AND EVENTS



**COMMUNAL PENANCE IS TODAY AT 5:00 PM - Ss Philip & James Church in Grand Mound.** Bishop Thomas Zinkula will bless us with Communal Penance & Reconciliation.

Every time we experience the Sacrament of Confession, God strengthens our will and our self-control to be able to resist the temptations that confront us in our lives. We become more resolute to follow God's will and not our own whims.



Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. We volunteer our time to serve our parishes and communities.

### Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Lost Nation/Toronto

Rosary bake sale will be Sunday March 24 at Wheatland Community Breakfast 7:30 to 12:30. Please bring \$10.00 worth of homemade items or \$15.00 in cash. We have price lists to help you package and price your baked items.

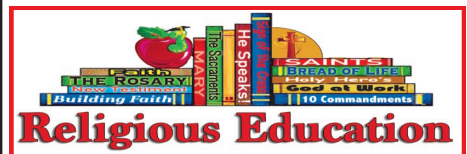


Our Lady of the Holy Rosary hosted Bingo at Wheatland Manor on Tuesday March 12. It was a wonderful afternoon. Four helpers and Calamus-Wheatland students were able to come help residents with Bingo. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with residents who enjoyed green treats and prizes.

Our next Bingo will be Tuesday April 9th.

### SS Philip & James - Grand Mound

Lenten Baby Shower: It's that time of year again! A baby bassinet has been placed in the church, and throughout the Lenten season we encourage donations of baby items. Items needed are baby bottles, clothing, blankets, pacifiers, diapers, toys. Items will be delivered to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Clinton after Easter.



1st Reconciliation today at 5:00 P.M. for our 2nd grade class and their families at COMMUNAL PENANCE.

ALL Religious Education Families are invited to the COMMUNAL PENANCE celebration.

Wednesday, March 27  
Class 6-7 P.M.  
Youth Group 6:30-8:00 P.M.  
Bible Study 6-7 P.M.

### Third Sunday of Lent

Dear Jesus,  
Free your Church and us  
from the sins of this world, and  
protect us from evil we see,  
and the evil we prefer to ignore.

We need your guidance, Lord  
for we cannot do this alone.

Only with your help  
can we be saved.  
Thank you for your desire  
to save us and love us.



### Sacred Heart - Oxford Junction

Clinton/Camanche Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry information is on the bulletin board if you are interested.

During Lent we're participating in Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm every Friday evening with Mass to follow about 6:30. Thank you to all of you who have been participating, and we encourage our whole church family to follow along on this Lenten journey.

A reminder that there are sign-up sheets on the table in the hallway to sign-up for various ministry jobs. Karen is working on April's list, which will be posted. There are sheets available for May. If you have a certain date you wish to serve, please sign, otherwise Karen will assign dates as she has in the past. We remind you also, that if you find you're not able to serve on the day you've chosen, please trade with someone. All of our ministries are very important in making everything go smoothly. Thanks very much to those of you who volunteer, and we welcome you so sign-up even though you may not have in the past.

The Sanctuary Guild is planning its annual kolache bake sale on Saturday, April 13. There have been sign-up sheets posted for donations of supplies and also for donations of your time to help. We hope that many of us will be able to help with donations of our time, talent and treasure to this important parish project.

Sanctuary Guild meeting on April 1 at 7:00 pm in the church library. Serving Committee is: Sue Ellison, Colleen Coon and Sarah Rissler.



"The Lost Supper" (Cartoon by Inherit the Mirth)

**Communal Penance  
Examination of Conscience**

The basic requirement for a good confession is to have the intention of returning to God with your whole heart, like the prodigal son (in Luke 15), and to acknowledge your sins with true sorrow before the priest, who is there to remind you of Christ.

1. Do I take time to pray and thank God every day?
2. Do I give of myself and time to help my parish and community?
3. Do I offer help and reach out to those in need, shut-in's, and lonely or is it easier to ignore them?
4. Do I listen and **hear** the meaning of the Liturgy on Saturday's and Sunday?
5. Do I live and share the Good News with those that cross the path of my day?
6. Do I treasure my possessions and status more than people?
7. Do I treat all people with kindness and understanding.
8. Do I quickly judge and criticize other cultures in their beliefs?
9. Am I a person of reconciliation, peace and mercy? Do I hold grudges or seek revenge?
10. Am I forgiving and merciful? Do I give others the benefit of the doubt? Am I harsh or judgmental?
11. Am I willing to sacrifice anything for my faith? Do I allow human respect to keep me from being a Christian witness?
12. Do I live a spirit of detachment and generosity? Do I sacrifice for others?

Every time we experience the Sacrament of Confession, God strengthens our will and our self-control to be able to resist the temptations that confront us in our lives. We become more resolute to follow God's will and not our own whims.

Please remember the sick and the infirm, so that they may experience the healing power of Christ:

**Our Lady of Holy Rosary:** Jeanene Cavey, Dick Nodurft, Melvin & Irene Duwa, Richard Vens, Steve Benischek

**SS Philip & James Church:** Austin Flammang, Sandy Crosthwaite, Natalie Regan, Elmer Hasenmiller, Grace Kinney, Chris Forret

**Sacred Heart Church:** Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Brad Manuel, Dennis Koppess, Wendy Larive, John and Marilyn Stevenson



**MASS INTENTIONS 4B**

Saturday	03/23/19/Toronto/St. Turibius
05:00pm	Imelda Beringer
Sunday	03/24/19/ <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
08:00am	Grand Mound/Viola Syslo
10:00am	Oxford Junction/Mary Kleineck
<b>05:00pm</b>	<b>Communal Penance/Grand Mound</b>
Monday	03/25/19 No Mass/Annunciation of Lord
Tuesday	03/26/19/Grand Mound
08:00am	Jack & Dorothy Campbell
Wednesday	03/27/19
10:00am	Wheatland Manor/For the Parish
04:30pm	Grand Mound/ <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
05:00pm	Mass/Vince & Regina Hahn
Thursday	03/28/19/Lost Nation
05:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
05:30pm	Mass/Otto Benischek Jr.
Friday	03/29/19/Oxford Junction
06:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
06:30pm	Mass/Joe & Lorna Ruley
Saturday	03/30/19/Lost Nation
05:00pm	Ruth Schau
Sunday	03/31/19/ <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b>
08:00am	Grand Mound/Mary Browne
10:00am	Oxford Junction/Edward Ruley

**AREA COMMUNAL PENANCE  
SERVICES FOR LENT**

**Sunday, March 24 – 5:00 pm  
SS. Philip & James, Grand Mound\***

Monday, March 25 – 6:30 pm  
Our Lady of Victory, Davenport

Saturday, April 13 – 11:00 am  
Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Clinton

**Readings for Week of March 24**

Sunday:	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-4, 6-7, 8, 11 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Monday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8b-9-11 Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9,10- 11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
Sunday:	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32