

## MASS SCHEDULE - St. John

- Sat., Feb 21 Vigil of the First Sunday of Lent**  
4:00 pm For the intentions of Saturday Ushers from Carol Whiteside.
- Sun., Feb 22 The First Sunday in Lent**  
10:30 am For all parishioners.
- Mon. Feb 23 St. Polycarp Bishop, Martyr**  
8:00 am + Sebastian Smith from Chris & Christine Smith.
- Tue., Feb 24 Mass at Sacred Heart 8:00 AM**
- Wed. Feb 25 Ferial Weekday**  
8:00 am For the intentions of Dominic Marrocco from the family.
- Thu., Feb 26 Mass at Sacred Heart at 8:00 am**
- Fri., Feb 27 Mass at Sacred Heart 8:00 am**
- Sat., Feb 28 Vigil of the Second Sunday of Lent**  
4:00 pm For all parishioners.
- Sun., Mar 1 The Second Sunday of Lent**  
10:30 am For Michael & Stephany Santos & family from Larry and Elizabeth Donald.

Last Weekend – February 15, 2026		
Mass	Attendance	Contributions
4:00 pm Saturday	50	\$ 431
10:30 am Sunday	90	\$ 612
Online donations:		\$ 193
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>\$ 1,236</b>
Donations: Knights of Columbus \$200		
<i>Thank you for your generosity and support!</i>		

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear parishioners,

With Ash Wednesday we have started the Season of Lent. We have received the ashes on our foreheads and heard the words: *'remember you are dust and to dust you shall return'* (Gen. 3:19), remembering us our mortal condition. Lent began when the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert. The same Holy Spirit drives the whole Church and all of us into this spiritual desert - into 'this sacred time'. The reason why the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert is given by the Gospel itself ***"to be tempted by the devil"*** This is why we call this Sunday, the Sunday of the Temptations. In Jesus' temptations are the matter of all sins, as we can testify this from the Gospel ***"When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him for a time"***

Jesus was tempted: First, TO STRENGTHEN US against temptations. Second, to give us an example and to teach us HOW TO OVERCOME temptations. Third, to WARN US that however safe we may think we are; we are not free from temptations. Finally, to fill us with trust in His mercy: ***"we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin"***

Temptations will come, but we should not get discourage; temptation is not a sin. A sin is when we consent (accept) the temptation. If we fail, there are 2 kind of sins which keep a paralell to the natural order: Venial sin which is compared as to when we are sick: we need to stay in bed, take medicine (but we are still alive); and Mortal sin which is compared as when we are dead: we cannot receive Communion. But even if we fail like this, we should not get discourage, this is why Jesus came to die for us. We should get up again with God's grace, and go to the Sacrament of Confession and receive again his divine life. Let us ask our Blessed Mother, that this Lent, may be a time of proven love for Christ. Fr. Gaston Giacinti, IVE

## WEEKLY NEWS



**Congratulations to the 50/50 Winner**  
The lucky number is 092528 for \$100 for the Sun. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> raffle & we still have the raffle price for Sun. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> of \$88.50 ticket number 591779.

### Catholic Missionary Children Oratory

All children ages 7 to 10 are invited on Saturdays to join the CMC at St. John the Baptist church at 10 am to noon. For info contact Sr. Inmaculada 705 977 6410 or stjohndandsacredheart@gmail.com

### Confession schedule changes at Sacred Heart

On February 27 There will be regular Friday adoration from 1:30pm-6:30pm, but No Confession at Sacred Heart, there will be Lenten confession at St John's from 5:00pm – 6: 30pm There will be stations of the cross at 6:30pm after adoration.

**Parish Volunteers** in any capacity must be screened through the Diocese Volunteer screening Program, so if you are a volunteer at either Sacred Heart or St Johns and have not been contacted yet for the screening, please reach out to Nithya Rozario at 416

558 2562/ nithyavathi@gmail.com or Ann Kennedy 705 742 8534 at your earliest convenience.

### Sign-up for FREE streaming at Formed:

www.Signup.Formed.org Enter your email (input your city to locate your Parish, click your parish and join).

## Lenten Activities

### Lenten Retreat

The Catholic Missionary Children Oratory are hosting a Lenten Retreat for Children 6-13 years old. It will include games, talks, prayer (stations of the Cross, adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, rosary) Confession, and Mass. The retreat will take place on Sat., February 28, from 11:00am to 5:00pm Drop off at St. John Elementary School. Pick up at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. To register or for more info please text sister Inmaculada 705 977 6410 for registration <https://forms.gle/QXWyoW8yr2xnTpJy7>

### Lenten Confession

**Friday February 27** Lenten confession at St. John the Baptist from 5:00-6:30pm. (No confession at Sacred Heart on that day)

**Friday March 6** Lenten confession at Sacred Heart from 5:00pm-6:30pm

**The Way of the Cross –** The way of the Cross will be guided every Friday during Lent, at Saint John the Baptist at 12:00am & at Sacred Heart at 6:30pm, or if First Friday after the 6:30pm Mass.

### Presentation for Lent March 21<sup>st</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fr. Gaston will present a PowerPoint on the chronology of the Gospel events, focusing on the week before the Passion, Passion Week, and the timeline of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The presentation will include maps, times, and locations. All are welcome!

**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** at Sacred Heart Church, after the 5:30pm Mass (in the basement).

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Saint John's, after the 10:30am Mass (in the basement).

## DIOCESAN & OTHER NEWS:

**Our Lady Seat of Wisdom** Registration for our Veritas Summer Program is now open. The summer program is a great, low commitment way for high school students to experience all that Our Lady Seat

of Wisdom has to offer. For those interested, more information can be found at:

<https://www.seatofwisdom.ca/veritas-summer-program/>

**World Youth Day 2027** Our diocese will be travelling to Seoul on July 27th-August 9th, 2027. Any interested pilgrims, individuals or groups, between the ages of 18-35 are invited to contact Fr. Stephen.

FrStephenDecarlo@peterboroughdiocese.org

### 35<sup>th</sup> Lift Jesus Higher Rally

March 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-5:30pm @Metro Toronto

Convention Center for details, visit <https://ljhr.ca/>

## GOSPEL Matthew 4.1-11 of Sunday Feb. 22

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his Angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly Angels came and waited on him.



### Pro - life Corner

Dear parishioners, you are invited to the "Pro-Life Hospital Walk" from 10-11a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Please join us in witnessing our faith and bringing a friend!

