

February 25th, 2018 Second Sunday of Lent

As a teenager, I made a deal with my dad to earn a few dollars selling garden seeds door-to-door. Dad bought the seeds, and I became the salesman. But as the door-to-door rejections piled up, I began to question my original agreement.

Abraham and God made a commitment. God would make Abraham the father of a great nation. Abraham would be faithful to God in return. In today's familiar story from *Genesis*, Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. It's described as a test—a test of Abraham's part of the covenant-bargain.

The demand God makes on Abraham may make us squirm. But Scripture scholars suggest that the story was actually meant to *discourage* Israel from the child sacrifices carried out by their neighbors.

It's also a story of fidelity. And that's where my teenage sales experience comes in. A commitment between two people calls for faithfulness until the end—no matter how difficult things get. Abraham believed in God's promise, even in the face of the most difficult challenge imaginable.

As you examine your baptismal covenant during these Lenten days, let the challenge to self-denial remind us of the scriptural call to fidelity.

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.



The opposite of resentment is forgiveness, which is rooted in a positive attitude that seeks to understand other people's weaknesses and to excuse them.

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 105

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Reconciliation Services for LENT

St. Mary's - **Sunday March 18th at 2:30 pm**

Sacred Heart Cathedral - **Wed. March 21st at 7 pm**

Christ Our Saviour - **Thurs. March 22nd at 7pm**

Immaculate Conception - **Tuesday March 27th at 7 pm**

Fridays During Lent

Mass at 9 am

-

- **7 pm Stations of the Cross**

- **7:30 pm Mass**

-

Share Lent Collection:

Sunday March 18th

SHARE LENT 2018

Thanks to money donated annually by Catholics during Share Lent, *Development and Peace* can support 170 partners and 202 projects in 36 countries around the world! There are many ways to be part of Share Lent. Use the Solidarity Calendar with your family. You can pick up a copy while leaving church today. You can make a donation on Solidarity Sunday, which will take place on March 18th. Or join our parish's Development and Peace committee. To find out more about Share Lent, please contact Catherine Nolin Hanlon at nolin@unbc.ca <<mailto:nolin@unbc.ca>>

Noon-Hour Series

Gospel Reflections of Lent

Mondays, February 26 March 5, 12, and 26th
12 noon to 1:30 pm in St Mary's St. Eugene Room

As we journey with Jesus from the desert to the empty tomb, Sisters Irene Baker and Dorothy Ryan will facilitate reflection, discussion, and prayer on the Lenten gospels. Light refreshments will be served.

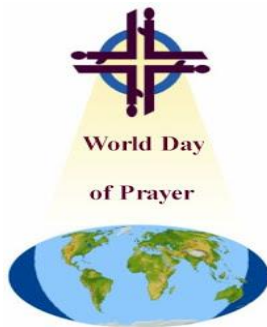
PLEASE REGISTER at St. Mary's Parish office by:

e-mail: stmarys.parish@shawcable.com or

phone: 250-564-4097

World Day of Prayer

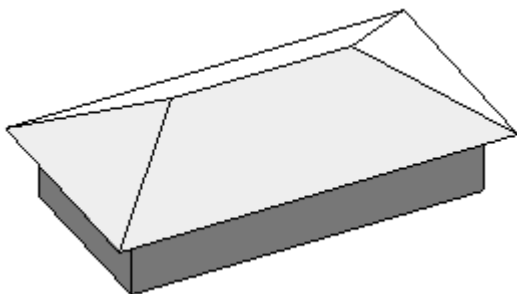
This is an ecumenical service that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the practice of Christians from other countries and cultures, and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. This year's service will be at **7 pm THIS Friday at St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church** on the corner of 5th and Victoria St. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service. For more information, please contact Barb Marwood at marwoodr@telus.net or 250-563-0846.



From Parish Council

Parish Hall Equipment: Property equipment belonging to Immaculate Conception Church is for Immaculate Conception use only and can't be borrowed for private functions.

Parish Roof: We requested and received an appraisal for our roofs. Total cost of replacement is **\$462,410.00** (School roofs: \$205,800 and Parish roofs: \$206,610) with a timeline between the years 2022 and 2027. The donations from the **Yellow Church Envelopes** will be allotted to the Roof Building Fund. Thank you for your generous contributions.



Morning of Reflection for Men & Women

The day begins with Mass at 7:30am (optional) in the Domano Chapel. Registration is at 8:30 am and it goes from 9 am to 1 pm at the Domano Renewal Centre (Emmaus). The fee is \$30 (includes a luncheon) and \$5 per child for childcare.

The next mornings of reflection theme is: **"I Have Plans for Your Healing..." Restoration of the Human Person**

Men's Day: Sat. March 24th

Next Ladies Day: Sat. April 28th

Time: 8:30 am Registration – 9 am – 1 pm at the Domano Renewal Centre (Emmaus). The fee is \$30, which includes lunch and there is a \$5 per child for childcare.

PRINCE GEORGE PRO-LIFE ANNUAL DESSERT EVENING AND FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 10th at Sacred Heart Cathedral—lower hall with doors open at **6:30 pm**.

It's time to come out and share in some great company, wonderful desserts, and learn about important pro-life issues. This is the society's main fundraising event of the year. There will be door prizes and the ever popular locked house. Purchase keys to unlock the door and win a super prize. This is also a great time to renew your Pro Life membership.

Wanted

We are collecting stamps and postcards with ½" border. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to **provide cancer dressings to those patients in need**, free of charge. Please place your items in the small black basket on the table in the church foyer.

Important Change

The bank has asked us to let our parishioners know to make their cheques payable to **RCEC – Immaculate Conception**. When you are making cheques payable to the Diocesan Appeal please make them out to RCEC – Diocesan Appeal.

Prayers for the unborn 2 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral today.