

May 1, 2020



My Dear People of St. Ann Parish,

Fr. Greg, Seminarian Kevin and I are all well and are continuing our prayers for you each day. We ask God daily to keep all of you and those closest to you safe and healthy. Each day we pray together Morning and Evening Prayer from the Divine Office, the Holy Rosary and of course the daily offering of the Holy Mass.

This week is a special week for both Fr. Greg and I as we will celebrate the anniversary of our ordination and First Mass. Ordination Day is an exceptionally important and meaningful day for Priests. On this day, we were configured into the image of Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, we become “Alter Christus in Capitat” (another Christ the Head). On this day we are given the authority and the power to forgive sins, to make present Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and to Anoint the Sick and Dying. On this day, we are entrusted with the care of the flock of Jesus Christ and accept the profound responsibility of working for the salvation of the whole world. Amazing, that God would entrust all of this into the hands of mere mortals, and yet that is exactly what He does. Priests are truly a blessing to the world and the Church, one of the great gifts that God has left us in order to ensure that the saving ministry of His Son Jesus continues until the end of time.



As a Priest, I can tell you it is a wonderful life and ministry. I will be ordained 26 years this coming Thursday, that is 9,497 days. In all these days, not once have I ever regretted being a Priest. I love the Priesthood and each day I am honoured to serve God, His Church and His Holy People. To quote from a poem called “The Priest” by Bishop Lacordaire: “my God, what a life, and it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ.” Please pray for Fr. Greg and I this week and pray for all Priests. We rely on your prayers and your kind support. We are here to serve you to the best of our ability. Together, Priests and laity, may we truly bring about God’s Kingdom.

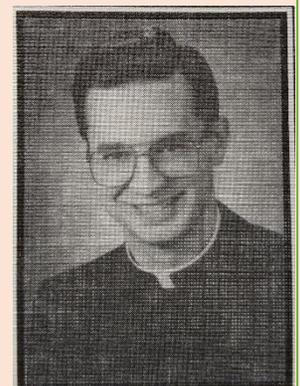
This week is Catholic Education Week. We are blessed in Ontario to continue to have Catholic Schools. Let us pray, this week especially, for our Schools, that they will be true communities of Faith and education. Jesus, just before Ascending into Heaven, told His Disciples to “go out and baptize all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” May our Catholic Schools truly be a place where the teachings of Jesus are taught, modeled, and lived. May our teachers and students find creative ways to continue this even in these days of the schools being closed and may they, and all peoples, truly value the gift of good Catholic Education.

As we begin the beautiful month of May, let us remember in a special way the Blessed Mother of God. Today, the Bishops of Canada and the United States are jointly consecrating our two countries to Mary, Mother of the Church, asking her maternal love and care for all her children. During May, find some way to honour Mary each and every day. Pray the Rosary, sing her a hymn, pray the Hail Mary together as a family as a part of your Grace Before Meals. As a mother, Mary cares for her children and loves to hear from them. Turn to her and seek her protection all the more during her month of May.

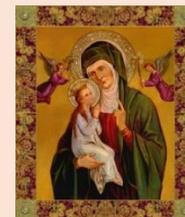


Stay safe and stay healthy. St. Ann, pray for us.

God bless,
Fr. Lobsinger, E.V., P.P.



Fr. Lobsinger
May 7, 1994



Monday, May 4 *Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis* *Fr. Greg's 1st Anniversary*
 7:30a.m. Intentions of Fr. David Pivonka

Tuesday, May 5
 7:30a.m. † Moe Kowal Intentions of William Schiller

*St. Ann,
 Pray for them*

Wednesday, May 6 *St. François De Laval*
 7:30a.m. † Giuseppe Trevisan
 6:00 – 7:00p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction live-streamed

Thursday, May 7 *Fr. Lobsinger's 26th Anniversary*
 7:30a.m. Thanksgiving for the ordination of Fr. Lobsinger and Fr. Greg

Friday, May 8 *Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine*
 7:30 a.m. For an end to the COVID 19 Pandemic

Saturday, May 9 - *Not video taped or live-streamed*
 11:00 a.m. † Stelio Di Pietro
 † Wesley Kusior † Helen Bowie † Moe Kowal

Sunday, May 10
 8:00 a.m. Missa pro Populo – Mass for the People

All Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.



The Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please call the parish number if you require assistance.
905-648-6874

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament via the Internet

Fr. Greg will offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour each Wednesday evening from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. live-streamed on our YouTube and Facebook page. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord, to receive His blessings and to pray for healing for our world. Tune in for this wonderful hour of prayer.



St. Ann Parish YouTube Channel

St. Ann Parish has a YouTube Channel. Here you will find a video of the Daily (Monday – Friday) and Sunday Masses from St. Ann Church. You can also access the Mass from our Facebook page. The Mass is now live-streamed, so you can watch as it is happening. Please see above for this week's schedule. It is amazing, but **hundreds of people every day are watching Mass from St. Ann Church.** This Ministry is helping not only St. Ann parishioners, but is being watched by many others. Our Good Friday Liturgy has had over 1,700 views and Easter Sunday over 2,500 views. Donations to help cover the cost of this endeavor are greatly appreciated. Please call the Parish Office to enquire as to how to help or go to Canadahelps.ca and search for St. Ann Parish, Ancaster. The link to watch the Mass is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiR7MKdwrp8gQcPm7EaCb0Q/featured>

Weekly Donation to St. Ann Parish

Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Ann Parish. I have been so very moved by how many of you are continuing your donation to St. Ann Parish, even in these difficult and uncertain times. Many times, each day, the mail slot on the front door opens and an envelope falls through. Your care and love for St. Ann Parish is visible in your generous giving. May God reward all of you for that love and care for your parish community. Currently there are four methods to make your donation to St. Ann Parish:

- ✚ Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) is a great way to provide your regular offering to our Parish. To register for EFT, call the Parish Office and we will email you the necessary forms.
- ✚ Drop off your weekly envelope by putting it through the mail slot in the Parish Office door.
- ✚ Post-dated cheques. Instead of coming every week, put several post-dated cheques into the same envelope.
- ✚ Online donation: hamiltondiocese.com/covid19parishfund/ works like "Canada Helps" but is through our Diocese and does not take a commission. You can make a one-time donation or schedule a regular donation.

WORK IN THE CHURCH THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE ONE HEART, ONE SOUL CAMPAIGN

The painting of the church is completed. It is beautifully bright and white again. One of our own parishioners generously gifted our parish with the services of his company to repair and paint the interior of our church. Many thanks to him for this great and generous gift. The work on the sound system will be completed this week. After a lot of discussion with the Finance Council, Maintenance Committee as well as the Diocese, we have decided to go ahead and change the carpet now while the church is empty. This work should begin in another week or so. Thank you to all who have stepped up and offered their time and talent to St. Ann Parish. May God reward all of you for your generous service.



YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS BI-WEEKLY ZOOM MEETING



Young Adult
CATHOLICS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our parish Young Adults group has a night every two weeks, where young adults can check-in with each other, hang out, and listen to a talk by Fr. Greg on a particular topic. There are always opportunities for questions during and after the talk. The next Young Adults Zoom night takes place on Friday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to e-mail Father Greg at: gmerkley@hamiltondiocese.com.



Hamilton Diocese

Ordination Class: May 7/94

(left to right): Fr. Wayne Lobsinger, Fr. Martin Bradbury (RIP), Rev. Robert Fead (RIP), Fr. James Petrie, Bishop A.F. Tonnos, Fr. Mike Francis, Fr. Philip Cook (Retired), Rev. Kevin Cull, Fr. Ian Duffy – second largest class in the history of the Diocese of Hamilton.



**Please remember to pray for all our
Healthcare Workers and First Responders,
may our Blessed Lord and Dear Lady keep them safe.**

Image of Jesus the Divine Physician

May Jesus, our Divine Physician, hold all of us tightly in His Loving Arms and bring healing and comfort to all peoples and lands. Amen.



Pope Francis' Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and Blessed Virgin.



QUESTIONS FOR FATHER

got questions



A number of you have asked about the possibility of us producing a video answering questions about the Faith, something similar to Friday's With Father. Fr. Greg and I are happy to make this video, but we need your questions. So, if you have a question about the Faith, have always wondered about some aspect of the Faith or the Church, are curious about Priestly life and ministry or need some aspect of the Church's teaching explained in a fuller manner, here's your chance. Email your questions to: questionsforfather@gmail.com and once we have enough questions to make it worthwhile, we will produce the video. We look forward to your questions and the opportunity to help you grow in your understanding of the great gift of our Catholic Faith. *If there is enough interest, we may even try a group Zoom meeting so we can see each other and interact live, let us know your interest when you email your questions.*



Hamilton Diocese

Ordination Class: May 4, 2019

(left to right): Fr. Gregory Merkley,

Bishop D.D. Crosby, Fr. John Schnurr, Fr. Vivek Trindade

HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY TO FATHER GREGORY MERKLEY, P.V.

Monday, May 4th is Father Greg's First Anniversary of Ordination. We wish Fr. Greg blessings on his anniversary and "multus annos", many years of joy in the service of God, His people, and His Church as a Priest of Jesus Christ. What an honour for us to share in his first year as a Priest.

Happy Anniversary Father Greg!



Our church bells ring each day at 9:00 a.m., Noon and 3:00 p.m.



MILITARY



FIRE FIGHTERS



POLICE



PARAMEDICS



PEACE OFFICERS

Thank you. Merci.

in honour of our Healthcare Workers and First Responders

Catholic Bishops Consecrate Canada and the United States to Mary, Mother of the Church

Ottawa – On **Friday 1 May 2020**, the Catholic Bishops of Canada will consecrate their individual dioceses or eparchies to Mary, Mother of the Church, seeking her protection during the Coronavirus pandemic, similar to what other Episcopal Conferences throughout the world have already done. Along with the Bishops, pastors, families, groups, individuals, and other faith communities may likewise choose to join the consecration as part of the global effort to unite in faith and prayer in this most difficult time.



The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), in fraternal communion with the leadership of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has agreed that this Marian consecration be held on the same day in both countries, making this a most meaningful and powerful intercession throughout North America to the Blessed Mother. The Bishops of Mexico, as well as the other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, consecrated their dioceses and eparchies to Mother Mary this past Easter Sunday. Pope Francis has already offered up a moving Prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection in light of COVID-19 last 11 March 2020.

The first day of May holds particular significance as it marks the beginning an entire month to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. "May is the month dedicated in a special way to the Mother of Christ. We believe that she is, in a spiritual but real sense, our mother too," said the Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg and CCCC President. "We turn to her and ask for the help of her powerful and maternal prayers to God for us. To consecrate ourselves to Mary means to be united with her in entrusting our lives entirely to God."

To assist dioceses and eparchies with the consecration, the CCCC prepared a specific prayer for use during the solemn act of entrustment. It can likewise be incorporated into family or individual prayer at home and used by other groups and faith communities.

Related information will be available on the CCCC website at www.cccb.ca.



Two Great Weapons Against Evil That Can Be Used Everyday:

- 1) Read the Sacred Scriptures
- 2) Pray the Rosary

*Pray every day.
Not only when
there is a crisis.*

Pray

Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter each year is called Good Shepherd Sunday, since the Gospel always refers to Jesus the Good Shepherd. In the Diocese of Hamilton, we have been blessed to have many good "shepherds" after the Heart of Jesus. Please continue to pray that our young men and women will hear God's voice calling them to Priesthood and Consecrated Life and that they will have the courage to respond with generous hearts. Here are a few statistics for the Diocese of Hamilton:



Total Population: 2,313,758

Catholic Population: 658,690

Bishops: 3 – 2 retired

Diocesan Priests: 141 – 44 Retired

Religious Priests: 77 - Representing 18 Religious Communities - 14 retired

Transitional Deacons: 5 – *Ordination to the Priesthood is planned for August 15, 2020*

Permanent Deacons: 48 – 8 retired

Religious Men: 10 – Representing 4 Religious Communities

Religious Women: 193 – Representing 18 Religious Communities.

Consecrated Virgins: 2 – Plus an additional one in formation

Seminarians for the Diocese: 9

Please continue to pray that all our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and Consecrated Women will be faithful to their vows and/or promises and that they will be good shepherds bringing many people into the Kingdom of God.

Catholic Education Week

May 4-8, 2020

Bishop Crosby's letter: <https://youtu.be/UhLJbleNe0Y>

Link for live Mass, May 8, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.: <https://stpats.online.church>

Link for resources from the Diocese: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/cew-2020>

