

Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

- Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock,
A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

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ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 21/22

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What It Means to Witness

Over the past year or so, I have often referred in homilies to all of us who participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays, that we are supposed to and are empowered to witness our Catholic faith with others and not hide it or conceal as merely personal belief. Mark Mallett, who led our recent Lenten Mission, wrote about this very thing recently for those with children, for young adults and older people in how they can be a living witness for Jesus, which is to say, out of your growing love for Him. We are not to keep our faith to ourselves but to make Jesus known and loved. *Fr. Charles*

THE EXPLANATION

(This March 6, 2026 article was stolen from Mark Mallett, by me, Fr. Charles for this March 22nd Bulletin space)

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence...

(1 Peter 3:15)

I am not ashamed of the Gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith.

(Rom 1:16)

Do you know how to share the Gospel? Would you even know what to say? Are you ready to share it, “*whether it is convenient or inconvenient*” (2 Timothy 4:2)?

Over the years, I have heard Catholics say they don’t talk about their faith to others because it’s “private.” Well, your faith is *personal* — but it’s never private.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. (Matthew 5:14, 16)

You might take this passage to mean that all that is necessary is to be a good person. But Jesus *also* commanded the Church to make disciples of the nations, “*teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*”^[1] So it’s not enough to simply fulfill our Sunday obligation and be nice.

...it is not enough that the Christian people be present and be organized in a given nation, nor is it enough to carry out an apostolate by way of good example. They are organized for this purpose, they are present for this: to announce Christ to their non-Christian fellow-citizens by word and example, and to aid them toward the full reception of Christ. —Second Vatican Council, *Ad Gentes*, n.15; vatican.va

These words, no doubt, will stir a number of fears and responses, such as:

- Embarrassment at the thought of talking about Jesus
- Fear of losing friends
- Fear of causing division and controversy
- Fear of being seen as a bible-thumping whacko
- Fear of having to speak if words don’t come easy
- Fear of a lack of knowledge of one’s faith
- Fear of losing one’s job
- Fear of *failing*.

The devil doesn’t have to kill you in order to silence the Gospel; he just has to convince you that it’s better not to rock the boat, to stay in your own lane, to *keep the peace*. But Jesus throws that argument overboard:

Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man ‘against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s enemies will be those of his household.’ (Matthew 10:34-36)

Why? Because... **...this is the verdict: that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.** (John 3:19)

Still, do you want to know what Jesus said *immediately* before saying He came to bring the sword?

Do not be afraid of them... What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops... Everyone who acknowledges Me before others, I will acknowledge before My heavenly Father. (Matthew 10:26-27, 32)

How to Become Unafraid

And here is the secret to becoming unafraid to share the Gospel. It’s not about joining Toastmasters; it’s not about acquiring a degree in theology or reading the Catechism from front to end — as beneficial as these may be. Rather, it’s about knowing Jesus *personally* — daily inviting He, who is love itself, into your heart, for...

...perfect love drives out fear... We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:18-19)

You can’t share what you don’t know; you can’t give what you don’t have. Becoming unafraid is a work done at Christ’s feet in daily prayer, where you will *encounter* His love, His Word, His presence, healing, and power.

...we can be witnesses only if we know Christ first hand, and not only through others — from our own life, from our personal encounter with Christ. Finding him really in our life of faith, we become witnesses... —POPE BENEDICT XVI, Vatican City, January 20th, 2010, *Zenit*

As St. John Paul II said,

...it is not a matter of merely passing on a doctrine, but rather of a personal and profound meeting with the Saviour. —POPE JOHN PAUL II, *Commissioning Families, Neo-Catechumenal Way*, 1991

Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses... —POPE ST. PAUL VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, n. 76.

A teacher shares doctrine; a witness lives it. Hence, one of the most powerful things you can do is to simply share your story, or a part of your story, with another soul. Share how you have experienced the love and power of God; we call this a testimony. The point, especially with unbelievers, is to help them to put their faith in Jesus; to accept Him as their Savior too, and thus, to receive the gift of eternal life.

The following is a basic explanation of the “reason for our hope.” When the time comes, you can articulate its essence in whole or in part in your own context and in your own words, with confidence and joy, as the Holy Spirit leads...

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tue Mar 24 th	Confession
6:00pm	+Josephine Gerynowicz
7:00pm	Requested by Mary Cudney & Family
Wed Mar 25 th	
8:30am	+Mary Little
	Requested by Mary Cudney
Thurs Mar 26 th	
7:30am	HOLY HOUR
8:30am	+Mary Little
	Requested by Marilyn Arseneau
Fri Feb Mar 27 th	
6:30pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00pm	Intentions of the Guerrero Family
Sat Mar 28 th	
8:30am	Intentions of Dr. Mark Quigg
3:00pm	Confession
4:30pm	+Pat Chalmers
	Requested by Nancy & Vince Massa
Sun Mar 29 th	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Yvonne Grimm
	Requested by Trudy Lavieille & Dercilia Furtado

Please Pray for the Sick



Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford, Janine Wright.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY'S PARISH MARCH 22ND TO MARCH 28TH, 2026



Regular Collection Mar 15th

Inc PAG \$4837.00



ShareLife 2026 Goal \$46,000.00

Raised So Far \$ 4,775.00



LENTEEN DAY OF CONFESSIONS

Thursday March 26th, 2026

9:00am to 11:00am

& 6:00pm to 8:00pm



LENTEEN COLLECTION

We have again been approached by Dr. Simone (Canadian Food for Children) to do a Lenten Collection for the poor. Last year we were very successful, and we thought it important to continue with our support. Here are some of the items that they are asking for this year. **Iodized salt, cans of meat and fish, peanut butter, flour, soap bars, toothpaste and tooth brushes, eye glasses, school supplies, NEW socks and shoes, clothing.** We will have totes in the hallway between the church and the hall. We will collect right through the Lenten season. **The last weekend for the collection will be next weekend March 29th.**

5th Sunday of Lent - ShareLife Sunday March 22nd, 2026

ShareLife Celebrates 50 Years | ShareLife Sunday is this weekend

Today is ShareLife Sunday. Special collections will be taking place this weekend on March 22, 2026 marks 50 years since Archbishop Philip Pocock made a bold and compassionate decision that would shape our community for generations: the founding of ShareLife. Building on a legacy of charitable giving in the Archdiocese of Toronto that stretches back to 1927, Archbishop Pocock launched ShareLife in 1976—an appeal rooted in the belief that every life matters, at every stage.

Today, his vision lives on through more than 40 ShareLife-funded agencies providing unconditional care to people in need—regardless of religion, background, or circumstance and through people like you who make their work happen.

Thus far we have raised \$4775.00 toward our goal of \$46,000.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Easter Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate to our Easter Flowers, there are flower envelopes at either entrance to the church.

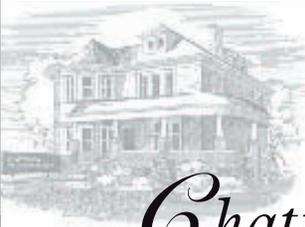


COFFEE SUNDAY

The CWL is hosting Coffee Sunday following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass on this Sunday March 22nd in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to coffee / tea / cookies/refreshments and to meet fellow parishioners

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