



FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4A

God promises Abram a great blessing.

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 1:8B-10

Through God's grace we are called to holiness.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

FAMILY CONNECTION:

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.



- Saturday** **FEBRUARY 28, 2026**
 9:00AM - LINA NUNES (†)
 - BRYONE MELO COTORIES (†)
 - CONCHA TUMANGUIL (†)
5:00 PM **HEALING OF NICK VATALARO**
Sunday **MARCH 1, 2026**
 9:30AM **FOR ALL THE INTENTIONS OF**
 ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISHIONERS
11:15AM **ALFREDO CRUZ (†)**
Monday **MARCH 2, 2026**
WHOLE DAY – PASTOR'S REST DAY
Tuesday **MARCH 3, 2026**
 8:30AM **CARLOS L.ROCHA (†)**
Wednesday **MARCH 4, 2026**
 8:30AM **HILARION BERCASIO SR. (†)**
Thursday **MARCH 5, 2026**
 8:30 **IN THANKSGIVING OF TESSIE MALONZO**
Friday **MARCH 6, 2026**
 8:30am **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR NORA HART**

Possible Lenten Penances

- 1 Prayer-Based Penances (Interior conversion)**
 - Wake up 20 min earlier for silent prayer
 - Daily Gospel reading
 - Pray one decade the Rosary daily
 - Make a weekly Holy Hour
 - Practice 10 min of total silence each day
 - Offer a prayer for someone
- 2 Fasting & Self-Denial (Discipline of the body)**
 - No soft drinks / online shopping
 - One simple meal per day
 - Digital fast: no social media after 8 PM
 - No complaining for one whole day each week
 - No complaining for one whole day
- 3 Almsgiving & Charity (Love in action)**
 - Visit a sick or elderly person weekly
 - Set aside a daily "charity envelope"
 - Perform one hidden act of kindness daily
 - Sponsor a meal for someone in need.
- 4 Character Penances (Interior discipline)**
 - Let others win in arguments
 - Don't interrupt people when they speak
 - Smile even when tired
 - Speak kindly of someone you dislike

Choose a penance that makes you more loving, not just more hungry.

Sacramental Preparation

Encountering Christ Through the Sacraments!

REHEARSALS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

(MIME & STATIONS OF THE CROSS)

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 [Saturday] 3:30PM-4:30PM

CONFIRMATION

(STATIONS OF THE CROSS)

MARCH 1, 2026 [Sunday] 12:30PM-2:00PM

Please hold in your hearts the children and youth of our parish as they joyfully prepare to receive the Sacraments.



March 8 – Building Fund

March 15 – Easter Flowers

March 22 – ShareLife

We kindly ask that you ensure your donation reaches the parish within one month of the collection date. Your generosity is vital, as 100% of the special collection contributions will be sent directly to the Archdiocese of Toronto within that timeframe. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in our community.

THANK YOU
 for sharing your blessings



MARCH 24-27, 2026 (TUESDAY UNTIL FRIDAY)

9:30am-12:00pm or 1:30pm-3:00pm

To avoid disappointment kindly text, call or email the parish office before coming to ensure the pastor is around. The pastor can be called for a funeral or anointing during these times.



Every Friday beginning FEB. 20 UNTIL MARCH 27, 2026

@6:30pm

March 6, 2026 @5pm –Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



THE BLESSED UPPER ROOM

Every Wednesday in Lent starting FEB. 25, 2026 UNTIL APRIL 1, 2026 @6pm. Details are on the parish bulletin boards and website.

March 28-29, 2026 – PALM SUNDAY

REGULAR MASS TIMES

MARCH 31, 2026 – MASS OF CHRISM

NO MASS AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH in lieu of this we will have the morning Mass on MARCH 30th @ 8:30am.

APRIL 2, 2026 – HOLY THURSDAY NO 8:30am Mass

Mass is @ 7:00pm (The Lord's Supper)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

APRIL 3, 2026 – GOOD FRIDAY NO 8:30am Mass

10:00am, 12:00 noon Stations of the Cross

(Led by parish ministries & organizations)

1:00 pm Children's Passion Play

3:00pm-6pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Church is open for visitation from 7:00am until 6:00 pm for private prayers.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

APRIL 4, 2026 – EASTER VIGIL (SATURDAY)

CHURCH CLOSED THE WHOLE DAY UNTIL 6pm.

NO 9:00AM & 5:00PM MASS

7:00pm (Beautiful candle light service)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

APRIL 5, 2026 – EASTER SUNDAY

Regular Mass Schedule (Sunday: 9:30am & 11:15am)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Your Guide to a Grace-Filled Lenten Season

1. What Is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day season of preparation for Easter. It reflects Jesus' 40 days in the desert and is a time of repentance, renewal, and returning to God. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the start of the Easter Triduum.

2. Why Do We Observe Lent?

- To make more room for God in our lives
- To grow in freedom from sin and distraction
- To prepare our hearts for the joy of the Resurrection

3. The Three Pillars of Lent

A. Toward God — Prayer

Deepening our relationship with God

Prayer is:

- A relationship, not just words
- Engaging both mind and heart — our thoughts and our love
- Turning toward God — whether speaking, listening, thanking, or asking

Prayer draws us closer to the One who loves us.

B. Toward Self — Fasting

Intentionally giving something up to increase our dependence on God

Fasting is:

- About detachment, not misery
- A helpful spiritual tool that reveals what we may rely on instead of God
- Letting go of what distracts us so we can turn back to Him

"If the point of fasting were only physical, it would hardly differ from dieting. The purpose of fasting is spiritual, to bring order to our interior life." — Pope Francis

C. Toward Others — Almsgiving

Charitable action and love in practice

Almsgiving is:

- Love in action — not just good intentions
- Giving of our time, talent, and treasure
- Choosing generosity over comfort so we can love like Jesus

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

May this Lenten season be a time of grace, growth, and renewal for us all.

Despite our best efforts, minor oversights may occur — nobody is perfect. We ask for your understanding and invite everyone to stay focused on what truly matters: our faith, our community, and our shared mission. -FZS