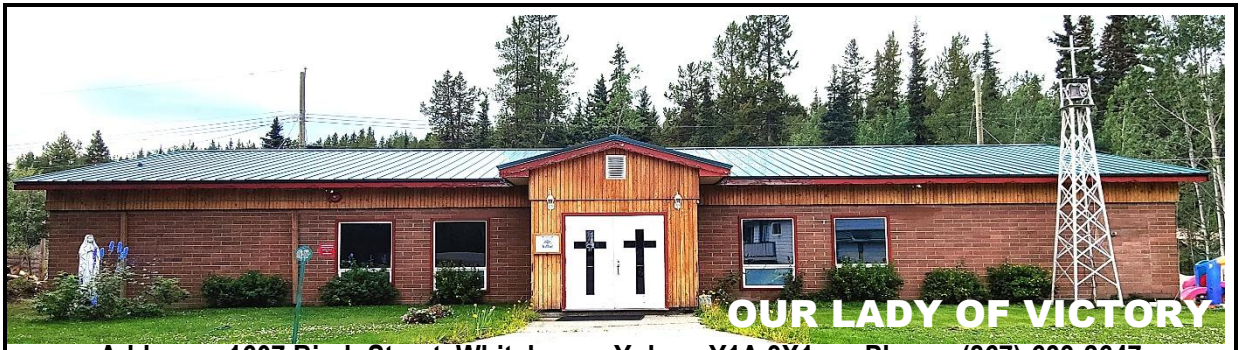


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2st SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH UPDATES- 01 MARCH 2026

PARISH MINISTRY

Mass Intentions/Activities

28Feb		**6.30pm**		**04Mar**	Wed	**6:00pm**	
		7.30 pm		**05Mar**	Thu	**6.00pm**	**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,**
01Mar	Sun	**10.00am**	All parishioners	**06Mar**	Fri	**6.00pm**	**Stations of the Cross**
02Mar	Mon	**5.00pm**	First Holy Communion Class	**07Mar**	Sat	**6.30pm**	
		6:00pm	Holy Mass				
03Mar	Tue	**6.00pm**	The Pastoral Visit of Bishop Hector			**7:30pm**	

Syro-Malabar Holy Mass on the 1st and 3rd Saturday at 7:30 PM. Adoration every Friday after Holy Mass.

SCHEDULE OF CONFESSIONS

Confession will be available every day before Holy Mass. Confession times is Monday to Friday from 5:30 to 6:00 pm, Saturday from 6:00 to 6:30 pm, and Sunday from 9:15 to 10:00 am

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THEME: "TRANSFORMATION AND TRUST IN GOD."

Mass Readings for Today

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4 The calling of Abraham, father of the people of God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20+22 (R22) Let your love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you.

Second Reading: 2Timothy 1.8b-10 *Let your love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you.*

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 "*Jesus' face shone like the sun."*

This Sunday the Lord calls us to look honestly at our hearts, for our words and actions reveal what lives within us. As Lent approaches, we are invited to true repentance and a sincere return to Christ, our firm foundation. Rooted in Him through prayer, confession, and the Eucharist, we can bear the lasting fruit of faithful lives.

SEASON OF LENT: 18th February (Ash Wednesday) to 2nd April (Holy Thursday)

Lent is the yearly celebration of the Church of its corporate conversion in Jesus Christ. During Lent, the liturgy prepares the catechumens to celebrate the Paschal Mystery by the various stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful for Easter as they recall their Baptism and do penance in preparation for the greatest Feast of the year. (GNLY, no. 27; Ordo 2025-2026)

Let us prepare our hearts as the Season of Lent approaches, for we are invited once again to enter a sacred time of reflection, prayer, and renewal. Lent is more than a period of giving up; it is a journey of the heart toward God—a time to grow in awareness of His mercy, to deepen our faith, and to live more fully the call of discipleship.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – WALKING WITH CHRIST

The **Stations of the Cross invite us to journey with Jesus from His condemnation to His burial**. Each station is a moment to reflect on His love, sacrifice, and mercy, and to examine our own lives in light of His suffering. **We have the Stations of the Cross every Friday, immediately after the Holy Mass**. All parishioners are invited to join this devotion as we meditate on the Passion, suffering, and death of our Lord. Let us walk with Christ, renew our faith, and deepen our devotion together.

PASTORAL VISIT OF BISHOP HECTOR

I am happy to inform you that our Bishop, **Bishop Hector**, will be making his pastoral visit to our parish from March 3 to March 8. During these days, he will celebrate Holy Mass, meet with parish groups and spend time with our community. This is a special blessing for our parish and a beautiful opportunity for us to welcome our shepherd. We kindly encourage all parishioners to participate actively in the liturgical celebrations and programs during his visit. Let us keep Bishop Hector and our parish in our prayers as we prepare for this joyful occasion.

LENTEN SCHEDULE UPDATE

The holy season of **Lent**, the following changes will be observed in our parish schedule: **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is shifted to **every Thursday immediately after the Holy Mass** and **Stations of the Cross** will take place **every Friday immediately after the Holy Mass**.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN

Parents who are interested in preparing their children for the Sacraments of **First Holy Communion and Confirmation** for the coming year are requested to register their names with the parish. This will help us to plan the program and arrange the necessary materials and books.

HOLY THURSDAY – WASHING OF THE FEET

On **Holy Thursday**, during the celebration of the Lord's Supper, we will have the **Washing of the Feet**, remembering how Jesus humbly washed the feet of His twelve disciples as a sign of love and service. We are looking for **12 parishioners** who are willing to participate in this meaningful and beautiful ritual. If you are interested, please kindly write your name on the sign-up form placed at the entrance of the church. Thank you for your willingness to serve and to take part in this special celebration.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

07Mar. Ferial: St. Perpetua - Courageous young mother who chose faith over life during Roman persecution; kept a prison diary — one of the earliest writings by a Christian woman; stood bravely in the arena, inspiring others with her unwavering devotion, bravery and witness of God. ***St. Felicity -*** Loyal companion and fellow martyr, a pregnant slave who gave birth in prison, fearless witness of faith, showing that courage is not bound by status, shared the ultimate sacrifice alongside Perpetua, exemplifying friendship and solidarity in Christ.

MESSAGE OF LEO XIV

FOR LENT 2026

Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone. In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (*Ex* 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church." [1]

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity." [2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because

"those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly." [3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic." [4]

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends,

Let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr