

SAINT HEDWIG'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Michal Pajak, O.M.I., Pastor

Br. Grzegorz Loska, O.M.I., Resident Pastoral Assistant

Fr. Jerry Gauvreau, C.C., Part-time Associate Pastor

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Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. - Noon & 1 - 2 p.m.



Confessions: 15 minutes before Mass and other times (see below) • **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Monday to Friday, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. • Sundays, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Recitation of the Rosary:** 30 minutes before each Mass
Last Week's Attendance: 5 p.m.:116; 8 a.m.:135; 11 a.m.:199; Total: 450

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8th, 2026

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| Monday March 9 | St. Frances of Rome, Religious 8:00 a.m. Healing of the Family Tree by a parishioner 4:30 p.m. Intentions of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College |
| Tuesday March 10 | Ferial 8:00 a.m. Intentions of Robert Zilney by a friend |
| Wednesday March 11 | Ferial 8:00 a.m. +Agatha & Paul Beanish & sisters & brothers by Sally & family 12:00 p.m. +Percy Coulas by Andrew & Catherine Etmanski |
| Thursday March 12 | Ferial 8:00 a.m. +Jennifer Beckie by Mervin & Michelle Merkowsky |
| Friday March 13 | Ferial 8:00 a.m. Stoppa family, living & deceased by Stoppa family 5:00 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross [Led by the Altar-Servers] |
| Saturday March 14 | Ferial 8:00-8:45 a.m. Confessions 9:00 a.m. +Jan Zasowski by Mark & Alexandra Zasowski |

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15th, 2026

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| Saturday | 4:00 - 4:45 p.m Confessions 5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Coulas & Visneskie families by Eddie & Eleanor |
| Sunday | 8:00 a.m. +Dominic, Helen, Ronnie, Susan, Lorne & Delmar by Lornie & Aileen 11:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parishioners |

| Sunday (March 15th, 2026) Fourth Sunday of Lent | 5:00 p.m. | 8:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. |
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| Readers of the Word | Mary Yantha | Marek Milan | John Paul Shaw |
| Holy Communion | Deacon Robert Probert | Deacon Jean-Nil Chabot | Br. Grzegorz Loska, OMI |
| Ushers | Duncan Barber (crew captain) and ushers | Stanley Rumleskie (crew captain) and ushers | Daniel Shalla (crew captain) and ushers |

Offerings: Last Sunday: \$5,365.60; Building Maintenance: \$1958.00; Heat & Fuel: \$480.00; Flowers: \$100.00; Easter: \$10.00

Let us pray for the sick and dying in our parish community, that God will touch them with his Love and Mercy.

Let us also pray for George Patrick Black, son of John & Clare who was welcomed into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, March 1st, 2026.

Important Notice! There will be a parish meeting as a follow-up to the deanery meeting. This meeting is open to all members of St. Hedwig's Parish. It will take place on Thursday, March 12, at 6:00 pm, in the parish hall. The purpose of the meeting is to reflect on the information shared at the deanery meeting, and to discuss how the parish should respond, both in the short term and in the long term.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!

Journey through Lent Series: As we journey through Lent 2026, the Third Sunday of Lent video of the series titled "Journey through Lent" is now available on the CCCB website: <https://www.cccb.ca/lent/>

Lenten Lamentation: After the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Sundays during Lent, there will be a Lenten Lamentation or Gorkkie Żale in Polish.

Euchre: The next Euchre games will be held on Sunday March 8th 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00.

Income Tax Receipts: A reminder there are still a few income tax receipts for pick up at the back of the church.

Altar-Server Training: As a reminder, Altar-server training will continue each second Saturday of the month. Starting March 14th (**Please note change of previously announced date**) it will happen after the 5pm Mass and will include pizza dinner and a movie in the church hall. New servers welcome.

Domestic Church Sunday Coffee: Coffee and snacks will be served in the church basement by the Domestic Church group immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday March 15th. Come enjoy a hot drink and something to eat while getting to know your fellow parishioners a little better! Coffee and snacks for this event are being prepared by members of the Domestic Church, donations are welcome. All parishioners are invited.

Christian Mothers: The Confraternity of Christian Mothers (and all women with motherly hearts) is meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. New members welcome. Date of the next meeting: March 17th.

The Knights of Columbus: Knights of Columbus Meeting: The next meeting is on Wednesday March 18th. Rosary at 7:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:30 at St. Jerome's meeting room.

Lenten Retreat at St. Hedwig's: On March 22 thru 24 a retreat will take place by Fr. Marcin Serwin, who will celebrate and preach at all the Masses on Sunday, and Monday & Tuesday at the 8am Masses. Fr. Marcin is the Superior of the Provincial House in Toronto and the Vicar Provincial. He also heads the Youth Ministry in the Polish Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. As part of the retreat, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered **Monday at 6:00 p.m.** A few priests will be available to hear confessions. The **Anointing of the Sick** will be administered to all who are ill, advanced in age, or preparing for surgery to receive this sacrament of healing and strength on **Tuesday, March 24th**, during the morning Mass.

2026 Women's Retreat Combermere: All women are warmly invited to a weekend retreat at Elim Lodge, March 13-15, 2026; \$365(696 Elim Lodge Rd. Lakehurst, Ontario K0L 1J0). Led by the team from Madonna House – Shatzi Duffy and Fr. Zach Romanowsky. Register Here: <https://forms.gle/kazuMJt1RUZbHr9M8>. For more information, please call Astrid (Elim retreat) at 905 377-0688.

Pysanky Workshop: Karen Hanlon will be offering a pysanky workshop on Saturday, March 21 from 1:00pm - 5:00 pm in St. Mary's Classroom at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College. The cost is \$25 (\$15 for students). All materials will be provided. To register please email Karen at k.t.m.hanlon@gmail.com.

CBBR: Are you a college or high-school student looking to join front-line baby-saving work in Canada? The CBBR is currently hiring for their paid, full-time summer Internship program and they warmly invite you to apply and join them! Each intern is given world-class training in street-tested apologetics, preparing them to step outside their comfort zone and grow as they defend Pre-Born children on street corners and doorsteps across our country. In addition to making Canada more pro-life, CBBR interns make lifelong friendships and grow in their communication and leadership skills, which interns have consistently found to be incredibly valuable for all sorts of future endeavours. Application forms can be found at endthekilling.ca/internships.

From Fr. Michal:

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

1) Exodus 17:3-7

2) Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

3) John 4:5-42

What does Paul mean when he writes: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

It helps to remember and understand that faith and salvation are not something we can achieve on our own, but are God's freely given gift. That does not mean we are mere puppets in a cosmic salvation show, or passive recipients of God's actions. The truth is, that with free will, our actions and choices – our commitment to Gospel living – does matter before God.

But Paul didn't stop at telling us that we have been justified. He went on to say that we now have hope and access to grace. Because we have been justified, we can boast: For God's love has been poured out into our hearts, reconciling us to him. In other words, because of what Christ has done by his death and resurrection, we have hope – hope for an eternal life in God. It is a confidence that, at the moment of judgment, God will not prove hostile to those who are faithful and in a state of grace, but his mercy will pour forth like water, giving life to all who believe in him.

The image of mercy flowing like water is present in today's Gospel, where Jesus encounters the woman at the well. From the start, we know this is no ordinary meeting: It is with a Samaritan with a mixed marital history, spurned by others such that she must come to the well at the hottest time of day, when no one else is there.

But there is someone there: Jesus. And despite her situation and cultural conventions, it is Jesus who first speaks to her. And what a conversation it is! For in looking at where the woman "is," spiritually, at the start and again at the end, it is almost like two different people. This simple encounter with Jesus radically changes her. Into the desert of her sinful, sad and lonely existence Jesus pours the fast-flowing water of God's mercy and love.

Initially, she so easily misunderstands his words; she cannot let go of her limited understanding of water. Her very questions and replies betray this failure to understand what Jesus is saying on a much deeper level. And yet Jesus gently affirms and brings to the surface her deepest need – to drink from the waters of salvation – to be renewed in her relationship with God and her community.

She slowly begins to hear his message, and moves from being a woman of great suspicion to one who rushes to tell others that she has met the Messiah. Look how she describes Jesus: first a Jew, then Sir, then a prophet and finally, the Christ. Along the way she is changed from being an outsider/sinner to an evangelist.

Like the woman at the well, we, too, are seeking the living water of God's mercy. Lent invites us to be more purposeful in our efforts, as it reminds us that God is also seeking us. He is taking the initiative to engage us so that we might experience this flowing water, and so live in ways that are worthy of him. This is our hope and our faith. With God's help, we pray that God's flowing water will wash us clean and refresh us today and always.