



# Monday Memo

Diocese of Thunder Bay

News ♦ Notices ♦ Upcoming Events

March 4, 2024

**Cleansing:** In the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Lent, we hear of the cleansing of the temple by Jesus. This event can help us to reflect on what might need some cleansing in our own lives. Our Lenten journey is one of prayer and renewal. We could ask what in my life keeps me away from my prayer or my relationship with Jesus? The first reading of the Mass reminds us of the Ten Commandments. We can use these as a guide to help us see where we need some personal cleansing in order to strengthen my relationship with Jesus and with one another. We remember the commandments are summed up in "Loving God and loving our neighbour".

**LENTEN RETREAT:** with Fr. Terry Sawchuk at St Andrews parish on Monday, March 4th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Baxter Hall. The theme for the retreat is "The Way of the Cross; 14 Principles for Personal Growth." All are welcome, but seating is limited so please call the Parish Office at (807) 345-5202 to register. Please bring a non-perishable food donation in support of the Dew Drop Inn soup kitchen.

**Diocese of Thunder Bay Cursillo Secretariat:** March 6th<sup>th</sup>. We meet at Corpus Christie Church, 7p.m., side door and downstairs, for music, faith sharing and fellowship.

**Knights of Columbus Spaghetti & Meatballs Take-Out:** March 7, 2024 - 2:00pm – 5:30pm, 301 May Street, 807-623-3252

**St. Andrew's Parish** is holding a ST. PADDY'S DAY BRUNCH on **Sunday, March 17th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in Saunders Hall. The cost is \$20 and children under 5 years of age eat for free. For more information, please call 807 345-5202 or check out the Events page on the website: [www.standrewrc.ca](http://www.standrewrc.ca). All are welcome.

**CHRISM MASS:** the blessing of the holy oils and the renewal of priestly service will take place at the Chrism Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and share in this special moment of prayer and renewal with Bishop Colli and the priests of the diocese.

**Sacred Medicine Series - Tobacco** - is considered the most sacred of the Indigenous sacred medicines, used in virtually every ceremony as a means of connecting directly to the Creator. Tobacco is also thought to be the first plant given to the Indigenous people by the Creator. Because of this, tobacco is most frequently used as an offering, either to give thanks, to make a request for wisdom or protection, or as a means of cleansing. Traditional tobacco was given to us so that we can communicate with the spirit world. It opens the door to allow that communication to take place. When we make an offering of tobacco, we communicate our thoughts and feelings through the tobacco as we pray for ourselves, our family, relatives, and others. When you seek the help and advice of an Elder, Healer or Medicine Person, and give your offering of tobacco, they know that a request may be made as tobacco is so sacred. A gift of traditional tobacco is a sign of respect and may be offered when asking for help, guidance, or protection. In many teachings, the smoke from burned tobacco has a purpose of carrying thoughts and prayers to the spirit world or to the Creator.