

IN OUR PARISH

Be My Disciples ~ Another Year Comes to an End

This weekend we celebrate our last Children's Gathering and Family Mass for this school year.

Thank you to:

<i>Carmela Vespa</i>	<i>Valerie Luzio</i>	<i>Raimonda Damiani</i>	<i>Andrea Lavergne</i>
<i>Nadine Cosentino</i>	<i>Elisa Balleine</i>	<i>Beata Nawacki</i>	<i>Audra Kruszewski</i>
<i>Brenda Garcia</i>	<i>Anna Romano</i>	<i>Grace Smith</i>	
<i>Marilyn Baron</i>	<i>Patricia Smith</i>	<i>Gloria Odorizzi</i>	

our volunteer catechists who, as good role models of faith, have helped our children deepen their relationship with Jesus.

We are grateful that you have shared the goodness in you with the young people of our parish!

'Celebration of First Communion and Confirmation

Although our formal Be My Disciples lessons for the year are ended, the coming weeks will continue to be an eventful one highlighted by the reception of sacraments. On Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:30 Mass 31 children will receive their First Communion. Following that, Saturday, May 30th the sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred upon 21 young people during the 5pm Mass. As a parish community let us pray for all our young people as they take these important steps of sacramental initiation on their journey of faith.

"Volunteers are Part of the Ripple Effect"

A volunteer action is like a stone thrown in a lake: its effect has a direct impact. At the same time, like ripples, volunteer efforts reach out far and wide to improve communities, including parish communities. Undeniably, volunteers rock!

As National Volunteer Week draws to a close, we would like to thank the volunteers who "rock" our parish. This includes those engaged in liturgical ministries: choir members, lectors, hospitality ministers, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers; catechists and leaders of Children's Liturgy; those who volunteer their time in our social justice programs such as the meals served Benedict Labré house & the volunteers who assist us in our parish administration office. Your contribution to the parish is invaluable. Thank you! May the Lord continue to bless you in all you do.

Celebrating Our Parish Feast Day

Sunday May 17th is the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord this year and the patronal feast of our parish. Following 10:30 Mass we will gather with fellow parishioners to partake in a small celebration of the day. We invite you to add to the festivities by contributing some party sandwiches or cookies & squares for all to enjoy. Next weekend, sign-up sheets will be available at the back of the church. Thank you!

REFLECTION



Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger on the road of life. That is one of the elements in today's gospel which is the conclusion to the Emmaus story. When I was a student in Dublin writing about Luke's depiction of women in his second volume, I would often take a detour on my way home to visit the National Gallery of Ireland. Velázquez' remarkable oil painting, Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus captured and held my attention. In his painting, the kitchen maid pauses from her tasks to listen, through the window between kitchen and dining area, to the conversation between Jesus and the disciples. The disciples have not

yet recognised the companion they had encountered on the road from Jerusalem. Velázquez seems to be suggesting that the young slave woman has sensed what they have still to discover.

Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and possibly his wife) on the road from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. On their journey, they encounter the risen Jesus. At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his death has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes. He engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts "burn" within them as he opens to them the meaning of their sacred scriptures. They invite him to share a meal with them and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the breaking of the bread. He disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that Jesus is alive.

Cleopas and partner go straight back to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples. All the assembled disciples now experience powerfully the presence of Jesus in their midst. They share a meal with him. He opens their minds to understand the scriptures. Everything falls into place. They not only understand Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They now know that they will be "clothed with power from on high" to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery, and to preach forgiveness to all peoples "beginning from Jerusalem".

Luke will open the Acts of the Apostles with the story of Jesus sending the disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We who re-member these events in every Eucharistic celebration are both the recipients and the bearers of that message. If we allow our hearts to "burn" within us, we too may recognise the Risen One in our gatherings and become "witnesses to the ends of the earth". A new consciousness of what is happening to our planet might permit us to extend our witness beyond the human to the whole Earth community.

Veronica Lawson RSM

IN THE DIOCESE

The Loyola Mothers' Guild Members Tea

Loyola has a rich traditional of graduating Men for Others. Consistent with that tradition, many Women for Others have given of their time and talents, over the last 45 years, by serving on The Loyola Mothers' Guild. All women who have served on the Loyola Mothers' Guild, past and present, are invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship and sharing **Sunday, April 19th** from 1-3 pm in the Casey Lounge. Enjoy refreshments; share memories and experiences; sign the newly created Mothers' Guild log book. Hope to see you there! Please pass on to any past Mothers' Guild members. RSVP by April 16 by sending an e-mail: mothersguild@loyola.ca

West Island Women's Retreat

The theme will be JOY - in our Lives and our Churches and will be hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. Every woman needs some quiet time when she can stop, reflect and turn to God; a time when she can think through the priorities of her life without those inevitable interruptions and those seemingly endless demands on her time and energy; a time for renewing herself mentally, physically and spiritually. Women of all Christian faiths seeking time with God are welcome. This silent, directed retreat will be held from **Friday, April 24 to Sunday April 26** at Ermitage Ste-Croix (21269 Gouin Blvd. West, Pierrefonds Cost is \$145 with partial bursaries available. Contact Liz Glasgow at 514-453-0883.

Ignatian Spirituality Centre: Messiah Trap—When Helping You is Hurting Me

With Cathie Macaulay on Saturday, **May 2** from 9am-3pm (4567 West Broadway, Montreal). This workshop explores seven common styles of being a "Messiah" and some of the ways in which we can become aware of unhealthy patterns in our helping relationships. The course also looks at healthy models of Christian service and leadership. In an interactive way, students will explore the balance in their own lives of service, and increase awareness of how to make decisions and find balance in their busy lives. Cost is \$60. For more information or to register, please contact the Ignatian Centre at 514-481-1064 or centre@ignatiancentremtl.ca.

Hearing God in Others: A Listening Skills Course

A 6-session course designed to develop a spirituality of listening. Ideal for those involved in the pastoral care of the elderly, the sick and young adults. Basic skills for fostering communication in family relationships will be developed. The course uses a highly interactive, hands-on approach, with theoretical concepts applied through role-play, prayerful reflection and other exercises. With Cathie Macaulay & Elizabeth Koessler; **April 14, 21, 28 & May 12, 19, 26 at 7:30 pm**. Cost: \$120.

MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday, April 18th 2015

Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin
(Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21)
5:00 Sally Donohue Bobkowicz
by Andrea & Aidan Bobkowicz

Sunday, April 19th 2015

Third Sunday of Easter
(Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5;
Luke 24:35-48)
10:30 Mary Harty by Ann & Louis Mallette

Monday, April 20th 2015 No Mass

(Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29)

Tuesday, April 21st 2015

St. Anselm
(Acts 7:51-8:1; John 6:30-35)
5:00 Vito Raggusio by the Flynn Family
through the Intercession
of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Wednesday, April 22nd 2015

(Acts 8:1-8; John 6:35-40)

Thursday, April 23rd 2015

St. George, St. Adalbert
(Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51)
9:00 Mary Harty by the Ouellette Family

Friday, April 24th 2015

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
(Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59)

Saturday, April 25th 2015

St. Mark, Evangelist
(1 Peter 5:5-14; Mark 16:15-20)
5:00 Ted Neville
by Joyce MacNamara & Kieran

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

MONDAY 6:00 PM

Christian Meditation in the Choir room.
For information call 514-931-5536

THURSDAY 7:30 PM

Choir Practice in the Choir Room

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**You are not forgotten**

If you, or a loved one, are not able to come to church, we would be happy to come to you, have a little chat and bring you the Lord in Holy Communion. Let us know by calling the parish office (932-3131) and we will get to you ASAP.

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Parish Donations

You can now make your donations to our parish ONLINE through **CanadaHelps**. It is a convenient way to donate to our parish even when you are away. The process is simple and you receive your Tax e-receipt immediately. Donations may be made using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, PayPal or Interact. Go to the parish website (www.ascensionofourlord.ca) and click on the button "EVERY DOLLAR HELPS" on the main page for instructions. Thank you for your generosity and God bless you.

