

IN OUR PARISH



Advent Mass of Concern

This weekend we show our concern for our less fortunate neighbours through donations to our annual “Advent Mass of Concern” In your Sunday envelopes, you will find one specific for this Mass. If you do not have Sunday envelopes, a basket containing specially marked envelopes, “Advent Mass of

Concern” will be available at the entrances to the church. Both cash and cheques are accepted. Cheques should be made out to Ascension of Our Lord Parish. Your generosity in supporting our Advent project will help feed and shelter the homeless and poor this Christmas.

**“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and the Lord will repay him for his good deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)**

Benedict Labré House: Thanks to Our Volunteers

On Sunday November 29th, we served approximately 90 people lunch at Benedict Labre. We were able to leave extras for meals later in the week. With additional donations from our generous congregation, we bought 105 short sleeved undershirts, razors and toothbrushes Thank you to all of you who cooked, donated money or served. You make a difference in these people’s lives. Our next meal will be January 24th. For more information on Benedict Labré please go on their website: www.benedictlabre.org

A Note from our Pastor: Parish Refugee Project

As you are aware, around the globe hundreds of thousands of people live in countries not their own. These include Christians who have been forced from their homes and persecuted for their faith, facing unbelievably harsh conditions, torture, bombardment and isolation. Many are traumatized, separated from family and forced to live in refugee camps under horrendous circumstances. Many fled Iraq and Syria and are living in camps and shelters in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. These displaced refugees deserve a better way of life and need our compassion and assistance.

The Diocese of Montreal set up a Refugee Office to support parishes willing to sponsor a refugee or a refugee family. For several weeks a few of our parishioners, along with me, have engaged in discussions with the Diocesan representative to sponsor a refugee. Numerous parishioners have been approached and we have accumulated sufficient funds to meet the minimum requirements set by the Government in order to begin the initial process of sponsoring a refugee. Last week the forms were signed with the approval of the Wardens and hopefully we will be able to soon welcome this potential refugee, a young woman. A close family friend living in Montreal is willing to lodge her in her home when she arrives.

We would like to invite all parishioners to participate in this project by donating whatever amount you can which will allow us to achieve our full sponsorship requirement.

I am so grateful to those who have already given so that we would be able to begin the process. May the Lord reward your generosity and kindness.

Fr. MacEachen

REFLECTION

Joyful Anticipation

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is time, the prophet Baruch says, “to take off your robe of mourning and misery,” for God is leading his people “with his mercy and justice for company.” God’s people “are wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,” and they “will be named by God forever the peace of justice.”

Paul, too, speaks of joyful anticipation, of waiting for “the day of Christ Jesus.” He encourages the Philippians to grow in “love, understanding, wealth of experience, clear conscience, and blameless conduct,” and he concludes with a wish: “that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you.”

The message of John the Baptist is to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, to make straight the windings and to make smooth the rough ways.

We need a “baptism of repentance,” a cleansing from the old ways of “greed and darkness” and a commitment to a new way of living. We need to challenge the wisdom of the world in the way it was challenged by that prophet in the desert.

“While we are warned that it profits a man nothing if he gain the whole world and lose himself, the expectation of a new earth must not weaken but rather stimulate our concern for cultivating this one. For here grows the body of a new human family, a body which even now is able to give some kind of foreshadowing of the new age.” (Vatican II, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 1965: 39)

Gerald Darring, <http://liturgy.slu.edu>



Advent Penitential Service

On Saturday, December 19th from 11:00am to 12:00 noon we will have a short Advent penance service followed by confession. Two priests will be available to hear your confessions in preparation for Christmas.

Christmas Flowers to Decorate the Church

All are invited to make a donation in the name of loved ones toward the purchase of flowers to decorate our church for the Christmas season. Donations should be received at the latest by December 17th in order to allow us to plan the decor of the church during this holy season.



Christmas Eve Children’s Gospel Pageant

All children whose families will be attending the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service are invited to participate in the Children’s Gospel Pageant. Visiting nieces, nephews and cousins are also welcome! The deadline to sign up is Thursday December 17th in order to allow us time to arrange to have sufficient costumes on hand. A short rehearsal will be held following Mass on Sunday, December 20th. For more info. or to register contact Linda Wiltshire at the parish office (Mon. & Thurs.) or by email at wiltshirecl@msn.com

IN THE DIOCESE

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: Merciful Like the Father



This holy year will commence on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016. We are encouraged by Pope Francis to look upon this special year as a time of consolation, forgiveness and conversion. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God, and the Church is the house where everyone is welcomed and no one is rejected. Her doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace may find the assurance of forgiveness.

Archbishop Christian Lépine invites you to join him on Saturday, December 12 at 7:30pm at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral to celebrate the opening of the Door of Mercy, through which each and every one of us is welcome to step. The Door of Mercy at the Cathedral will be open every day throughout the year, and certain other churches will also open a Door of Mercy to fully experience this year of grace.

Visit the website for the Jubilee of Mercy for more resources:
<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

Let us Pray for Peace: Bilingual Ecumenical Hour of Prayer

The events of the recent weeks have shocked humankind as a whole. Saddened and angered by the violent loss of innocent life, let us come together in prayer to God. We invite you to join us for a bilingual ecumenical hour of prayer for peace in the world, **December 9, at 7.30 pm**, at Notre-Dame de Bon Secours Chapel (400 rue Saint-Paul Est, Métro Champ-de-Mars). For more information call 514 282-8670 or go to www.marguerite-bourgeois.com

Women's Day Retreat

The monthly Women's Day Retreat will be held **Wednesday December 9** at Villa Saint-Martin, (9451 Gouin Blvd. W., Pierrefonds). Registration: 9:15 a.m. Animator: Sr. Pat O'Neill, SNJM. Thought-provoking presentations with references to Scriptural passages and the works of renowned spiritual writers; relevant music and songs; quiet time for personal reflection and prayer; sharing for those who wish to participate. ALL women welcome. Please bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Suggested donation: \$15.00. Pre-registration not required. Info.: (514) 684-1290.

Advent Retreat Day ~ St. John Brébeuf Parish

All are invited to spend Saturday, December 19, 9am-4pm (855 Bishop Power, LaSalle) with Deacon Robin Cheung. The theme of the day will be: The W5 of "Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful." - Luke 6:36. Cost is \$10 which includes lunch and refreshments. Registration required by December 15. Please contact Dawn at 514-336-0131 x223.

MASSES

Saturday, December 5th 2015

(Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26)
 5:00 Katherine Roy by Simonne Clarke

Sunday, December 6th 2015

Second Sunday of Advent
 (Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6)
 10:30 Louise McEntyre West by Joan Shideler

Monday, December 7th 2015

St. Ambrose
 (Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26)

Tuesday, December 8th 2015

The Immaculate Conception
 of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 (Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38)
 9:00 Eileen and John McElroy
 by Joan Lamontagne and Family

Wednesday, December 9th 2015

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
 (Isaiah 40: 25-31; Matthew 11:28-30)

Thursday, December 10th 2015 No Mass

(Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15)

Friday, December 11th 2015

St. Damasus I, pope
 (Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19)
 9:00 Mr. & Mrs. R.J. McCauley, Sr.
 by Constance O'Donnell

Saturday, December 12th 2015

Our Lady of Guadalupe
 (Zechariah 2:10-13; Luke 1:39-47)
 5:00 Enrico Avoli, 40th Anniversary of Death
 by the Family

ACTIVITIES

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

SATURDAY 3:30PM
"Be My Disciples"
Children's Gathering & Family Mass (5:00 PM)

Parish Meeting ~Election of Warden

A meeting of all parishioners will be held in the Parish Room this Sunday, December 6th following the 10:30 Mass for the purpose of electing two new Church Wardens.

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.

Parish Donations

Did you know that parish donations can be made ONLINE through CanadaHelps. The process is simple & 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 main page button "EVERY DOLLAR HELPS" for instructions. Thank you for your generosity.