

IN OUR PARISH

Election of Wardens

At a Meeting of parishioners held last Sunday December 6th, two parishioners were elected to serve as wardens at Ascension. Congratulations to Janet Macklem, who was re-elected for a second term and to Louise MacLellan, elected to serve on the Board beginning January 1st, 2016. I would like to thank Don Taddeo for his dedication to the parish, having served as a warden for two consecutive terms, a total of 6 years. His service was much appreciated.

Advent Mass of Concern

Have you shared in the parish Advent project by contributing to our Mass of Concern? Many of our less fortunate neighbours depend on our help for money to purchase food and other necessities at Christmas as well as throughout the year. Donation envelopes for this good work of the parish are still available at the doors of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

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 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

Parish Refugee Project

As mentioned last weekend, for several weeks a few of our parishioners, along with Fr. MacEachen, engaged in discussions with the Diocesan Refugee Office to sponsor a Syrian refugee. Numerous parishioners were approached and we accumulated sufficient funds to meet the minimum requirements set by the Government in order to begin the initial process of sponsoring a refugee. With the approval of the Wardens the forms were signed and hopefully we will be able to soon welcome a young woman. A close family friend living in Montreal is willing to lodge her in her home when she arrives. We are grateful to those who so generously donated which enabled us to begin the process.

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.

REFLECTION

In the fast-paced and sometimes scary world we live in, a message telling us to have no anxiety can make us stop in our tracks. No anxiety, we might think. What about my job, my family, politics, war, destruction? How can I not be anxious? Today's second reading gives us a bit of a game plan for reducing anxiety, a map for us to find our way as we prepare the birth of Christ.



Rejoice. And then rejoice again. Rejoice always. That's what we often lose when we get caught up in life. We lose the joy of knowing that God loves us and watches over us. Find joy in prayer. Find joy in God's creation. Find God in the people we meet.

Be kind. Sometimes in the rush of life, we forget the power of a smile, a helpful hand, a kind word. The power of a small act of kindness is that that one act can reverberate, sending out ripples of kindness. Life's frustrations often make us want to lash out at people, often not the people we are frustrated with. Perhaps things aren't going as we planned. Embrace the new plan. Find joy and kindness where you didn't expect to find it.

Be thankful. The rush of everyday life often leaves us in a whirl of busy-ness. We do need to accomplish our goals, to create a good life for our families and ourselves. But we can't lose sight of God. A deep breath, a whispered thanks can help ease that anxiety.

Pray. Find the peace of God to "guard your hearts and minds."

In today's Gospel, we get more stops on that map to help us find our way. In the reading from Luke, John the Baptist tells the crowd if they have two cloaks, to give away one. John tells them to be fair and honest and to wait for the one who is coming.

Let's rejoice, be kind, be thankful and pray that we find our way to the peace of Jesus Christ.

Carol Zuegner, <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu>



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.

IN THE DIOCESE

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: Merciful Like the Father

On Tuesday, December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis inaugurated the extraordinary jubilee Holy Year of Mercy, which will end Nov. 20, 2016, the feast of Christ the King. "I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy," the pontiff said during a homily at a Vatican reconciliation service. "It is a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this year in the light of the Lord's words: 'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful' (Lk 6:36)." Visit the website for the Jubilee of Mercy for more resources: <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

**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.

St. Monica's Parish: Living with Limits, Living Well!

Pope Francis's encyclical "Praise Be To You" calls for swift action on climate change, and challenges us to live in harmony with all creation and to practice true stewardship. Led by members of the Faith and Justice Committee, a seven-week study Thursday evenings, January 7 to February 18, 2016, from 7pm to 9pm will be offered in the Parish Rectory, St. Monica's Parish (6405 de Terrebonne St., Montreal), where we will explore the possibilities of answering this call! Cost \$15 (for the purchase the reading material). Register by **December 15** to ensure that the materials arrive before the first session. Info. & registration: contact Anna at 514-481-0267 x22 or anna.diodati@stmonica.ca.

Basic Formation for Pastoral Home Care Visitors

A six-session formation program will focus on skill development for pastoral accompaniment of the sick and the elderly in their own homes. The formation is offered free of charge and a certificate of completion will be given for those who attend all six sessions. Monday evenings **beginning January 11, 2016.**, from 7pm-9 at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (4567 West Broadway, Montreal). To register, contact Cathie Macaulay at the Archdiocese of Montreal, 514-925-4354, or cmacaulay@diocesemontreal.org.

MASSES

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

Sunday, December 13th 2015

Third Sunday of Advent
(Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18)
10:30 In loving memory, Dr. Pat Fitzgerald
by his Family

Monday, December 14th 2015

St. John of the Cross
(Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Matthew 21:23-27)

Tuesday, December 15th 2015

(Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13; Matthew 21:28-32)

Wednesday, December 16th 2015

(Isaiah 45:6-8, 18,21-25; Luke 7:19-23)
9:00 The Superales and Renomeron Families

Thursday, December 17th 2015 No Mass

(Genesis 49:2,8-10; Matthew 1:1-17)

Friday, December 18th 2015

(Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-24)
9:00 Mr. John J. McCauley
by Constance O'Donnell

Saturday, December 19th 2015

(Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25)
5:00 Gabor & Louise DeHeinrich
by Antonio & MaryLou Sacconaghi



*This week the Sanctuary lamp
will burn in memory of
John Alexander Lengyel
by the Anna Lengyel*

ACTIVITIES

MONDAY 6:00 PM
Christian Meditation Choir room.
For information call 514-931-5536

THURSDAY 7:30 PM
Choir Practice Choir Room

SATURDAY 11:00AM
Advent Penitential Service in church

2016 Weekly Donation Envelopes

Effective January 1st, 2016, we are implementing a new (and less costly) way of delivering your weekly envelopes to you. A box containing all of the envelopes for the coming year will be available for pick up at the back of the church starting this weekend (Dec. 12-13). Please note that some of you will receive a new envelop number.

Parish Donations

Parish donations can be made ONLINE through CanadaHelps. Donations may be made using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, PayPal or Interact. You receive your Tax e-receipt immediately. 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.