

IN OUR PARISH

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

This weekend the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered in our parish at Saturday 5pm Mass and Sunday 10:30am Mass. The Church offers the sacrament of anointing to those who are seriously ill or who are feeble because of old age. This includes those who suffer from chronic illnesses; patients before serious surgery; elderly people who are weak and those who suffer from mental illness and who would be strengthened by the sacrament. All who feel they are in need of the graces and strength of the Anointing are invited to receive the sacrament.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This season offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

This coming Wednesday, February 10th, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Ashes

will be distributed at both services. We hope this will provide all parishioners with the opportunity to begin their Lenten journey in prayer and devotion.

We would also remind you that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All who are between the age of 18-59, and in good health are required to fast. Fasting means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal.

Choir Concert "Exultate!"

The members of our Parish Choir invite all parishioners to a concert of sacred choral music and organ works under the direction of Dr. David Szanto this Sunday afternoon at 3pm. A freewill offering will be collected & a reception will follow the concert. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us for an afternoon of wonderful and inspiring music.



Meals on Wheels

We are currently seeking Volunteers to help deliver, drive or cook meals in the Westmount/downtown area on Friday mornings from September – June. The meals are prepared at the Greene Ave center and the time commitment is 2 hours. Volunteers are scheduled once or twice a month depending on their availability. For more information please contact Frances de Verteuil 54-937-3317 or fdev@primus.ca

REFLECTION

The gospel reading opens with Jesus by the lake shore looking for a little space from the people who are pressing around him to hear "the word of God". For the gospel writer, the word of Jesus is the word of God. The listener/reader has been gradually prepared, in the baptism scene and in the synagogue at Nazareth, to receive this momentous statement. Jesus is the anointed of God who brings good news/God's word to the destitute. The gospel narrative assumes that the crowd by the lake receives his teaching as God's word. Jesus spots two empty boats, gets into the one that belongs to Simon Peter, whom he seems to know since he feels free to do this and even to ask Simon to move the boat out from the shore. Having gained the distance he needs, Jesus sits down and teaches the crowd from the boat. God's word thus comes to the people from the potentially regenerative waters of the lake. Simon no doubt has one ear on Jesus' teaching as he and his despondent business partners clean the nets and pack up ready to go home without any fish. They have fished all night without a single catch.

Evoking the creation story of Genesis where God's spirit moves over the face of the deep, Jesus invites Simon and his companions to put out into deep water and lower the nets for a catch, even though the odds of a catch seem very slim. Simon Peter hesitates, noting that they have laboured without success all night. He nonetheless follows Jesus' instructions. The dramatic result of his attending to Jesus' word brings Simon to his knees: he acknowledges his limitations, his "sinfulness" in gospel terms. Jesus then commissions him to engage fearlessly in a new mission of reaching out beyond his present business enterprise to "catch people". This commission is not to be understood as a recruitment drive for the reign of God movement. As the gospel story unfolds we discover that it is, rather, a mission to bring the vulnerable safely to shore where they can know the compassion and justice and "hospitality" of God.

While Peter and his companions are said to "leave everything" and "follow" Jesus, the subsequent narrative makes it clear that they do not abandon their fishing activities. They simply re-centre their lives on the following of Jesus. In other words, they undertake to live out in their lives the pattern of Jesus' life amid the ordinary concerns of daily life. The previous chapter has provided glimpses of that pattern: bringing good news to the destitute, release to the shattered, healing to the sick and the broken. In our times, we are beginning to realise that the "shattered" includes the despoiled Earth and its often polluted water.

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

IN THE DIOCESE

St. Monica's Parish**The Two Feet of Love in Action: Social Justice and Charitable Works**

Our Lord invites us through the prophet Micah, "To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with God." Love builds upon a foundation of justice. Charity implies giving what is mine to others, but justice calls us to give to others what is rightfully already theirs because of who they are as children of God. Please join us **Wednesday, February 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM** in the parish hall(6405 Terrebonne, Mtl.) with **Brian McDonough** to learn how justice and love interact with each other to promote the common good! For information and to register by **February 15**, contact Anna at (514) 481-0267 ext. 22 or anna.diodati@stmonica.ca.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: World Marriage Day

Worldwide Marriage Encounter invites all married couples to celebrate World Marriage Day and the Sacrament of Matrimony. A mass will be presided by Msgr. Francis Coyle, CSS on **Saturday, February 13**, 5pm at St. Patrick's Basilica (460 René-Lévesque Blvd. W, Montreal). All married couples who wish to celebrate their Sacrament of Matrimony are welcomed. Contact Daisy and Tino at marriageencounter@hotmail.com.

Montreal Directed Retreats

Be refreshed in mind, body and spirit. . . Silent directed weekend retreat at La Maison de Prière Notre-Dame (180 De Normandie Blvd., Longueuil). Begins **Friday evening, February 26** and ends Sunday afternoon, February 28. Cost is \$130. **Registration before February 12th**. Contact 514-626-9462 or 514-633-1172, or visit www.montrealretreats.org.

Women's Day Retreat

The monthly Women's Day Retreat will be held **Wednesday, February 17th** 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 & the works of spiritual writers; quiet time for personal reflection and prayer; Eucharistic celebration; 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. Plan to gift yourself with a few hours of rich spiritual nourishment in the company of women who share your values & your desire to deepen your relationship with God.

St. Monica's Parish: Video Divina

Join Fr. Raymond for **The Long Walk Home**, the fifth film of this year's "Movies with a Mission" series, on **Friday, February 26** at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory(6405 de Terrebonne St., Mtl.). Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! For information, contact Fr. Raymond Lafontaine at (514)481-0267 ext. 23 or fr.raymond@videotron.ca.

MASSES

Saturday, February 6th 2016

St. Paul Miki and Companions
(1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34)
5:00 Anne & Ron Blizchuk
by Maureen & Ron Blizchuk

Sunday, February 7th 2016

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11)
10:30 Kate & Ed Sampson
by Ann & Louis Mallette

Monday, February 8th 2016

St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita
(1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56)

Tuesday, February 9th 2016

(1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13)
9:00 Marian Robichon by Eileen & Bill Curran

Wednesday, February 10th 2016

Ash Wednesday
(Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)
9:00am Mary Josephine Harty,
1st Anniversary of Death by the Parish
7:00pm Ryan Marchand by Patricia Smith

Thursday, February 11th 2016 No Mass

World day of the Sick; Our Lady of Lourdes
(Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25)

Friday, February 12th 2016

(Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 9:14-15)
9:00 Mary Josephine Harty by the Family

Saturday, February 13th 2016

(Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32)
5:00 Blessings for Gary Cross by Maureen & Ron Blizchuk

ACTIVITIES

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

THURSDAY 7:30 PM
Choir Practice Choir Room

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

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.

2015 Tax Receipts

Your income tax receipts for 2015 donations are ready. You can pick them up at the back of the church, arranged in alphabetical order. Thank you.

2016 Donation Envelopes

If you have not already done so, please remember to pick up your box with your donation envelopes for this year.