

IN OUR PARISH

Share Lent Pilgrimage – Building community in Indonesia

The 3rd week of our pilgrimage finds us in Indonesia. The word kampung has come to mean 'slum' in the local language, but its original definition is 'community.' Your support for Share Lent means that Try Mopurto, who lives in a kampung, has been able to renovate his home for his family, despite suffering from mental illness. The community is coming together to support him and his family. "My home is my heaven," he says, "because here we feel the meaning of brotherhood in the social life of the kampung."

This year consider stretching your Share Lent donation across the whole year with our Share Year-Round monthly giving program. Brochures are available at the back of the church.

Reminder! Development and Peace: Syria Emergency Relief Fund Deadline

As we welcome refugees to our country, we cannot forget the millions of other Syrians who remain and are suffering within the boundaries of Syria, and those who have escaped and live in precarious conditions in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Your donation to the Development and Peace Syria fund will be **doubled by the federal government's matching program until February 29, 2016**, and is used to ensure that people living in those conditions are protected from hunger and cold. To donate visit devp.org or contact 514-257-8711 or 1-888-664-3387.

Flowers for Easter

You are invited to make a donation in the name of loved ones toward the purchase of flowers to decorate the church and altar for the Easter season. Donations envelopes are available at the back of the church and should be received by March 21st in order to allow us time to organize the decor of our beautiful church during this most holy and joyous season.

Lenten Penitential Service

As part of our Lenten journey of conversion and renewal, the Church invites us to experience the healing, transforming power of the Lord's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On **Saturday, March 12th at 10:30 a.m.** we will hold a communal celebration of this sacrament, with opportunity for individual confession. Three priests will be available to hear your confessions. All parishioners are invited to attend and experience the joy of sacramental healing in preparation for Easter.

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

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

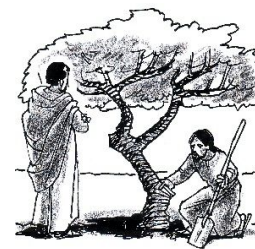
Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm



IN THE DIOCESE

Diocesan-Wide Lenten Mission

Don't just think about what to do for Lent... Attend the diocesan-wide Lenten Mission and bring a friend or two. The theme of the mission, which will be held **March 1st, 2nd and 3rd**, is Mercy led by Bishop Thomas Dowd, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal. All evenings begin at 7pm at St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish (105 Beaconsfield Blvd., Beaconsfield). Visit www.lent2016.com or contact Fr. Gerry Martineau 514-366-0131 x2 or gerard.m@johnbrebeuf.ca.

Pilgrimage to Italy in Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

This year, from October 4-14, 2016, Fr. Raymond Lafontaine, Pastor of St. Monica's Parish, will be leading a Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Rome and the Shrines of Italy. This pilgrimage will include a papal audience in St. Peter's Square, guided tours of Rome's four major basilicas and the Vatican Museums, and destinations including Assisi, Florence, Loreto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Pompeii, and Monte Cassino. If you want to learn more about this unique opportunity, please join us for a special travel presentation to be held at St. Monica's Parish Hall (6405 Terrebonne) **Tuesday, March 1st** at 7:00 p.m. For more information, or to register for the presentation, contact Antoinette Mercurio from Caleche Travel: (514) 266-3134 or nan@caleche.net, or contact the parish, (514) 481-0276, ext. 23

Montreal Challenge Weekend Retreat for Young Adults: March 4-6, 2016

Whether you're a practicing believer or seldom go to church, Challenge will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about Christ and yourself. Challenge is open to all young adults aged 18-30. The retreat consists of worship music, prayer, witness, discussions, and games. The next retreat is **March 4-6th** (Friday 7PM to Sunday 5PM) at Loyola High School. Cost is \$60. To apply, visit: www.montrealchallenge.ca or contact outreach@montrealchallenge.ca

St. Monica's Lenten Parish Mission: The Gift of Forgiveness

Rich in Mercy: "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy!" NOT "Lord forgive us, Christ forgive us, Lord forgive us!" It is rare to know we are forgiven before we ask! That is God's approach to our failures. How are we able to include this wonderful gift in our daily lives? Come, and together let us find out! Presented by Fr. Mike Shaw. Mark these Mission dates of three evenings: **March 7, 8 and 9** from 7pm-9pm (6405 de Terrebonne St., Montreal). Contact Elizabeth at 514-481-0267.

Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel : Benefit Concert

All are welcome to OPEN ARMS, OPEN HEARTS! À BRAS OUVERTS, À COEUR OUVERT! benefit concert on **Saturday, March 12**, 2:30pm (400 St. Paul St. East, Montreal). Proceeds will go to Action Réfugié Montréal to help support Syrian refugees. Featuring the Harmonia and Adlesia Choirs. Volunteer contributions at the door. Contact Line Richer at lricher@marguerite-bourgeoys.com.

MASSES

Saturday, February 27th 2016

(Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)
5:00 John Pozza by Gloria Pozza

Sunday, February 28th 2016

Third Sunday of Lent
(Ex 3:1-8,13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12; Lk 13:1-9)
10:30 Richard Bortolot Sr.
by Ann & Louis Mallette

Monday, February 29th 2016

(2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30)
9:00 Blessings for Gary O'Dwyer & Family
by L.Hull

Tuesday, March 1st 2016

(Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35)

Wednesday, March 2nd 2016

(Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19)
9:00 Thomas Fleming
by Helene and Pat McCormack

Thursday, March 3rd 2016 No Mass

(Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23)

Friday, March 4th 2016

St. Casimir
World Day of Prayer
(Hosea 14:1-9; Mark 12:28-34)
9:00 Mr. Adamo Francescangeli
by Angela & Rosata Pedicelli

Saturday, March 5th 2016

(Hosea 5:15-6:6; Luke 18:9-14)
5:00 Thomas Sheridan Flynn by Peter Flynn,
through the intercession of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary



*This week the Sanctuary lamp will
burn in memory of
Daniel C. Lopez
by the Family*

ACTIVITIES

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

THURSDAY 7:30 PM
Choir Practice Choir Room

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.

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.