

## IN OUR PARISH

### **Christmas 2015**

Our Christmas liturgies at Ascension were well attended, prayerful and festive!

I wish to thank all of you who participated in the celebrations and worshipped with us, for your monetary contribution to the Parish and to our charity fund. A special thank you to the parish staff; our Music Director, David Szanto, the Ascension Choir and Cantors for the beautiful music they provided to enrich our liturgies; the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, Altar servers, Hospitality ministers, sacristans; to David Barrington and Frank Overall for decorating the Church; to Linda Wiltshire and helpers for preparing our children for the Pageant. To those who made a donation for our Christmas flowers and decorations, we are very grateful.

I wish all of you a wonderful New Year with countless blessings and graces.

*Father MacEachen*



### **Benedict Labré House**

On Sunday January 24th, Ascension will be providing and serving food for approximately 150 people less fortunate than us. We do this by pre-making a meal and dessert. Along with this we serve soup, bread and juice. Next weekend, January 16th & 17th, we will be supplying pans and recipes for the meal and dessert. If you are unable to prepare something, we gladly accept cash donations to buy the other items. For additional information, please contact Aletha Thompson at 514-482-5660.

### **Ascension Choir Concert Exultate!**



The members of our Parish Choir would like to invite all parishioners to join us for an afternoon of sacred choral music and organ works, under the direction of our Music Director and organist Dr. David Szanto. The concert will take place on **Sunday, February 7th, at 3:00pm** in the church.

We would greatly appreciate your support of our wonderful music program by placing an ad in the program to be distributed at the Concert or, as a benefactor by making a donation to the event. For more info. contact Mary Rivard-David at 514 932-0927 or by email at [claudemary@sympatico.ca](mailto:claudemary@sympatico.ca)

### **2016 Weekly Donation Envelopes**

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, we have implemented a new (and less costly) way of delivering your weekly envelopes to you. If you have not already done so, a box containing all of the envelopes for the coming year is available for pick up at the back of the church. Please note that some of you have been assigned a new envelop number.



### **With Jesus before the Father**

Luke's account of the baptism of Jesus admits us to the secret depths of Jesus' relationship with his Father. There, not only is he "reminded" of his identity as Beloved Son, but the Father's "estimation" of his Son comes to his ears as well: "with you I am well pleased."

This tender account of the relationship between Jesus and his Father reminds us of a most human desire: the desire that a child may be "pleasing" in the eyes of his or her parents. No matter the age, nothing builds up a child more than to hear from a parent, "I am so proud of you; I am so pleased with you." These words bring such joy, such affirmation.

The astonishing message of this feast is that the identity and "estimation" which Jesus possesses before his Father, is the same identity and "estimation" which we can claim, thanks to our Baptism. What Jesus possesses by nature, we possess by adoption, the incredible gift of God's mercy toward us. We are beloved daughters and sons; the Father is "well pleased" with us. But how difficult it is for us to accept this identity and this estimation! What endless evasions we construct and conditions we place on that simple truth!

Perhaps a fitting meditation for us on this feast would be to sit quietly with the phrase, "with you I am well pleased" and to let it wash over us. We might pay attention to what comes up in our hearts as we do and then to relate all of that to God. And then, perhaps in that quiet encounter, overcoming our objections and healing whatever obstacles may appear, the Lord might move us to embrace that truth which the "kindness and generous love" of God have won for us.

*Rev. Richard Gabuzda,*

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/011016.html>

## IN THE DIOCESE

**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). Info. & registration: contact Anna at 514-481-0267 x22 or [anna.diodati@stmonica.ca](mailto: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](mailto:cmacaulay@diocesemontreal.org).

**Women's Day Retreat**

The monthly Women's Day Retreat will be held **Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>** 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; 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 this new year 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 Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler**, the fourth film of this year's "Movies with a Mission" series, on **Friday, January 15** 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](mailto:fr.raymond@videotron.ca).

## MASSES

**Saturday, January 9th 2016**

(1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30)  
5:00 Helen Zwicker by Lynn Loewen

**Sunday, January 10th 2016**

Baptism of the Lord  
(Isaiah 42:1-4 6-7; Acts 10:34-38;  
Luke 3:15-16,21-22)  
10:30 Kate & Ed Sampson  
by Ann & Louis Mallette

**Monday, January 11th 2016**

(1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20)  
9:00 Michele Baratta by Louisa Matheus

**Tuesday, January 12th 2016**

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys  
(1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28)

**Wednesday, January 13th 2016**

St. Hilary  
(1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39)  
9:00 Hon. Frederick Collins  
& Mrs. Irene Collins by the Family

**Thursday, January 14th 2016 No Mass**

(1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45)

**Friday, January 15th 2016**

(1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22; Mark 2:1-12)  
9:00 Brian Powers Smith by Kathleen Toomey

**Saturday, January 16th 2016**

(1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19-10:1; Mark 2:13-17)  
5:00 Mary & Edward 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

**Mass Intentions**

*Please note that as we begin the new year we have quite a few Masses without intentions, particularly on weekdays. If you would like to remember a loved one, we invite you to contact the parish office to book a Mass time or the Sanctuary Lamp.*

**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](http://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.