

IN OUR PARISH

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. This weekend we are 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 or see a volunteer at the back of the church.

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

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

2016 Weekly Donation Envelopes

Effective January 1st, 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.

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.

When the mountains will flow with sweet wine

Today’s liturgy invites us to take a detour into the Fourth Gospel and into a marriage scene that the evangelist John places at the beginning of Jesus’ Galilean ministry. Marriage imagery appears from time to time in Israel’s prophetic tradition, sometimes in quite confronting ways, especially in Hosea where God is imaged as husband and Israel as God’s faithless wife. In the first reading from the post-exilic prophecy of Third Isaiah, Jerusalem is the bride, once alienated from God and then fully reconciled with and embraced by God, its “builder”. The link between the Isaian passage and the marriage at Cana is fairly tenuous, although the juxtaposition of the two readings in the context of today’s liturgy invites us to consider the intimate relationship that our Earth and its inhabitants enjoy with God, its “builder” or creator. God’s delight is in Earth and in the Earth community, not simply in one city and one people of the Earth.

The focus in the gospel story is less on the marriage, however, than on the symbolism of the abundance of wine at the marriage feast. The 8th century BCE prophet Amos had looked to a future time when the mountains would drip sweet wine, and the hills flow with it, a time when God would restore the fortunes of God’s people. An abundance of good food and the best of wines is the image of future salvation deployed by another 8th century prophet, Isaiah (Isaiah 25). Today’s gospel suggests that these prophetic dreams come to fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. Those who listen to his word and follow his instructions become agents of an extraordinary transformation.

The mother of Jesus features significantly in the Cana story. She is attentive to the integrity of the feast and informs her son when the wine gives out. This provides the opportunity for Jesus to speak of his “hour”: it has not yet come. Jesus addresses his mother as “Woman”. He will address her in precisely the same way when the “hour” of his death and handing over of the Spirit finally comes. This “woman” believes in him and invites the servants at the marriage feast to obey his word. While Jesus performs this first “sign” that leads his disciples to faith, the role played by this faith-filled woman casts her in the role of “witness to the light” and proclaimer of the Word.

Veronica Lawson, rsm



IN THE DIOCESE

World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2016

This Sunday, January 17th, is the 102nd World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The theme of Pope Francis' Message is "Migrants and refugees challenge us: The response of the Gospel of mercy". In his Message, the Holy Father says that "migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all. Don't we all want a better, more decent and prosperous life to share with our loved ones?"

In a message, our Canadian Bishops noted that "Canada is blessed to have thousands of committed, faithful, and well-trained people who have come forward to sponsor and support refugees. The Church gives thanks to God for these wonderful people. They are performing the corporal works of mercy – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless.... Pope Francis has identified these as concrete actions during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. As a reminder that these are part of living our faith, there is an indulgence for these works of mercy ."

Week of prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches, will begin in a few days, January 18-25, 2016, on the theme: *Called to proclaim the mighty acts of God* (1 Peter 2:9). By coming together during this week, we join with the people around the world to pray for Christian unity - in worship, reflection, study, and fellowship.

To mark the occasion, all are invited to a prayer service this **Sunday, January 17th**, at 4pm at Église Arménienne Sourp Hagop (3401 Olivar Asselin, Montreal)

Sacred Heart School Winter Gala - Celebrating 155 Years

The Sacred Heart School of Montreal will hold a fundraising Winter Gala on **Friday, February 5**, in celebration of its 155th anniversary, at the historic Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montreal. An exciting evening is planned with dinner and dancing, a live auction & raffles. Tickets can be purchased online at the school's website at: www.sacredheart.qc.ca. All proceeds benefit the school's implementation of 21st-century classroom technology, an ongoing project that will culminate with the introduction of Chromebooks with Google Apps for Education for all students, starting in the Fall of 2016.

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, 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

Sunday, January 17th 2016

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of Migrants and Refugees
(Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; John 2:1-12)
10:30 Rev. Thomas O'Donnell
by Constance O'Donnell

Monday, January 18th 2016

(1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22)

Tuesday, January 19th 2016

(1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Mark 2:23-28)
9:00 Harry Kerin by Jerry & Margaret Brennan

Wednesday, January 20th 2016

St. Fabian, St. Sebastian
(1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6)
9:00 Josefina & Stanley Clarke
by Simonne Clarke

Thursday, January 21st 2016 No Mass

St. Agnes
(1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12)
9:00 Winifred Dalgleish
by Eileen & Bill Curran

Friday, January 22nd 2016

St. Vincent
(1 Samuel 24:2-21; Mark 3:13-19)

Saturday, January 23rd 2016

(2 Samuel 1: 2, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21)
5:00 The Kennedy Family
by Hugh & Kathleen Quinlan

ACTIVITIES

MONDAY

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

THURSDAY 7:30 PM
Choir Practice Choir Room

SATURDAY 3:30PM
“Be My Disciples”
Children’s Gathering & Family Mass (5:00 PM)

Mass Intentions

Please note that 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.

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.