

IN OUR PARISH

Share Lent Pilgrimage – Helping nuns serve their people in Bethlehem



Now our pilgrimage takes us to the Holy Land. Development and Peace is supporting Salesian nuns in the Cremisan Valley in Bethlehem in their struggle to remain close to their people. Their ability to provide schooling to over 450 children has been threatened by the construction of a separation wall which will cut them off from the people they serve. Your support helps to provide them with crucial legal support to fight the construction in the courts. Next Sunday is Solidarity Sunday and the Share Lent collection. Please be generous!

Envelopes for your Share Lent donations are available at the back of the church as of this weekend.

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.

Concert at Ascension of Our Lord: Pergolesi's Stabat Mater

You are invited to a performance of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater which will be performed at Ascension on **Palm Sunday, March 20th at 3 p.m.** The concert will feature celebrated vocalists, Audrey Larose-Zicat, soprano, and Sonia Loyer, mezzo-soprano, as well as our own director of music, David Szanto, at the organ. The work is a breathtaking homage to the sorrows of the Blessed Mother during the crucifixion of her son... an exquisite way to begin our Holy Week devotions. Admission is free; there will be a freewill offering.

Schedule of Services Holy Week and Easter

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| Lenten Penitential Service | Saturday March 12 th | 10:30am |
| Holy Thursday | March 24 th | 7:00pm |
| Good Friday, Solemn Passion Service | March 25 th | 3:00pm |
| Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil | March 26 th | 7:30pm |
| Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord | March 27 th | 10:30am |

REFLECTION

The Tenderness of Mercy



Jesus' narration of the story of "a man with two sons," which we know as the story of the Prodigal Son, never loses its power to move us deeply, no matter how often it is repeated. Its appeal seems especially strong in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Among the many images and lines of text in the story, the scene of the meeting of the father and his repentant son draws us in a particular way. There the text reads: "He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." This poignant scene has been captured numerous times in great works of art, perhaps most notably in the quietly dramatic rendition by Caravaggio. Both text and image remain far from suggesting a mere "distant forgiveness" or even a simple "reconciliation." The weary son receives more than he could have imagined from his father who has waited patiently for this moment. Not waiting for any words from the son, and already knowing the sorrow that was in the young man's heart, the father reaches out with a deeply tender embrace.

Pope Francis, who often narrates his own powerful experience of going to confession as a young man, knows the power of the Father's mercy and desires that the whole world come to know it. Some years before his election, in words that say much about this personal knowledge, then-Cardinal Bergoglio went so far as to say: "Only someone who has encountered mercy, who has been caressed by the tenderness of mercy, is happy and comfortable with the Lord . . . I dare to say that the privileged locus of the encounter [with God] is the caress of the mercy of Jesus Christ on my sin."

The "tenderness of mercy," the "caress of the mercy of Jesus Christ on my sin." The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ desires that we know and experience that. Where do I need that tenderness, that caress? The call of the gospel is to permit ourselves to be there, to rest there and to ask that we might receive this great grace.

Reverend Richard Gabuzda, <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry>

IN THE DIOCESE

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 richer@marguerite-bourgeoys.com.

Women's Day Retreat

The next Women's Day Retreat will be held **Wednesday, March 16th** 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.

CAMP KINKORA - Summer Jobs!

For over 90 years Camp Kinkora has provided summer camp programs to children, youth & families in the beautiful Laurentian mountains. Situated on a private lake, Kinkora offers a job experience guaranteed to give you a summer of memories and relationships that will last a lifetime! Positions available: Kitchen Staff, Program Animator, Program Director, Lifeguard, Waterfront Director, Maintenance, Nurse/Medical Officer, Assistant Director. Don't delay...Send your CV today! Info: call 514-796-0703, or e-mail your CV to campkinkora1@gmail.com

Ignatian Spirituality Centre: Finding God in All Things

With Louise Eberwein and Paul Empsall Thursday evenings, 7pm-9pm, from March 3 to April 21 (4567 West Broadway, Montreal). This course explores in depth the teaching of St. Ignatius of Loyola on daily prayer. Our guide will be Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV who, a DVD series, guides us through an understanding of the purpose of the Examen in finding God in all things, and also explains how this simple prayer can make us more grateful individuals. Cost \$75 (Includes book "The Examen Prayer" by Timothy Gallagher). Registration deadline is February 25. For more info contact Paul Empsall at 514-626-9462 or Louise Eberwein 514-825-5198.

MASSES

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

Sunday, March 6th 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Jos 5:9, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32)
10:30 Freda Baylis by her son Richard

Monday, March 7th 2016

St. Perpetua and St. Felicity
(Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54)
9:00 Blessings for Gary O'Dwyer & Family
by L.Hull

Tuesday, March 8th 2016

St. John of God
(Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-16)
9:00 Gerry Pitcher
by Margaret & Jerry Brennan

Wednesday, March 9th 2016

St. Frances of Rome
(Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:16-30)
9:00 Hon. Frederick Collins &
Mrs. Irene Collins by the family

Thursday, March 10th 2016 No Mass

(Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:18, 31-47)

Friday, March 11th 2016

(Wisdom 2:1, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30)
9:00 The Grey-Donald Family
by Dick and Janet Macklem

Saturday, March 12th 2016

(Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53)
5:00 Mary and 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

SATURDAY 10:30am
Parish Reconciliation Service Church

Saturday Evening Mass Change

The recent Mass time preference survey taken at Mass on February 20th indicated that parishioners prefer the time 4:30 pm instead of 5:00pm for the regular Mass. Therefore, beginning **April 2nd 2016 the Mass on Saturday evening will be changed from 5:00 pm to 4:30pm.** Hopefully this will satisfy our parishioners and be convenient for everyone.

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 visit 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.