

## IN OUR PARISH

### **Schedule of Services Holy Week and Easter**

Holy Thursday	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm
Good Friday, Solemn Passion Service	March 25 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm
Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am



### **Share Lent Pilgrimage – Solidarity Sunday!**

Today is Solidarity Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

Every gift goes far to help our sisters and brothers around the world – from Haiti to Paraguay to Bethlehem and beyond! We end our Share Lent pilgrimage with the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year of Mercy: “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.”

*Envelopes for your Share Lent donations are available at the back of the church.*

*Thank you for helping to create a hopeful future!*

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **Saturday Evening Mass Change**

The recent Mass time preference survey taken at Mass on February 20<sup>th</sup> indicated that parishioners prefer the time 4:30 pm instead of 5:00pm for the regular Mass. Therefore, beginning **April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## REFLECTION

There is something about starting over. A new page. A new year. A new week. That feeling that the past is the past. I like to think that people who have messed up in some way get a second chance, and that they learn from their mistakes.

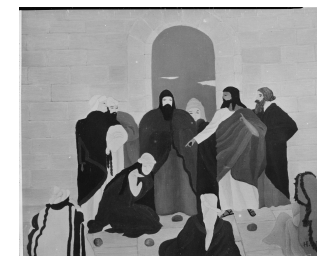
That concept of starting over flows through today's readings. In the first reading from Isai we hear “Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new.” And in the second reading, “Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.”

We have that second and third and infinite number of chances when we seek God's love. We stray off the path, but we can always find it again. That is so powerful and, I think, difficult for us to grasp. We feel we have to do something to earn love or that by our mistake we have made ourselves unworthy. We find it hard to let go of the past, our resentments and grudges. We feel unworthy because we are human and make mistakes; we give in to the temptations that surround us. When we turn to God, we can become that clean slate. We can ask forgiveness and be forgiven.

The parable in John's gospel is one of my own favorites. I wish I could have been there to see the scribes and the Pharisees who thought they had a “gotcha” moment. “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her,” Jesus tells them, as this poor woman stands there. Jesus goes back to tracing patterns in the dirt as the Pharisees and scribes melt away. Jesus does not condemn the woman either as he tells her to go and sin no more.

In my own world, when I feel judgmental of others, I need to remember that powerful phrase. I can strive to start over, to know that God will welcome me as I am. I can try to live that way in my own life. I can remember the verse before the Gospel where God says: “Return to me with your whole heart, for I am gracious and merciful.” I pray that I return to God every day, every hour with a whole heart.

*Carol Zuegner, <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry>*



## IN THE DIOCESE

**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.

**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.

**Discover the Treasures of Italy in the Year of Mercy, –**

A pilgrimage led by Deacon Brian Cordeiro with Msgr. Pierre Blanchard (daily Mass) **October 14th to 25th, 2016** begins in beautiful Venice, with visits to shrines in Padua-Bologna-Assisi-Cascia-Lanciano-San Giovanni del Rotondo highlighted by 4 days in Rome, where we visit St. Peter's and other great basilicas of Vatican, pray the Angelus with Pope Francis, pass through Holy Doors and so much more. Price of C\$3,995 includes airport taxes, breakfast & suppers every day and accommodation in 4-star and 3-star hotels. **Information meeting on Sunday, April 24 at 4pm at St. Luke's, DDO.** For detailed itinerary, contact Deacon Brian at 514-545-8709 or brian.cordeiro89@gmail.com

**"O' Mercy!"**

On **Thursday, March 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at St. Thomas A Becket Parish, (4320 Saint Anne St., Pierrefonds) Led by Lucie McElligott, coordinator of Liturgy Services, Office of English Pastoral Services. Together, following the example of Saint Patrick, we will explore our response, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to God's great Mercy, in our celebration of the Liturgy.

**"The Mercy of Jesus"**

In this year of Mercy, what are the various ways in which Jesus showed mercy to the people that he met. How does he help us to discover the merciful God that Pope Francis often speaks to us about? This session will be led by Elizabeth Koessler at St. Thomas A Becket Parish, (4320 Saint Anne St., Pierrefonds) **Friday, March 18, 5:00-6:00 p.m. repeated 6:45-7:45 p.m** For more information, contact the parish at 514-626-4111 or elsa@becket.ca

## MASSES

**Saturday, March 12th 2016**

(Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53)  
5:00 Mary and Edward Cross  
by Maureen & Ron Blizchuk

**Sunday, March 13th 2016**

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
(Isaiah 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; John 8:1-11)  
10:30 Kate & Ed Sampson  
by Ann & Louis Mallette

**Monday, March 14th 2016**

(Dan 13:1-9,15-17, 19-30, 33-64; John 8:12-20)  
9:00 Agnes MacLellan by Louise MacLellan

**Tuesday, March 15th 2016**

(Number 21:4-9; John 8:21-30)  
9:00 Agnes MacLellan by Louise MacLellan

**Wednesday, March 16th 2016**

(Dan 3:13-20, 24, 49-50, 91-95; John 8:31-42)  
9:00 Gwendolyn Ellen McCourt,  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Death, by the Parish

**Thursday, March 17th 2016 No Mass**

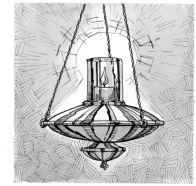
St. Patrick  
(Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59)

**Friday, March 18th 2016**

St. Cyril of Jerusalem  
(Jeremiah 20:7,10-13; John 10:31-42)  
9:00 The Superales & Renomeron Family

**Saturday, March 19th 2016**

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church  
Principal Patron of Canada  
(2 Sam 7:4-5,12-14,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22;  
Matt 1:16,18-21,24)  
5:00 John Pozza by his wife, Gloria



*This week the Sanctuary lamp will  
burn in memory of  
Uy Kin  
by the Family*

## ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	6:00 PM
<b>Christian Meditation</b>	Choir room.
For information call 514-931-5536	
THURSDAY	7:30 PM
<b>Choir Practice</b>	Choir Room
SATURDAY	3:30PM
<b>"Be My Disciples"</b>	
<b>Children's Gathering &amp; Family Mass</b>	(5:00 PM)

**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.