

**PREPARE IN HOPE!!**

You may have noticed the banner placed in the church last Sunday, with a single word to help us focus our meditation. Last week's call to "**VIGILANCE**" is succeeded this week by an invitation to "**HOPE**". Hope is much more than optimism. Hope is the conviction that even when the night seems dark and cold, the dawn is near. Hope means we are not alone: God will never abandon us. God hears and answers us.

Today's readings express the many facets of the virtue of **hope**. Isaiah speaks of the coming Messiah as one who will "feed his flock like a shepherd, and gather the lambs in his arms." John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus as the One who will baptize not with water, but with "the Holy Spirit and fire." Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter of Peter invites the persecuted Christians of his time to stand firm in faith and to live in peace, as they wait in hope for "a new heaven and a new earth."

Advent speaks to us of three comings of Christ among us: past, present, and future. Christ came among us in history, in the flesh, as a vulnerable child. Christ will come again in glory, at the end of time. But in between, Christ comes among us in the people we meet each day: in family and friend, co-worker and neighbour, in the poor and forsaken. Christ speaks to us in his Word and nourishes us in the Eucharist. Common to each of these comings is our need to **prepare**. Isaiah cries out: "make a straight path for the coming of God!" John the Baptist preaches repentance for the forgiveness of sins; Peter exhorts us to "live in holiness and peace." Our recent parish vitality conference challenged us to prepare to move from the passivity of "religious consumers" to the life of active discipleship & the mission of "making disciples" of all the nations.

What can I do to prepare for the coming of Christ in my life this Advent, to nourish my sense of hope? It is so easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of "getting ready for Christmas", that we fail to make room for the One who comes to meet us: at Christmas, but also every day. *What am I waiting and watching for? What helps me remain alert and watchful? Are there patterns in my life that work against that? What needs to be "leveled out" in my life to make a straight path for God?* So let us sustain one another in **hope** as together we **prepare** for the coming of Jesus: for He is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS DURING THE PAST YEAR?**

Recently, the yearly Christmas Appeal letter was mailed out to all registered parishioners. If you did not receive your letter, it may be because you have moved and not notified us of your change of address. If you would like to become a registered parishioner of St. Monica's parish, here are three ways to register with us:

- 1) For a change of address, please fill out our "Parish Change of Address Form" (Green colour form)
- 2) To register as a parishioner: please fill out our "Parish Registration Form" (Mustard colour form)
- 3) To have a copy of the Christmas Appeal Letter: pick up a copy along with a return envelope.

**ALL THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH.**

You Can Either Mail In Your Choice, Deliver By Hand At The Office, Or Deposit The Item In The Collection Basket Next Sunday.

**FREE TRADE PRODUCTS ON SALE AFTER ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND**

Variety of Chocolate Bars - Chocolate Chips for Baking - Hot Chocolate & Cocoa

**Ground Coffee and Coffee Beans - (Regular and Decaffeinated)**

**Instant Coffee (Regular only) AND Olive Oil**

**Toonies - Loonies & spare change are also collected for our twin parish in Zamoran, El Salvadore**

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Coffee and Conversation** is an opportunity for adults to gather together for a fresh and compelling look at the teachings of Jesus. Pastor Rob Bell's short films, related to real-life situations, invite us to search, question and discuss their meaning for us. Join us next **Sunday, December 14, from 9:50 to 10:50 am**, in the rectory dining room for "Rich – Is it possible that God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others?"

Babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by **December 12**. *Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or contact Anna at the office.*

## MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 6 TO 14, 2014

### Saturday, December 6: St. Nicholas

4:00 Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta  
Lucille Wong By George & Pauline Wong

### Sunday, December 7: Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Joseph Onesi, Salvati Family, Paliotti Family,  
Loreto & Paola Ciambella, Nizida Sala Verona Arbesu  
11:00 Vincenzo Saluzzi By Maddalena Saluzzi & Family  
Rene Brimo By Lisa Brimo  
Mirella Trocchia By Sylvia & Tony Supino

### Monday, Dec. 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 Antonio Bei By wife Gabriella Bei  
Paola Ciambella By Rosa & Luigi Salvati & Family

### Tuesday, December 9: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatzotzin

8:00 Giovanni, Maria & Elena Piccolino By the Piccolino Family  
Joe McNally By Pat Brabant

### Wednesday, December 10: Advent Weekday Mass

8:00 Emma & Colombo Salvati By the Salvati Family  
Elizabeth Flynn By the Di Fruscia Family

### Thursday, December 11: St. Damasus I

8:00 Aniello D'Addio By Ernesta Ciampini  
Lina, Armando & Ermanno Turni By Pietrina Paoli

### Friday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini  
Dorothy Rice By the Rice & Walder Family

### Saturday, December 13: St. Lucy

4:00 Giovanni & Palma Farinelli By the Farinelli Family  
Doreen Pagnuelo By Diane & Larry Boyle

### Sunday, December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 Oksana Cybulski By Claudia & George  
Luigi & Sterina Monti By Sylvia & Tony Supino  
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Luigi & Rosa Mammone, Fioravante Rotiroti,  
Italo Falcone, Italo & Anna Mariani, Giacomo Fiori, Angelo Caucci,  
Domenico Abbatello.

### Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of November 29/30, 2014 totalled \$3,304.60



Join the  
Youth Group

### YOUTH GROUP – GRADES 7-10

Friday's at 7:30 pm in the Church Hall

FOOD – FUN – FAITH – FELLOWSHIP

Come and bring a friend! Everyone Welcome

For more info contact Claire at

514-482-7493 or [stmonicasyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasyouth@gmail.com)

The COOL youth group will have a Christmas party on Friday, December 12th from 6:30-9:00 pm in the church hall. Bring a dish to share for the pot luck and a gift worth less than \$5 for the secret Santa. GAMES-GIFTS-FOOD-FUN. Even if you have not been a part of the youth group yet, everyone is welcome. For ages 12-16 and leaders from 16-25. Please come, and bring a friend!

**TOY AND FOOD TREES:** You are invited to pick an ornament off the trees and make a family's Christmas a little bit brighter. In order for the toys and food to be distributed with our Christmas baskets, they must be returned no later than Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## PASTORAL HOME CARE MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, the rectory basement after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PASTORAL HOME CARE VISITOR?

The Archdiocese of Montreal is offering Basic Formation sessions (6 Thursday evenings: Jan.8-15-22-29 and Feb. 5-12) Sessions are from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Willibrord's Parish, 351 Willibrord St. in Verdun. (Verdun Metro, Bus: 37,58,61,107). Please refer to the bulletin boards for more info.

### ADVENT PRAYER BOOKLETS and 2015 MASS BOOKS

The Advent prayer booklets are still available for you to purchase at the main entrance of the church. The booklets are now at the reduced price of \$1.00. You can also purchase the new 2015 Sunday Mass Book for \$5.00 each. For both items, please put your payment in the **Missalette and Newspaper Payment Box**.

### 2015 SUNDAY DONATION BOXES

**Owners of Sunday Donation Boxes** can now pick up their new box for 2015 at the east side entrance. **Be sure to pick up only the box that has your name and number on it.** Those who wish to have a box, please fill out the registration form and hand it in to the office or place it in the Sunday collection basket with your donation the following Sunday. Owners of boxes with numbers above 380 now have new numbers. This is because less boxes were ordered for this year. Please refer to the alphabetic list provided.