

HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD? GO BUILD MY CHURCH!

As we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday this week (March 1), we receive not just one, but **two** wonderful opportunities for inspiration, challenge, and transformation! Fr. Philip Chircop is a Jesuit priest born on the Mediterranean island of Malta, who now ministers as part of the Canadian Jesuit province. An internationally-known retreat master and spiritual director, with a love for art and poetry, and a delightful sense of humour, he is always seeking fresh ways to proclaim the Good News and engage people on a journey of transformation in Christ.

Here at St. Monica's, this coming Saturday, March 4 at 9.30 AM, Fr. Philip will present a half-day retreat on the theme: ***HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD? Healing Our Images of God.***

"We become the God we worship and adore. Spend enough time in the presence of a God who is a punisher, a judge, a police-officer waiting to catch you in a sin of weakness, and you will also become a punishing and judging person, waiting to catch your neighbour doing something wrong. By the same token, if we spend time in the presence of a God whose name is Mercy, a God who is compassionate, forgiving, slow to anger and abounding in love, we will be transformed into more merciful, compassionate, patient and loving people.

Who is the God you're falling in love with? Is your God perhaps too small, created in your own image and likeness? A pocket-sized God that does not excite or challenge? Has your God grown since you were a child? In this day of recollection we will explore together some unhealthy, toxic images of God and how to replace them with the life-giving images found in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures."

We were able to get Fr. Philip on relatively short notice because he was already scheduled to preach a Lenten mission at St. Luke's Parish in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, on the theme **"GO BUILD MY CHURCH!"** He invites us to come together as one community of faith to celebrate how **we** can become the living body of Christ, how **we** can build the Church. Over three evenings, **Thursday, March 2nd to Saturday, March 4th** we will explore together three simple themes that can transform us into becoming instruments of peace and artists of Good News. On Thursday he will talk about **A Church that Rocks and Rolls**: a church that is in movement, more than an institution. On Friday he will talk about **A Church on Fire**: how we can let the fire within be kindled and how to be artists with passion and zeal and enthusiasm. On Saturday evening, we will tackle together the beautiful practice of becoming **A Church of Easter People**; a joyful people, contagious Christians ready to go out and change the world. Let us accept the Lord's invitation, in this Lenten season, to live our vocation as Easter people, to expand our vision of God and our identity as his Body, the Church.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS**St. Monica's Lenten Retreat**

"How Big is Your God? - *Healing Our Images of God*" - "We become the God we worship and adore". *Who is the God you're falling in love with? Is your God perhaps too small, created in your own image and likeness? A pocket-sized God that does not excite or challenge? Has your God grown and matured since you were a child?* Join world renowned retreat master and public speaker, **Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ**, next **Saturday, March 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** for this morning of recollection in which we will explore some unhealthy, toxic images of God, and learn how to replace them with the life-giving images of God found in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. All are welcome! You don't want to miss this special event!

Note: Fr. Chircop will preach a Lenten mission at **St. Luke's Parish** in D.D.O., on the theme **"Go Build My Church!"** over 3 evenings, **Thurs., March 2 to Sat., March 4 at 7:00 p.m.** For more info, please refer to posters at the Church entrances, or call St. Luke's Parish (514) 684-6488 or www.st-luke.ca. All are welcome!

Discerning The Spirit At Work In Our Common History: A History of Christianity

Inspired by BBC video series **"A History of Christianity"**, and led by **Fr. Raymond Lafontaine, Jennifer Dickson, and Robert Assaly**, our 6-part series continues with parts 4 to 6 where we will consider the impact of the Protestant Reformation and rise of Evangelical Christianity, and seek to discern where the Spirit is moving the Church in a post-modern, secular age. The first 3 parts were presented in Nov.2016. Join us on **Wednesday evenings, March 15, 22, & 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall.** Please register by **March 13.**

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional info. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or call Anna at the office.

MASS INTENTIONS FEB. 25 TO MAR. 5, 2017

Saturday, February 25: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 For the Caucci and By Teresa Caucci
Sparapani Family
Ascenzio Rassenti By George & Pauline Wong
Aniello D'Addio By his wife Franca

Sunday, February 26: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 In Loving Memory: Alba & Luigi Paliotti, and
Emma & Colombo Salvati.
11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family

Monday, February 27: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Tuesday, February 28: Weekday Mass

8:00 Carolina Santini By Olga Matta Santini

Wednesday, March 1: Ash Wednesday

8:00 Gerry Le Grove & Ursula Lafontaine By Tom Wilkinson
7:00 Aline Allard Liautaud By her Family

Thursday, March 2: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Friday, March 3: Weekday Mass / World Day of prayer

8:00 Giovanni & Norina Ones By the Zilli Family

Saturday, March 4: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Biagio & Antonietta Libertini By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
Lewis Tuite By Helen Donahue
Ignazio Ciampini By his wife Ernesta Ciampini

Sunday, March 5: First Sunday of Lent

8:30 Emma & Colombo Salvati By Nazzareno & Ida Salvati
11:00 In Loving Memory: For Deceased members of the Cullen
Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of February 18/19, 2017 totalled \$3,144.90.

LOYOLA BURSARY FUND "CHANGE DRIVE"

This weekend, **February 25 & 26**, our Little Gifts coordinator, Michael Ciocca, is organizing a "change drive" in support of the Loyola Bursary Fund. Please support Michael by dropping your spare change in the baskets provided after all the Masses. Thank you.

FASTING & FEASTING

Lent is more than a time of fasting--it can also be a joyous season of feasting. Lent is a time to fast from certain things and feast on others.

Fast from judging others-**Feast** on the Christ dwelling in them

Fast from emphasis on differences-**Feast** on the unity of life

Fast from apparent darkness-**Feast** on the reality of light

Fast from thoughts of illness-**Feast** on the healing power of God

Fast from words that pollute-**Feast** on words that purify

Fast from discontent-**Feast** on gratitude

SPRING BREAK: Faith First and Little Gifts will be on spring break for the next 2 weekends. Our two programs will resume on the weekend of March 18/19.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

There will be two masses offered on Ash Wednesday, March 1. The usual morning mass will be offered at 8:00 a.m.; and a second mass will celebrated at 7:00 p.m. Ashes will be distributed at both masses.

2017 Lenten Prayer and Reflection Booklets

The 2017 Lenten Prayer and Reflection Booklets are available for you to purchase at the main entrance of the church. These wonderful booklets will inspire and accompany you and your family through Lent. The adult, family and children's editions are priced at **\$2.00** each. Please put your payment in the **Payment Box**.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN

This year's theme is "Women at the Heart of Change". You can make Share Lent a part of your family's Lenten journey by using the Solidarity Calendar which is in this week's bulletin.

Since the founding of Development & Peace in 1967, money donated provides essential support to the poorest population in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. D & P supports 173 partners & 194 projects in 46 countries.