

**KEEPING FAITH IN A CHANGING WORLD:
THE CALL TO ADVENT VIGILANCE**

As we begin a new liturgical year, our readings invite us to be **vigilant**. In a world where so many broken promises lead us to despair or cynicism, we are invited to trust in the faithfulness of a God who “*keeps his word.*” All around us, the world is in crisis: the threat of terrorism, the plight of refugees, climate change and environmental degradation, labour disputes – not to mention the more personal crises affecting our individual and family lives. Too often, we are disappointed by those very institutions in society to which we look for stability, well-being, and security.

There is nothing new about this. Those to whom Luke wrote this Gospel had witnessed the destruction of their cherished Temple, experienced displacement, exile, and persecutions. No less, to our world searching for meaning and purpose, Jesus’ words encourage us not to lose hope, but to remain alert, preparing ourselves for his coming. We hear and respond to Jesus’ call to conversion by paying attention to what is going on around us; by “reading the signs of the times” – including the reality of **change**.

We sometimes speak of faith as a rock, something unchanging. Yet growth in faith is always an invitation to embrace change. This doesn’t come easily or naturally to us. We establish routines and become comfortable with them. And yet, “from womb to tomb”, that call to change, to grow, to expand our horizons, to experience conversion and renewal, endures. In summary: “We seek stability; the world gives us change. The real question is: *How can we find inner stability, in the midst of a changing world?*” The answer lies in our faith in Jesus Christ, who is “the same yesterday, today, and forever,” whose ways are “steadfast love and faithfulness.”

Pope Francis constantly reminds us, by word and example, that a stagnant, self-referential Church becomes dry and lifeless: we are challenged to go out to the peripheries, to be converted by an encounter with the poor, by those who are different from us. As he visits Africa this week, as world leaders gather in Paris to address the environmental crisis, as our nation opens its borders and its hearts to the Syrian refugees, let us be vigilant: trusting in God’s Word, awaiting the fulfillment of his promise. May Christ’s Advent find us watchful and ready.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS

Video Divina

Join Fr. Raymond for **Molokai: The Story of Fr. Damien**, the third film of this year’s “Movies with a Mission” series, on Friday, December 4 at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! All are welcome!

Coffee and Conversation

Join us on **Sunday, December 6 from 9:50 to 10:50 am**, in the rectory dining room to view the **NOOMA** film **Corner – Why do we often feel empty even when we get what we want?** Free babysitting is available for pre-school aged children.

Living with Limits, Living Well!

Pope Francis’s latest encyclical “Praise Be To You” calls for swift action on climate change, and challenges us to live in harmony with all creation and to practice true stewardship. How can ordinary people answer this call in a way that responds to the growing gap between rich and poor, as well as the accelerating degradation of our environment? Sharon Di Fruscia and Members of St. Monica’s Faith and Justice Committee will lead us on a seven-week study, on **Thursday evenings, January 7 to February 18, 2016, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish rectory, where we will explore the possibilities of answering this call! A fee of **\$15** is requested to purchase the reading material, and we ask that you register by **December 15** to ensure that these materials arrive before the first session. For information and to register, contact Anna at (514) 481-0267 ext. 22 or anna.diodati@stmonica.ca.

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 NOV. 28 TO DEC. 6, 2015

Saturday, November 28: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Rosa, Irma & Costanzio Sparapani By Teresa Caucci
Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family
Leopoldo & Aida Di Paolo and By Silvia & Tony Supino
Maria & Giacomo Del Corpo

Sunday, November 29: First Sunday of Advent

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Deceased members of the Cullen Family, and Marco Lucci.
11:00 Joey Palladini By wife Mersedeh, Mary & his Family
Miriam Pennacchi By Ida Onesi & Family
Thomas Francoeur By Anna & Andre Nolin & Family

Monday, November 30: St. Andrew

8:00 Giovanna, Pietro, Americo and By Michele & Vincenzina Ferrara
Argeo Forlini

Tuesday, December 1: Weekday Mass

8:00 Maria Brocca By her Niece
Ettore Lanni By Wife & Family

Wednesday, December 2: Weekday Mass

8:00 Maria Cardilli By Salvatore Cardilli

Thursday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier

8:00 Anna Bodalia By Rosa & Luigi

Friday, December 4: St. John Damascene

8:00 Linus Doyle By Marion & Family
Julie Prillo By her Family

Saturday, December 5: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Angelo Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Leonardo Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi
Concetta Di Vincenzo and By Mafalda Zegarelli & Family
Raffaele Zegarelli

Sunday, December 6: Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family
Anna Maria Fiori By Livio & Family
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Deceased members of the Cullen Family, Carmel Pinto, Robert Pinto, Francesco Masella

Your Generosity

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for weekend of November 21/22, 2015 totalled \$2,665.70. Special collection for Christmas Food Baskets totalled \$3,819.00.

WARDENS' ELECTION

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, AFTER 11 A.M. MASS

There will be a general meeting of all parishioners for the purpose of electing two new churchwardens. If you live within the church boundaries, and feel called to serve in this ministry, please pray about allowing your name to stand for election. You may speak to Fr. Raymond or any of the current wardens for more information.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PASTORAL HOME CARE VISITOR?

Do you know anyone who might make a good visitor to the sick and aged in our community? A 6-session formation program on pastoral accompaniment of the sick and elderly is being offered at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (4567 West Broadway) in January. For more information or to register, please contact Cathie Macaulay at 514-925-4354 or Ann Robertson through the Parish Office.

TOY AND FOOD TREES

This weekend, our toy and food trees are on display at the front entrance of the church. We invite you to please 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 13.**

2016 SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES

This weekend, November 28/29, owners of Sunday Donation Boxes will be able to pick up their new box for **2016** at the main entrance to the church. **Owners who had box numbers above 360 last year, now have new numbers.** (In past years, we have notice a decrease in donation box users; and to help cut costs, we have had to order less boxes to compensate.) **Please refer to the alphabetical list provided for your new number.**

ADVENT PRAYER

BOOKLETS AND CANDLES

On December 8, Pope Francis will open the Year of Mercy. Our adult Advent prayer booklet, "A Season of Mercy", contains daily reflections to guide us on this important faith journey. The adult, family, and children's Advent prayer booklets are **\$2.00** each. The Advent candles are available for **5.00** each set. You will find these items at the main entrance of the church. Please place fee in the "Payment Box".

HATS, MITTS, GLOVES AND SCARVES!

Each year, we collect mitts, hats, scarves and gloves. This year, these items will be donated to our parish poor at the Food Pantry. We invite you to place your gifts of these items under the Christmas tree at the front of the church near the tabernacle for donation.