

**STEWARDS OF GOD'S MANIFOLD GIFTS – PART 1: OUR TALENTS**

Things are happening at St. Monica's! Two weeks ago, we unveiled our new banner and presented our theme for the upcoming pastoral year: OUR MISSION – SENT FORTH TO LIVE AND PROCLAIM GOD'S MERCY. Last weekend, as we celebrated our "Welcome Back" Sunday with coffee, muffins, hot dogs and lemonade after each Mass, Brent Walker preached an inspiring homily, calling us to ponder our response to Jesus' question "*Who do you say that I am?*", and inviting us to come away for a retreat day in which we "put ourselves in the Way of God's love." What a great way to begin our new pastoral year!

Over the next few weeks, there is a word you will be hearing which may be unfamiliar to you – although it is one we have discussed many times over the decade of my tenure as pastor of St. Monica's. That word is "**stewardship**". But what does it mean? In his article "*The Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards*", Paul Wilkes defines a Christian steward as one who:

- *receives God's gifts gratefully,*
- *cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner,*
- *shares them in justice and love with others, and*
- *returns them with increase to the Lord."*

There is a lot packed into that definition! Ultimately, though, it comes down to this: God has been so generous to us! God has given us the precious gift of **time**: how do we use it to serve him, to be present to others, to do the work of the Kingdom of God? God has given each of us unique gifts and **talents**: do we "bury them" or deny them, or do we receive them gratefully and develop them responsibly so as to build up the community and serve the common good? God has given us **treasure**: do we think of money and material possessions as something we own or are somehow owed, or are we willing to be generous in sharing with our church community and with those in greatest need – not just from our surplus, but giving sacrificially?

Over the next three Sundays, we will hear brief witness talks from our parishioners about how, in their own journey, they have discovered through the gift of their **time, talent, and treasure** the blessings of a God who is never outdone in generosity. Today, we are blessed with Marcelle Lord's witness to the sharing of her **talents**, through her involvement in St. Monica's pastoral council, food pantry, and baptismal team ministry. May we be inspired by her example and witness to experience ourselves the blessings of a generous life. Good stewardship is contagious! So as we make room for the gifts of all members of our parish, let us together draw nearer to Christ, their one Source.

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS****“IN THE HEART OF THE WORLD”**

This is an invitation in the midst of our busy lives to reflect on our vocation as Christian women and men to be Church on mission in our milieu. Over five weekly sessions, **Sr. Marie Azzarello, CND**, will be our guide as we take time to ponder how, like Jesus, we are called to be bearers of mercy, a healing presence for all whom we encounter, for all creation. Join us on **Tuesday afternoons, Sept. 29 to Oct. 27 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** in the Parish Rectory. A fee of \$15 is requested in order to purchase the printed booklet. **Please register by September 25.**

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)**

If you desire to renew your faith, complete your Sacramental Initiation, enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, or to know more about our faith, please contact Glenda Cadogan through the parish office for information about our program. The group meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the rectory, **beginning September 23, 2015.**

*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 SEPTEMBER 19 TO 27, 2015

**Saturday, September 19: St. Januarius**

**4:00 In Loving Memory:** Mike Kilbertus, Alessandro Palladini,  
Leonard & Terry Winslade, Francisco Masella.

**Sunday, September 20: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30** Agnese & Guglielmo Teodori By Vivian Teodori  
Giovanni, Maria & Elena Piccolino By Piccolino Family  
**11:00** Rosolino & Costanza Sparapani By Maria Sparapani  
Babby Anthony Aiello By his father Carmelo Aiello  
Pietro Di Meglio By his Wife & Family

**Monday, September 21: St. Matthew**

**8:00** Maria Cardilli By Giuseppina Lucci & Family

**Tuesday, September 22: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Maria Cardilli By Maria Teresa Palucci & Family

**Wednesday, September 23: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**

**8:00** Jacqueline & Peter Nugent By their son

**Thursday, September 24: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Jonathan Castilho By Olivia Johnson  
Msgr. T. Mooney & Joseph Mui By the Hyland Family

**Friday, September 25: St. Cosmas and St. Damian**

**8:00** Giovanni & Norina Ones By the Zilli Family  
Antonio & Rosa Paoli By Pietrina Turini

**Saturday, Sept. 26: St. John de Brebeur & St. Isaac Jogues & Companions**

**4:00** Elena & Alesandro Deciccio By their Brother  
Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family

**Sunday, September 27: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30 In Loving Memory:** Deceased members of the Cullen Family  
**11:00** Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family  
David Chauvin By the Family

### Your Generosity

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of September 12/13 totalled \$2,827.75.

### THE COOL (CHILDREN OF OUR LORD) YOUTH GROUP



Join the  
Youth Group

The group will start up again on Friday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. We will have a pot luck dinner, so bring something to share. Open to youth grades 7-9. We are always looking for more youth leaders and adult leaders. Is God calling you to that? RSVP or for more information contact Claire at [stmonicasyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasyouth@gmail.com) or 514-482-7493 (evenings).

### ST. MONICA FOOD PANTRY THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

#### *NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS NEEDED*

Cereal, can tuna fish or salmon, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, chick peas, soup, canned or packaged black beans or lentils, powdered milk, peanut butter or jam, instant coffee, tea, etc.

**Significant info:** According to statistics from the city of Montreal, 37% of the people residing in households within our parish boundaries are living on incomes at or below the poverty line for the city of Montreal. Our Food Pantry helps to assist many of these people with emergency food assistance.

## ZAMORAN SENDS

# Thank You

Our twin parish in Zamoran sends their love and greatest gratitude for the generosity of St. Monica's parishioners! They were over joyed to receive the corn that is so badly needed. Unfortunately, conditions there have not improved.



### CHANGES TO LIVING WITH CHRIST MISSALETTES

In October, the number of Living With Christ daily missalettes is reduced to 40 per month. The Sunday Yearly Mass Books 2015/2016 edition will be increased. This will help us reduce the high cost of booklets.

To order your own personal Living With Christ daily missalette, you can order by:

internet: [novalis.ca/LC1506](http://novalis.ca/LC1506),

email: [living@novalis.ca](mailto:living@novalis.ca) or

call toll free: 1-800-387-7164 or

fill out a form that you will find at the back of the church and mail it directly to NOVALIS.

### BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS

Urgently Needed: Volunteers to help serve breakfast to children at St. Monica's School who would otherwise come to school hungry.

You need only volunteer for (one) day a week from 8:15 to 9:00 a.m.

If you can help fill this urgent need, please call Avice Joseph at 514-486-

2769 or Sandy Shea 514-369-0180.

