

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS – PART 3: OUR TREASURE

Things are starting up in a big way at St. Monica's! Two weeks ago, Brent Walker led an inspiring retreat day, inviting us to embrace our mission to live as "people of the Way." Last weekend, we began a new year of Faith First, welcoming back the children, sharing with the whole community the many ways in which we as adults can grow and deepen our faith through the coming year. Today, following up on the witness talks given by Marcelle and Iain the past two Sundays on the value of sharing our **talents** and our **time**, Simon has courageously accepted to plunge in "where angels fear to tread", speaking to us on the third leg of the stewardship tripod: the gift of **Treasure**!!

Christian stewards "*receive God's gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible and accountable manner, share them in justice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.*" This applies not only to the sharing of time and talent, but also to the material resources available to us. Catholics tend to find it difficult to have an honest conversation about money. Because the subject is awkward, we tend to avoid it. As a priest, the last thing I want to do is turn the pulpit into a weekly appeal for funds. Yet we all know that the work of evangelization, worship and outreach to which the Lord calls us has financial costs associated with it: salaries, programs, supplies, utilities, maintenance – not to mention major repairs and renovations that make a serious dent into our reserves. And in spite of what some think, the Vatican museum is not going to sell a painting to pay for our front steps!

When we respond with generosity to the Lord who is the source of all our gifts, we encounter a God who "will not be outdone in generosity": *"Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ whatever the cost. This commitment is expressed not in one single action, but in an entire way of life: the gift of one's very self to the Lord. Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, which changes how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be. They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another. (U.S. Bishops: Stewardship: A Disciple's Response)*

Next week: from the 3 T's of stewardship to the "4 P's": how our financial commitment is to be planned, prayerful, percentage, and progressive!

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS**FAMILIES REACHING OUT TO FAMILIES: A CONVERSATION ABOUT FAMILY LIFE**

Pope Francis has convoked a Synod this October to reflect on "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World." Join Fr. Raymond and a panel of invited guests on **Wednesday, October 21 from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the parish hall to learn how we can reach out to all families – of all shapes and configurations – to help them heal their wounds, strengthen their bonds, and more fully realize their vocation and mission, both in the church and the world. Please register by **October 19.**

CATHOLICISM: THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

The Catholic Faith is about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It's an encounter with Jesus Christ! Join Fr. Raymond for three Sunday afternoon sessions, **Oct. 18 to Nov. 1 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.** in the parish hall for an opportunity to explore the Church's mission and the challenges of contemporary culture. We will learn what the New Evangelization is, and then witness to examples of new ardor, new expressions and new methods of evangelization in action. A light lunch will be provided. Please register by **October 16.**

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 OCTOBER 3 TO 11, 2015

Saturday, October 3: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Aniello D'Addio By Franca D'Addio & Family
Giacomo Fiori By wife Berardina & Family

Sunday, October 4: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family
Angelo & Anna Massotti By Dominico Massotti & Family
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Deceased members of the Cullen Family,
Emile Rassenti by Thelma Murphy & Family,
Peter Baumgartner by Susie Roberts

Monday, October 5: Weekday Mass

8:00 Luigi, Antonio & Sanda Onesi By Settimia Onesi

Tuesday, October 6: St. Bruno

8:00 Ilario Maiolo By Family
Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family

Wednesday, October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 Intentions of all Parishioners

Thursday, October 8: Weekday Mass

8:00 Pino & Amilcare Mattei By Ignazio Mattei

Friday, October 9: St. Denis & Companions, St. John Leonardi

8:00 Antonio Cavallaro By his Family
Francesco Ciampino By his Brother & Sister

Saturday, October 10: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Pietro Di Meglio, Mike Kilbertus, Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Francesco Supino, Deceased Member of Di Fazio & Iacovone Family.

Sunday, October 11: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Antonio & Vincenzo La Posta By Concetta La Posta
Deceased Members of Di Fazio By the Children
& Iacovone Family
11:00 Joseph Onesi By Ida Onesi & Family
Dolores Laughlin By Emily Ryan

Your Generosity

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of September 26/27 totalled \$3,330.90.

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATIONS

The **deadline** for **registering** your children for Faith first is Sunday, **October 18**. Please sign-up as soon as possible as space is limited. Please note that we are **no longer accepting registrations for our Sunday grade 3-class**. For further information, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at the rectory. 514-481-0267 ext. 26.

MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The annual Mass of the Anointing of the Sick will take place **Saturday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m.** This sacrament is intended for those who are seriously sick; patients before serious surgery; elderly people who are very weak and sick children old enough to understand and be comforted by the sacrament. Those wishing to receive this sacrament are strongly urged to sign up ahead of time. **Sign-up sheets have been placed at the back of the church.** Alternately, please call the parish office to sign-up. Transportation will be provided, if needed. In addition, **volunteers are needed to drive parishioners who will be attending the Mass.** If you are able to help, please sign up at the back of the church or call the parish office.

POPE FRANCIS – SYRIAN REFUGEES

Letters to send out to our MPs stating your concerns are at the back of the church.



ST. MONICA'S PARISH BAZAAR
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015
NOW COLLECTING ITEMS
MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION
(NO CLOTHES OR BOOKS)

THE NEED IS STILL THERE!

This might be the official last weekend for the **Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive** but the need continues all year round.



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

Cereal, can tuna fish/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.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTRE: MEDITATION WITH SCRIPTURE IN A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

With Brent Walker, weekly at 7:00 p.m. (day to be determined) at 4567 West Broadway in Montreal. Whether you are experienced in Christian meditation or would like to learn, the group provides the opportunity to listen together for God's voice and share God's presence with one another. Cost is \$60 for the year.

For more info contact Brent Walker at sanfrancisco73@gmail.com.

To register, contact the Ignatian Centre at 514-481-1064 or at centre@ignatiancentremtl.ca.