

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 2nd 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 and 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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Advent Reconciliation Services for the West End parishes will be held at the following places and time:

- 1) **St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish** on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m.
- 2) **St. Monica's Parish**, confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 20, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 21, from 9:30 to 10:50 a.m..
- 3) **St. Malachy's Parish** on Saturday, December 20, at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome to experience the mercy of God offered in this sacrament! Please pray for the children of our community who are experiencing this weekend their First Reconciliation.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Our grade 3 Faith First children celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation this weekend. Congratulation to: Isabella Abou-Fadel, Maddison Abreu, Elishah Alphonse, Natasha Anglehart-Reven, Elijah Carter, Edwin Carl Cercena, Aiden Cochrane, Massimo Di Pasquale, Elise Eliotte, Daniel Fsaha, Mateo Garbarino, Thomas Hammett, Patrick Hunter, Maya Jabbari, Deshawn Joseph, Neriza Gail Ladrillono, Christian Lobaugh, Myra Nazin, Luca Amato Rotili Pedicelli, Joseph Vittorio Ricciardi, Christina Sposato.

P.S. Please note that Faith First & Little Gifts are now on Christmas vacation for the next 3 weekends. The program will resume on the weekend of January 10/11, 2015.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The St. Vincent de Paul Committee thanks all the parishioners who helped us prepare for our Christmas Basket distribution. Twelve families will receive baskets contributed by the students at Villa Maria High School. The other 100 or so households will receive the food donated by you, the parishioners of St. Monica parish, and other supporters of the food pantry. In addition, an assortment of fresh vegetables, as well as donated poultry and boxes of Eggos, both offered by friends of the food pantry, will be added to each basket. The food basket distribution will take place in our Church hall on Tuesday, December 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. Feel free to drop by!

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 13 TO 21, 2014

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 Abbatiello.

Monday, Dec. 15: Advent Weekday Mass

8:00 Linus Doyle By Marion Doyle & Family
Irene & Michael Goldenberg By Lisa Brimo

Tuesday, December 16: Advent Weekday Mass

8:00 Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family
Deceased members of the By Lisa Brimo
Loewinsohn Family

Wednesday, December 17: Advent Weekday Mass

8:00 Ermando Giuseppe Nudo By wife Elvira
Rita McGee By Pat Brabant

Thursday, December 18: Advent Weekday Mass

8:00 David Libertini By Salvatore Cardilli & Family
Nizida Sala Verona Arbesu By Family & Friends

Friday, December 19: Advent Weekday Mass

8:00 Lazaro & Benjamin Belgica By Elena Belgica
Amilcare & Giuseppe (Pino) Mattei By Ersenio Di Sciuollo & Family

Saturday, December 20: Advent Saturday

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Leonard & Terry Winslade, Natalina Donati
Ceccucci, Mike Kilbertus, Deceased members of Charles J. McDonald
Family, Luigina Ciccicarelli, Alessandro Palladini, Lucille Wong.

Sunday, December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 Ettore Lanni By wife Virginia
Stella & John Brimo By Lisa Brimo
11:00 Deceased members of the Dagostino, Grazia, By Anna Mascia
Mascia & Mariani Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of December 6/7, 2014 totalled \$3,311.08 The special collection for Maintenance totalled \$1,432.00

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

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. Also, 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)

To have a copy of the Christmas Appeal Letter: pick up a copy along with a return envelope.

ALL THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE EAST SIDE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH.

TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2014 – Please note that all donation must be in no later than December 28, in order to receive a tax receipt for 2014. Donation received after this date will be credited for 2015. Thank you.

WARDEN ELECTION RESULTS

Last Sunday, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, we held a meeting for all parishioners living within the parish boundaries for the purpose of electing two new wardens. This year we welcome Anne-Marie Scerbo, replacing Carmel Kikenny, whose 3-year term is shortly coming to an end; and we welcome back Ursulene Farmer Mora for a second 3-year term. We extend our profound thanks to Carmel Kilkenny for her dedicated service to St. Monica's parish.

2015 SUNDAY MASS BOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR SALE FOR \$5.00 EACH

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.**

1) 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.

2) Owners of boxes who had box numbers above 380 in the past, now have new numbers. This is because less boxes were ordered for this year. Please refer to the alphabetic list provided.

New Boxes #23-57-76-91-102 - 122 recently picked up, please submit the BLUE registration form as soon as possible. Box #94, please call the office to supply us with your name and address. Thank you. 481-0267