

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on our life as a journey. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we may be running away from something that seems too heavy to bear: our grief, our shame, our disappointments, our fears. When our hearts are heavy, our steps are slowed, our vision clouded by tears, it isn't easy to see or to believe. As we share our experiences with others we meet along the way, we are often unaware that the Risen Christ is walking with us. But when our eyes and hearts are opened to His presence – often in our greatest time of need, of vulnerability – then indeed, Easter comes to dwell in us!

This Gospel story illustrates beautifully the dynamics of spiritual discernment. Jesus reveals himself as a true spiritual guide – meeting these sad, would-be disciples where they are, drawing out their story, interpreting it in the light of the Scripture, and finally, in the intimate context of a shared meal, revealing his risen presence to them. “*Were not our hearts burning within us as he walked with us on the road?*” Immediately, they turn around and run all the way back to Jerusalem, bringing new life and hope to their **companions** – a word that means “one with whom I break bread.” I leave you this beautiful poem by Malcolm Guite, *Emmaus 2*:

*We thought that everything was lost and gone,
 Disaster on disaster overtook us
 The night we left our Jesus all alone
 And we were scattered, and our faith forsook us.
 But oh that foul Friday proved far worse,
 For we had hoped that he had been the one,
 Till crucifixion proved he was a curse,
 And on the cross our hopes were all undone.
 Oh foolish, foolish heart, why do you grieve?
 Here is good news and comfort to your soul:
 Open your mind to scripture and believe
 He bore the curse for you to make you whole
 The living God was numbered with the dead
 That He might bring you Life in broken bread.*

SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your support to the 2017 Share Lent campaign! Thanks to your generosity, \$4,743.10 was collected in our parish. This sum will go towards meeting the needs of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. If you have not had a chance to make a donation, there is still time to place your Share Lent envelope in the Offertory or to make a donation directly at devp.org/give. Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

PALM CROSS FUNDRAISER

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's palm cross fundraiser in support of The Jason Fund. We were able to send \$630.00 to the fund to help children and teenagers battling cancer. A special thank you to Alexandra Ciocca and her crew for making the crosses.

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 29 TO MAY 7, 2017

Saturday, April 29: St. Catherine of Siena

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Angelo Caucci, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Alessandro Palladini, Norbert Gertler, Engracia & Juan Nicolas

Sunday, April 30: Third Sunday of Easter

8:30 Agnese & Guglielmo Teodori By Vivian & Joseph
Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family
Santa Mattei By Giuseppina & Family
11:00 Orlando & Domenica Fiori Daughter-in-law Berardina Fiori
Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family
Antonio Ricci By Antonia Ricci & Family

Monday, May 1: St. Joseph the Worker, and St Pius V

8:00 Carlina & Cosa Turini By Pietrini Turini

Tuesday, May 2: St. Athanasius

8:00 Special Intentions for all St. Monica's Parishioners

Wednesday, May 3: St. Philip & St. James

8:00 Antonia & Gabriele Poliziani By Maria Bruno De Ciccio
Ivivo Mazzella By his Daughter
Oliviero De Laurentis By Raquel Galvan

Thursday, May 4: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all St. Monica's Parishioners

Friday, May 5: St. Weekday Mass

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini

Saturday, May 6: St. Francois de Laval Catherine of Siena

4:00 Ilario Maiolo By the Family
Aniello D'Addio By his wife Franca
Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family

Sunday, May 7: Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Gerry Le Grove, and Pietro Di Meglio.
11:00 Leonardo Ricciardi By his son Antonio
Flavio Ricci By Antonia Ricci & Family
Anna Maria Fiori By Livio & Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of April 15/16, 2017 totalled \$6,448.30, and April 22/23, 2017 totalled \$2,853.30. Holy Thursday collection for the Food Pantry totalled \$2,492.00.

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION: Registration forms for 2017-18 Season are now available at the entrances of the church, church hall, & rectory. **PLEASE NOTE: All new, as well as, returning students must fill out a form before August 14 (to know how many books to order) & return it to the rectory to guarantee a spot.** Cost of program is \$80 for one child, \$105 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more if you register by Sunday, June 25. **(After that date, \$20 will added on: \$80-\$100, \$105-\$125, \$125-\$145).** Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further info or an electronic copy of the registration form, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by email at jennie.armstrong@bell.net.

Little Gifts Program

Little Gifts program ends for the season on the weekend of May 13/14, 2017

ONLINE GIVING AT ST. MONICA'S

St. Monica's parish has chosen *CanadaHelps*, a registered charity dedicated to facilitating charitable giving across Canada, to manage its online giving. They process donations made using their own site, disburse the funds to the charities, and provide tax receipts directly to the donors. For **charities**, CanadaHelps provides open access to an affordable, secure online fundraising platform, helping them better connect with their supporters. *CanadaHelps* is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). As it is a non-profit organization, its fees are a fraction of for-profit alternatives, so your donation dollars go further and work harder. Moreover, it works hard to keep all of your information safe and secure, in strict compliance with industry Data Security Standards. They regularly update the security of their payment processes, not storing your credit card information on their servers, but able to recall your encrypted information to save you time when you donate. All personal information is held confidential, and they will never share your personal information with any charity unless you explicitly give permission. To find out more, visit www.canadahelps.org or click on the "donate" button on our website: www.stmonica.ca.

