

Thirsty ... for what?

On this Third Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to drink in this beautiful encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Thirsty after a long walk, with no bucket to draw water, Jesus asks this “woman at the well” for a drink, while awakening in her a thirst for something He alone can give: “The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water, gushing up to eternal life.”

The Samaritan woman is hardly a model disciple. She is there drawing water at noon, the hottest part of the day. Shunned by the respectable matrons who draw their water early in the morning, the woman with “five husbands” is there alone. She is shocked that Jesus – a man, and a Jew – would have anything to say to her, a Samaritan woman living “on the edge.” But Jesus engages her in dialogue. At first she is defensive, then distracting, then political. But through the directness of Jesus and her own deep desire for the “living water” offered by this stranger, her shame and reluctance are eventually overcome. She becomes the first person to whom Jesus explicitly reveals his identity as Messiah. She becomes not only his disciple, but his apostle and evangelist, spreading the “good news” of this saving encounter to all her people.

Today still, Jesus encounters us: in the person who asks for a drink, a favor, a loan, a few moments of our precious time. He awakens in us a thirst for something “more”: something no drink – cool water or sweet juice or full-bodied wine – can ever quench. What is it that **we** thirst for? A secure personal identity? Health in mind, body, and spirit? Meaningful work? Intimacy in our relationships? A life-giving spirituality? Whatever it happens to be, it is what we thirst for, what we most deeply desire, that shapes our growth, prompting our quest for the One who alone can satisfy.

Let us bring to our Lenten journey all the thirsts we carry deep within.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

As you may know, we are in the process of sponsoring a Syrian Muslim family. You can read the history and progress of the process on the parish website (www.stmonica.ca) by clicking on the section Ministries – Faith and Justice – Refugee Sponsorship. There you will find an introduction and the letters to and from the Alrayes family. The application forms have passed the Quebec and Canadian governments and, since January 2017, they are at the visa office in Jordan for further processing.

Faten Khalil, Office Manager for the international Refugee Assistance Project in Amman, Jordan, wrote to us recently:

“I have spoken to Ziad and transferred your letter to him, he was very happy to hear that they will be travelling soon; he said that the money is helping them and they are looking forward to travel and meet everyone there in Canada. Ziad asked me to thank everyone in Canada for the efforts they are making to help his family.”

Let us hope Ziad and his family aren't getting their hopes up too high since the interviews, medical exams, orientation, and security checks in Jordan are the longest part in the process! In the meantime, let us keep praying for the Alrayes family and for all refugees.

You might also be interested in viewing a video of a lecture entitled *Syrian Refugee Crisis in Historical Context*. It was presented by Professor Rachad Antonius, at St. Monica's, on November 30, 2016 and is posted on the home page of the parish website www.stmonica.ca.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - SHARE LENT

This week, we meet with Cécile Kazadi, a woman from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who explains why community radio is an essential tool for women denouncing sexual violence. “Thanks to RCK radio, our lives have changed a lot. We are now aware of our rights.” This year, why not share year-round by joining Development and Peace – Caritas Canada's monthly donor program? More information can be found online at devp.org/shareyearround.

FAIR TRADE ON SALE THIS WEEKEND

LOONIES AND SPARE CHANGE ALSO COLLECTED FOR ZAMORAN

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 18 TO 26, 2017

Saturday, March 18: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

4:00 Ermando Giuseppie Nudo By wife Elvira Nudo
Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta
Arcangelo Canci By Franca D'Addio

Sunday, March 19: Third Sunday of Lent

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti,
Emma & Colombo Salvati, and Fulvio Silvina.
11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family

Monday, March 20: St. Joseph

8:00 Kathleen Pridham & Family By Lucy

Tuesday, March 21: Weekday Mass

8:00 Giuseppe Fiori By wife & Family

Wednesday, March 22: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Thursday, March 23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

8:00 Angelo Sabatucci By Ignazio Mattei
Bill Brookes By Terry Laberge

Friday, March 24: Weekday Mass

8:00 Virginia Campued By Zilli Family

Saturday, March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord

4:00 Mary Campbell By her daughter Sharon
Campbell-Springstead & Family
Antonio Bei By wife Gabriella Bei & Family

Sunday, March 26: Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 Deceased members of the Cinelli By Maria & Raffaele Cinelli
Family
Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family
Fulvio Silvina By Rosa & Luigi Salvati
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Desolina & Giambattista Onesi

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of March 11/12, 2017 totalled \$2,203.40. Maintenance collection totalled \$1,068.00.

REST & RENEWAL - CATHOLIC RETREAT FOR SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES

Dominus Vobiscum is a Catholic family retreat center near Mandeville, Quebec which is about an hour and a half drive from Montreal. Traditionally, Dominus has offered Catholic retreats for married couples and their children. Last year, for the first time, it hosted a 3-day retreat for single mothers and their families. The weekend was a great success! Every woman who attended was extremely grateful that this was offered. DV is hosting the same retreat again this year. The retreat consists of 3 days of programming for the women as well as separate programming for children, mass, prayer, sharing and recreational time. Women are free to come with or without their children. Dominus is located on Lac Maskinonge with beachfront cabins, canoes, children friendly facilities as well as a chapel. **The weekend will take place Friday, June 23 to Sunday, June 25.** The flyer is posted on the church bulletin boards. For more information, clic on the website at <http://newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscumca/wp/> or call Jacqueline at 514-489-2921 or Jackie_cere@hotmail.com

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Discerning The Spirit At Work In Our Common History: A History of Christianity

Inspired by the BBC video series "A History of Christianity", our series continues this coming **Wednesday, March 22 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. All are welcome!

Video Divina

This year, Fr. Raymond's film series looks at movies - and life - through the lens of the Holy Spirit. Join him next **Friday, March 24 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory to view the movie **The Visitor**. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow!

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional info. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or call Anna at the office.

BOOKS REFERENCED

by Fr. Philip Chircop at
"How Big is Your God?"
Lenten Retreat on March 4

For those who attended the Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 4 here are the titles of **3 books**

Fr. Philip referenced:

Gerry W. Hughes, **THE GOD OF SURPRISES**,
Juan Aries, **THE GOD I DON'T BELIEVE IN**, and
George Maloney, **MARY, THE WOMB OF GOD.**

Fr. Philip sends his regards and his thanks to all!

