

“GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD ...”

Today's readings have as their common theme that of **deliverance**: the first reading and psalm promise deliverance to Israel after her long exile; Paul testifies to our deliverance from sin through the free gift of faith, mercy and grace in Jesus Christ; and finally, John's Gospel reminds us that **“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son”**: Jesus sets us free from sin and death by the Paschal mystery of his life, death, and Resurrection.

Jesus shares these words with Nicodemus, who comes to visit him by night. Most of us should be able to relate to Nicodemus. He is a religious man, but also a bit skeptical; he wants to know and understand God better, but does not want to be *seen* doing so. Jesus tells him that although the Light has come into the world, we often prefer to remain in the shadows. This invites us to ponder: from what evils do **we** need deliverance: as individuals, as society, as church? What are the areas of darkness in **my** life which would benefit from the pure light of Christ? One concrete way to ask the Lord to fix his flashlight upon some of the shadowy areas in our lives is through the **sacrament of reconciliation**. **Here at St. Monica's, we will celebrate this special gift of God's healing mercy this coming Thursday at 7 p.m.** In the bulletin, you will find the schedule of Lenten penance services in our neighbouring parishes. All are encouraged, during this Lenten season, to share in this saving encounter with God's all-forgiving love.

This year, the fourth week of Lent marks the celebration of two great saints: **St. Patrick** (March 17), and **St. Joseph** (March 19). Patrick grew up in Wales; at age 16, he was captured in a pirate raid and sold into slavery in Ireland. He later escaped, went to France, trained for the priesthood, and became a bishop. Eventually, Patrick returned to Ireland and became its greatest evangelizer, forging a link between the great treasure of Celtic spirituality and the traditions of Roman Catholicism. Joseph, a descendant of King David, was living as a carpenter in Nazareth when God called him. Matthew's Gospel presents Joseph as a *tzaddik*: a “righteous man”, faithful to the covenant embodied in the Law of Moses, attentive to the voice of God, who spoke to him in dreams and through the events of his daily life. The Oratory dedicated to St. Joseph, patron of Canada, towers over our city's skyline as a reminder of his faithfulness to his calling, and of his deep love for Jesus and Mary. **St. Patrick and St. Joseph – pray for us!!**

THE SHARE LENT COLLECTION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**NEXT WEEKEND, MARCH 21/22 * SOLIDARITY SUNDAY!**

Money must serve, not rule! The Pope loves everyone, rich and poor alike, but he is obliged in the name of Christ to remind all that the rich must help, respect, and promote the poor. “I exhort you to generous solidarity and to the return of economics and finance to an ethical approach which favours human beings”. – Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel,

Next Sunday, March 22nd, is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Solidarity Sunday when the annual Share Lent collection for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE will be held. Your generous solidarity is vital to the mission of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and our ability to help, respect, and promote the poor. Please be sure to bring your Share Lent envelope for your gift.

THIS WEEKEND * FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS * ON SALE AFTER ALL MASSES

(Coffee & Chocolate Bars)

LOONIES and SPARE CHANGE WILL ALSO BE COLLECTED

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

As part of our Lenten journey of conversion and renewal, the Church invites us to experience the healing, transforming power of the Lord's mercy in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Communal celebrations of this sacrament, with opportunity for individual confession, will be held **here at St. Monica's** in the context of a special Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, on **Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m.**, and at **St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish** after the regular 7.00 p.m. Mass on **Tuesday, March 24th**. All are welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS FORM MARCH 14 TO 22, 2015

Saturday, March 14: Our Lady's Mass

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Pietro Di Meglio, Giovanni & Palma Farinelli,
Mike Kilbertus, Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry Winslade

Sunday, March 15: Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 Aniello D'Addio By Franca D'Addio & Family
Velma Valleau By Millie & Dominic Silvestri
11:00 Jerry Vietri By the McGarr Family
Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family

Monday, March 16: Lenten Weekday Mass

8:00 Aline Liautaud By Pat Brabant
Carlo & Santa Fiori By Giuseppina & Family

Tuesday, March 17: St. Patrick

8:00 Ermando Giuseppe Nudo By wife Elvira
Giacomo Fiori By wife Berardina & Family

Wednesday, March 18: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:00 Dorothy Rice By the Rice & Walder Family

Thursday, March 19: St. Joseph

8:00 Catherine Scerbo My Margaret & Family
7:00pm Solemnity of St. Joseph and Lenten Reconciliation Service

Friday, March 20: Lenten Weekday Mass

8:00 Dr. Robert Brodrick By Diane & Larry Boyle

Saturday, March 21: Our Lady's Mass

4:00 Angelo Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family

Sunday, March 22: Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Deceased members of the
Cullen Family
11:00 Mr. & Mrs. Giambattista Onesi By Ida Onesi & Family
Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of March 7/8, 2015 totalled \$2,782.05.

DIOCESAN-WIDE LENTEN MISSION – THIS WEEK!

Join us for the Diocesan-wide Lenten Mission

The Catholic Faith and You! with Bishop Thomas Dowd
being held **THIS Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, March 17, 18, 19**
at Transfiguration of Our Lord church (11775 Filion, Montreal).

It promises to be a great refresher series for us all.

To get to the mission, a carpool/bus is being organized from our parish. Please contact the parish office (or ___person responsible at church___) at phone: _____ this week to reserve a place.

TAKING PUBLIC TRANSIT?

From Henri-Bourassa Metro, take bus 164W OR from Cote-Vertu metro, take Bus 117-N or 170-N. By car from the 40-E or 40-W, take Exit 70 to the 15-N, then take Exit 4 onto de Salaberry. Turn left onto rue Guertin, left onto rue Dudemaine, left onto rue Filion.

Info: Corey Jolly 514-931-5311 ext.251 or cjolly@diocesemontreal.org



FOOD PANTRY IN NEED! CAN YOU HELP?

1) "Our Food Pantry is in need of a replacement refrigerator, new or



used but in good working condition. If you can help with this request, please contact Deacon Dennis through the parish office."

2) Many young mothers who come to the Food Pantry ask whether or not we have **Pampers or Huggies** to give out. The cost of buying a supply of these diapers takes a sizable chunk out of financial resources of low income families. So if you can help us keep a supply of these diapers on hand, we would appreciate it. Any size package of diapers that you see on sale will do.

CALLING ALL HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES AND FAMILIES CONSIDERING HOMESCHOOLING.

I am starting a Montreal Catholic homeschooling social group where children and parents can socialize and at the same time be with families who practice the same faith! Parents will benefit from the support & encouragement of fellow homeschooling parents while the children meet new friends. We plan on meeting in person soon where we can celebrate the joys and struggles of homeschooling while at the same time celebrate our awesome faith! We have the support and encouragement from Bishop Thomas Dowd & our very own homeschool chaplain, Fr. Gilles Suprenant who both, like me, have a vision of homeschooling families gathering to encourage each other on our homeschooling journeys. For info, contact Cathy at 514-624-1562 or cathcerisano@hotmail.com