

The Heart of a Shepherd

"God's flock is in your midst: give it a shepherd's care." These words of advice from St. Peter to his fellow "elders" are but the echo of the commission given to him by Christ after the Resurrection, in that wonderful conversation "by the beach" reported by John in last Sunday's Gospel. Three times Jesus asks, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Three times, Simon Peter responds, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." And three times, Jesus commissions Peter to feed his lambs, to tend his flock, to give them a shepherd's care.

Twenty-five years ago this August, at the time of my own priestly ordination, this was the Gospel I chose. Or perhaps it is more accurate to say that "this Gospel chose me." Over the years, I have come back to it again and again, especially in times of trial, struggle, or weakness; and I am blown away each time by the personal love of Jesus for me, his continually drawing me deeper into the mystery of his love, and his willingness to entrust the mission of caring for his people to me. Many times, like Peter, I have felt my arms outstretched, the Lord taking me where I might not have chosen or even dared to go myself; but he has always been with me.

This has been especially true for me and for my family these last two weeks, as we prepared to say goodbye to my mother, Ursula Lafontaine, who was received into her loving Saviour's arms on Thursday evening, April 7th, at 11:05 p.m. at the Palliative Care Unit of Mount Sinai Hospital. She was here at St. Monica's for Easter Sunday Mass, walking on her own, singing along, and helped me in welcoming 22 family members for Easter dinner! Now, she has gone home, to be reunited with her parents, her husband Jean (who died six years ago last week), her son Philip, and all those who have gone before us in faith. On behalf of all our family, thank you for keeping us all in prayer, for your loving support, and for your warm and heartfelt condolences. *Mille Grazie! Many thanks!*

**ST. MONICA'S PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO
THE SHRINE OF ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA**

(St. Francis Xavier Mission-Kahnawake)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 * R.S.V.P. BY APRIL 25

(Sign-up sheet at main church entrance or

Sr. Lorraine Lebert at 514-481-0267 or email at llebert@videotron.ca)

The cost per person is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

Please contact Sr. Lorraine if the cost is an issue for you.

A minimum of 40 people must be registered for the pilgrimage to take place.

Program for the Day:

8:45 a.m. Meeting and blessing of the pilgrims at St. Monica's Parish

9:00 a.m. **Departure by bus for the Shrine**

10:00 a.m. Guided tour

11:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Raymond Lafontaine

12:00 p.m. Lunch and fellowship (Bring your own lunch) Dessert, water, juice, and soft drinks will be provided.

2:00 p.m. Departure for St. Monica's Parish

DIOCESAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

"Serving the Montreal Catholic Community for 50 years"

DCA offers 4 amazing, fun filled, faith-based, 1-week camp experiences for children, youth and families at beautiful **Camp Kinkora!****Family Camp (DFC)** (July 17-23) **Liturgy Camp (DLC)** 6-15yrs

(July 24-30) **Youth In Action(YA)** 7-14yrs (July 30-Aug 6) **Visions** 14-19yrs (Aug. 7-13).

Info. and Registration: Anna Graham: 514-796-0703 www.campkinkora.com

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 16 TO 24, 2016

Saturday, April 16: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Angelo Caucci, Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Pietro Di Meglio, Deceased members of Charles J. McDonald Family, May Clarke.

Sunday, April 17: Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Agnese & Guglielmo By Vivian & Joseph
11:00 Joseph & Brian Murphy By Thelma Murphy & Family
Leonardo Ricciardi By Maria Carmel Ricciardi

Monday, April 18: Weekday Mass

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini

Tuesday, April 19: Weekday Mass

8:00 Byrnell Wylie By Linda Wylie & Family

Wednesday, April 20: Weekday Mass

8:00 Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family

Thursday, April 21: St. Anselm

8:00 Mario Disciullo By Ignazio Mattei & Family

Friday, April 22: Weekday Mass

8:00 Guerrino & Luigia Ciambella By daughter Rosa

Saturday, April 23: St. George, St. Adalbert

4:00 Giovanni & Palma Farinelli By the Family
Tito Forlini By Maria De Ciccio
Alessandro Palladini By his Wife & Family

Sunday, April 24: Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo Salvati.

11:00 Antonio Bei By wife Gabriella Bei
Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family
Antonio Ricci By Wife & Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of April 2/3 totalled \$3,346.70. Maintenance collection totalled \$1,162.25. Collection for the weekend April 9/10 totalled \$3,109.95,

YES WE CAN!

Our Confirmation kids are collecting **cans and plastic bottles** in support of our **Food Pantry** until **May 15th**. Please bring in your empty cans and bottles and place them in our collection bags at the front entrance and at the east-side doors of the church.



LIVING ROSARY

To celebrate the month of Mary, please join with us, the Faith Frist children, in reciting the rosary in a very special way. On **Saturday, April 30 at 3:30 pm or Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am** we will become the living rosary!

Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming Events

Bible Study

Join us this coming **Wednesday, April 20th, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the parish hall**, for the third session of **The Holy Spirit and the Life Worth Living: The Acts of the Apostles Bible Study**, with **Robert Assaly**. This is a unique opportunity for us to experience how the Holy Spirit is calling us forth, showing us the way to the abundance of life! All are welcome.

St. Monica's Spring Retreat

What are the characteristics of good leadership? How can Christian faith make leaders better at meeting their responsibilities? Join us for our Spring Retreat, **Christian Leadership: Empowerment, Service and Mission**, with **Richard Boileau**, on **Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, for an exceptional opportunity to explore how to recognize and develop gifts in ourselves and others, build community, and be good stewards of God's gifts to us. Please register by **May 4**. **Note:** Samia Boghdady, of Theologia Book Ministry, will be at St. Monica's during the retreat with a wonderful selection of books and other media for you to purchase.

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

