

'The Almighty has done great things for me....'

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 25th WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Instituted by my predecessor Saint John Paul II in 1992, and first celebrated at Lourdes on 11 February 1993, the World Day of the Sick is an opportunity to reflect in particular on the needs of the sick and, more generally, of all those who suffer. It is also an occasion for those who generously assist the sick, beginning with family members, health workers and volunteers, to give thanks for their God-given vocation of accompanying our infirm brothers and sisters. This celebration likewise gives the Church renewed spiritual energy for carrying out ever more fully that fundamental part of her mission which includes serving the poor, the infirm, the suffering, the outcast and the marginalized.

I encourage all of you, the sick, the suffering, physicians, nurses, family members and volunteers, to see in Mary the sure sign of God's love for every human being and a model of surrender to his will. May you always find in faith, nourished by the Word and by the Sacraments, the strength needed to love God, even in the experience of illness. Like Saint Bernadette, we stand beneath the watchful gaze of Mary. The humble maiden of Lourdes tells us that the Virgin, whom she called "the Lovely Lady", looked at her as one person looks at another. Those simple words describe the fullness of a relationship. Bernadette, poor, illiterate and ill, felt that Mary was looking at her as a person. The Lovely Lady spoke to her with great respect and without condescension. This reminds us that every person is, and always remains, a human being, and is to be treated as such. The sick and those who are disabled, even severely, have their own inalienable dignity and mission in life. They never become simply objects. (...) Mary gave Bernadette the vocation of serving the sick and called her to become a Sister of Charity, a mission that she carried out in so exemplary a way as to become a model for every healthcare worker. Let us ask Mary for the grace always to relate to the sick as persons who certainly need assistance, at times even for the simplest of things, but who have a gift of their own to share with others.

This great wealth of humanity and faith must not be dissipated. Instead, it should inspire us to speak openly of our human weaknesses and to address the challenges of present-day healthcare and technology. On this World Day of the Sick, may we find new incentive to work for the growth of a culture of respect for life, health and the environment. May this Day also inspire renewed efforts to defend the integrity and dignity of persons, not least through a correct approach to bioethical issues, the protection of the vulnerable and the protection of the environment.

On this Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick, I once more offer my prayerful support and encouragement to physicians, nurses, volunteers and all those consecrated men and women committed to serving the sick and those in need. I also embrace the ecclesial and civil institutions working to this end, and the families who take loving care of their sick. I pray that all may be ever joyous signs of the presence of God's love and imitate the luminous testimony of so many friends of God, including Saint Teresa of Calcutta, missionary of God's love.

Dear brothers and sisters, the sick, healthcare workers and volunteers, I ask you to join me in praying to Mary.

Mary, our Mother, in Christ you welcome each of us as a son or daughter.

Sustain the trusting expectation of our hearts, succour us in our infirmities and sufferings, and guide us to Christ, your Son and our brother.

Help us to entrust ourselves to the Father who accomplishes great things. Pope Francis

MENTORSHIP MINISTRY – A CALL FOR MENTEES

The Mentorship Ministry is a group of Catholic friends journeying with God and each other. We are seeking MENTEES, young adults (18-35 years of age) who are embarking on or have begun on their career path and would benefit from contact with a Mentor. Mentors are available to guide you on your career path with their experience and friendship. To sign up as a Mentee or for further information on the Ministry email Patricia Tuck at mentorshipm@gmail.com or telephone 438-399-4088 by **February 17, 2017**. Spots are limited and acceptance will be on a first come basis.



MASS INTENTIONS FEB. 11 TO 19, 2017

Saturday, February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes

4:00 Vittoria & Giuseppe Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Ascenzio Rassenti By George & Pauline Wong
Ermando Giuseppie Nudo By his wife Elvira Nudo

Sunday, February 12: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta
11:00 In Loving Memory: Deceased members of Cullen Family

Monday, February 13: St. Paul Miki & Companions

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Tuesday, February 14: Weekday Mass

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini

Wednesday, February 15: St. Jerome Emiliani

8:00 Alexander Cybulski By Claudia & George

Thursday, February 16: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Friday, February 17: St. Scholastica

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Saturday, February 18: Our Lady of Lourdes

4:00 In Loving Memory: Angelo Caucci, Restituta La Posta,
Leonard & Terry Winslade, Antonio Bei, Lynda Quinn,
Alessandro Palladini.

Sunday, February 19: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Alessandro Fiori By his Children
11:00 Giacomo Fiori By wife Berardina & Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of February 4/5, 2017 totalled \$2,601.10 Maintenance \$1,118.00

2016 TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for donations made during the year 2016 to St. Monica's Parish by **regular Sunday Donation Box users** are now available for pick up at the back of the church.



SAVE THE DATE! ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

**Friday, March 17th from
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

All Parishioners & Friends Invited!

Share your talents! Sign up for the variety show. Food, fun, faith and fellowship. If

anyone is interested in helping with the event please contact Claire at stmonicasyouth@gmail.com, 514-677-7493.

Congratulations to Robin Brodrick who was selected as one of the St. Patrick's Parade princesses by the Irish Society of Montreal!

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

Laudato Si': The Holy Spirit Within Mother Earth...Our Common Home

Join **Sr. Maura McGrath, CND**, this coming **Wednesday, February 15** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall for the

second of our three part series which focuses on listening to Jesus' call to heal Mother Earth through the lens of Pope Francis' book, "*Laudato Si' - Care for our Common Home.*" All are welcome!

St. Monica's Lenten Retreat

"How Big is Your God? - Healing Our Images of God" -
"We become the God we worship and adore". *Who is the God you're falling in love with? Is your God perhaps too small, created in your own image and likeness? A pocket-sized God that does not excite or challenge? Has your God grown and matured since you were a child?* Join world renowned retreat master and public speaker, **Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ**, on **Saturday, March 4th** from **9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** for this morning of recollection in which we will explore some unhealthy, toxic images of God, and learn how to replace them with the life-giving images of God found in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. You don't want to miss this special event! All are welcome!

NOTE: Fr. Chircop will preach a Lenten mission at **St. Luke's Parish** in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, on the theme **"Go Build My Church!"** over three evenings, **Thursday, March 2nd to Saturday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.** For more information, please refer to the posters at the Church entrances, or contact St. Luke's Parish at (514) 684-6488 or www.st-luke.ca. All are welcome!

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.