

THE EUCHARIST: LIVING IN JESUS WHO LIVES IN US

In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to "abide in his love." To "abide" is one of those wonderfully evocative Biblical words: it means "to remain", "to dwell", "to draw life", "to be at home with." Keeping the commandments Jesus gives us is not just observing some set of external rules, fearful that we will be punished if we disobey. The "commandment" of love is an **invitation**: to find our home in the Father's **love**, to experience the **joy** God desires for each of us, to embrace God's call to **friendship** with one another, and to discover the **fruitfulness** that comes from a living relationship with God in Jesus.

How can we respond positively to this invitation to new life? Often, with the busyness of our daily lives, the struggles and burdens with which we must deal, we too easily forget the reality of this call of Jesus to abundant life in Him. This is why we need to be reminded. And God finds his own way into each of our hearts. Spring is a wonderful time to be reminded of a God who is the source of life and beauty: the bright sunshine, the blossoms on the trees, the flowers springing forth from the earth, speak to us of a God who cares for all his creation. It is also a good time to find a quiet corner to meditate on God's word, to thank him for our daily blessings, to ask for strength in our daily needs. We are assured that the same God whose eye "is on the sparrow" watches over us.

One unique and precious way in which Jesus' pledge to "abide" with us is made real is in the gift of the Eucharist. We pray in a special way today for the children of our parish who receive Jesus into their hearts next weekend in their **First Holy Communion**. May they "become what they receive": the Body of Christ, Jesus' real and living presence in the world. Let us ask God also to bless their families, their catechists, and all who have prepared them for this special encounter with Jesus, who comes into their hearts and reveals to them the Father's love.

Jesus also promises the gift of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to those who abide in his love. Let us also keep in our prayers our young people who will be confirmed by Msgr. Francis Coyle on May 14. **Holy Spirit, rain down!!**

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE: ROME AND SHRINES OF ITALY

This year, from **October 4-14, 2016**, Fr. Raymond Lafontaine, Pastor of St. Monica Parish, will be leading a Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Rome and the Shrines of Italy. This pilgrimage will include a papal audience in St. Peter's Square, guided tours of Rome's four major basilicas and the Vatican Museums, and destinations including Assisi, Florence, Loreto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Pompeii, and Monte Cassino. For more info, or to register for the presentation, please contact Antoinette Mercurio from Caleche Travel at 514-266-3134 or nan@caleche.net.

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION: Registration forms for 2016-17 Season are now available at the entrances of the church, church hall, and rectory. **PLEASE NOTE: All new, as well as, returning students must fill out a form before August 15 (so that we know how many books to order) and return it the rectory to guarantee a spot.** The cost of program is \$80 for one child, \$105 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more **if you register by Sunday, June 26 (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.

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF C.C.S.M.

You are invited to participate in a Eucharistic Celebration at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 875 Marcel-Laurin Blvd., St-Laurent, Quebec H4M 2M8 on Thursday, May 5, 2016 with Bishop Thomas Dowd as celebrant. The evening will commence with the rosary and praise at 6:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Following the Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered, and our trained prayer teams will gladly meet with you individually. Everyone is most Welcome! This Eucharist is in preparation for the Consecration of this church in the Fall. For further information, please contact Maureen at 514-486-7734.

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 23 TO MAY 1, 2016

Saturday, April 30: St. Marie of the Incarnation

4:00 Filomena Di Ciero By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
Deceased members of By Mary McDonald
Charles J. McDonald Family
Elvira Arciaga Flores By Janine Flores

Sunday, May 1: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Ercole Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Mark Mazzella By the Family
Giuseppina Scifo By Graziella Buscemi

11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Beatrice Gagnon, Charles Corner.

Monday, May 2: St. Athanasius

8:00 Linus Doyle By Marion & Family

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

8:00 Giovanni, Maria & Elena By Piccolino Family
Piccolino

Wednesday, May 4: Weekday Mass

8:00 Maria Cadilli By Salvatore Cardilli

Thursday, May 5: Weekday Mass

8:00 Gabriele & Claudio Pedicelli By Ernesta Ciampini
Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini

Friday, May 6: St. Francois de Laval

8:00 Ilario Maiolo By the Family
Vincenzo Saluzzi By his wife Maddalena
Giuseppe Fiori By his Wife & Family

Saturday, May 7: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Italo & Anna Mariani, Italo Falcone,
Angelo Caucci, Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry
Winslade.

Sunday, May 8: Ascension of the Lord

8:30 Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta
Deceased members of the By Dacuycuy Family
Dacuycuy & Vea Family By Baratta Family
Filomena & Giacomo Baratta

11:00 Flavio Ricci By Mother & 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 23/24 totalled \$2,518.70.

YES WE CAN! The Confirmation Children's drive for empty soda cans and plastic bottles **continues until May 15th**. Special collection bags for these items are at the entrances of the church. This project is to help out our Food Pantry.



NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE – OTTAWA.

All are welcomed to join us for the National March for Life, **Thursday, May 12**. This is a yearly gathering on Parliament Hill, Ottawa. 25,000 attended last year to demand protection for children before and after birth. Two chartered buses leave Montreal at 7a.m. – **Downtown** (895 de la Gauchetière) and **Laval** (Holy Name of Jesus church, 899 Chomedey Blvd.) Mass, picnic, & march through the streets of Ottawa. Pick-ups at **Fairview Shopping Center** (Sears). Round-trip fare \$40. Reserve before May 5, 2016, at (438) 930-8643 or (514) 344-2686.

Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming events

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**.



Love. Grow. Serve.

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.

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond will present the movie, **Live and Become**, on **Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m.**, in the parish rectory. As this is the last movie of the "Movies with a Mission" series, you are invited to bring refreshments of your choice to share with the group. Popcorn will be provided. All are welcome!

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.