

**RICH IN MERCY: "M" IS FOR "MYSTERY"**

In today's excerpt from the Gospel of Luke, we encounter Jesus: filled with the Spirit after his baptism in the Jordan, led by that same Spirit "into the wilderness". Alone, hungry, and vulnerable, Jesus confronts temptation: to satisfy his spiritual hunger with material possessions; to expect "command performances" from God rather than trusting in his presence and protection; to worship the idols of worldly power and prestige rather than the living God who says, "You are my beloved child: in you I am well pleased." Through it all, Jesus remembers *who He is*: though tempted, he remains without sin.

Oscar Wilde famously quipped: "I can resist everything, except temptation!" All of us struggle with temptation. Even Jesus did. Conventional spiritual wisdom recommends that we should avoid temptation, flee "the near occasion of sin". For the most part, it's very good advice. We should not knowingly place ourselves in situations where we are likely to fall into sin. Yet at the same time, our lives must be based **not on fear** of sin, but on **trust in God**. God can work through anything – even our sinfulness – to bring about his purposes. This work of God is a great mystery indeed!

Each year, Lent is God's way of calling us to enter into our own desert. In the wilderness of our inner lives, we experience temptation, but we also encounter the *mystery* of God, his *revelation*: "*The wilderness will lead you to your heart, where I will speak.*" The Gospel of Ash Wednesday invites us to go into our room, our "inner space", that secret place only God can see. So inspired by the example of Jesus, let us follow the lead of the Spirit into the wilderness. It *will* be scary at times, and we may well feel hungry, vulnerable, and alone. But we will not *be* alone. As we walk the Lenten journey together, we can count on the friendship and prayers of our fellow travelers to sustain us. Most importantly, we will meet Jesus there: the Merciful One in whom we have placed our trust.

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS****THE TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CHARITABLE WORKS**

In our parish mission statement, we commit ourselves to put into practice the Lord's invitation through the prophet Micah: "*To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with God.*" Love builds upon a foundation of justice. Charity implies giving what is mine to others, but justice calls us to give to others what is rightfully already theirs because of who they are as children of God. Please join **Brian McDonough** on **Wednesday, February 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall to learn how justice and love interact with each other to promote the common good! Free babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by **February 15**.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

Join us on **Sunday, February 21, from 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.**, in the rectory dining room, to view the **NOOMA** film "**Luggage – Why is it sometimes so hard to forgive?**" Free babysitting is available for pre-school aged children if arranged with Anna before Friday, February 19.

**VIDEO DIVINA**

Join Fr. Raymond for **The Long Walk Home**, the fifth film of this year's "Movies with a Mission" series, on **Friday, February 26, at 7 p.m.**, in the parish rectory. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! All are welcome!

**ST. MONICA'S LENTEN PARISH MISSION**

We are currently preparing for our Lenten Parish Mission, and invite you to save the dates of **March 7th to March 9th** so that you can be part of this empowering experience. Flyers are available at the main church entrance. Please take one and share one! More information will follow next week.

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

## MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY 13 TO 21, 2016

### **Saturday, February 13: Our Lady's Saturday**

**4:00 In Loving Memory:** Italo & Anna Mariani, Italo Falcone, Angelo Caucci, Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Deceased members of the Charles J. McDonald Family.

### **Sunday, February 14: First Sunday of Lent**

**8:30** Ermando Giuseppie Nudo By wife Elvira Nudo  
Angelo Sabatuci By Giuseppina Fiori & Family  
**11:00** Michael Collins By Sisters of Hudson Residence  
Ettore Lanni By Wife & Family  
Giacomo Fiori By wife Berardina & Family

### **Monday, February 15: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Alexander Cybulski By Claudia & George  
Beata Ricci By the Ricci Family

### **Tuesday, February 16: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Carlton Raphael By Raphael Family

### **Wednesday, February 17: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Lorraine Gagnon-Roy By Elcira Leon & Neighbours

### **Thursday, February 18: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Alessandro Fiori By his Children

### **Friday, February 19: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Agnese, Martino & Antonio Gagliardi By the Family

### **Saturday, February 20: Our Lady's Saturday**

**4:00** Terzo & Theresa Zanca By the Family  
Pacifico Villanueva By Faith First  
The Caucci & Sparapani By Teresa Caucci

### **Sunday, February 21: Second Sunday of Lent**

**8:30 In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Julian Rooney, Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo Salvati.  
**11:00** Michael Collins By Faith First  
Maria Cardilli By Maria Sparapani  
Giovanni & Donata Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi

**Your Generosity...**

**Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...** Collection for the weekend of February 6/7, 2016 totalled \$3,632.55.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE PETITION**

**All parishioners are encouraged to sign the petition "together we call for climate action" at the back of the church.**

In the late fall, a petition was introduced to the parish to encourage our government leaders going to the Paris Climate Summit to work for an agreement to ensure that the Earth's temperature would not rise more than 1.5 degrees C. Now it is critical that the government be urged to come up with a Canadian Plan that sets appropriate ambitious targets to realize their promise to reduce emissions and keep the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degree C.

## **YOUTH RETREAT**

Join us for a two-day retreat with friends, food, fun, and faith from 6pm, Friday, March 11 to 6pm, Saturday, March 12 at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish (5455 West Broadway, Montreal). For youth ages 12-18 years, and in partnership with NET Canada, [www.netcanada.ca](http://www.netcanada.ca). Suggested donation of \$20. Contact Claire to register or for more information at [514-482-7493](tel:514-482-7493) or [stmonicasyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasyouth@gmail.com).

## **2016 Lenten Prayer and Reflection Booklets**

The 2016 Lenten Prayer and Reflection Booklets are available for you to purchase at the main entrance of the church. The adult, family and children's editions are priced at **\$2.00** each. Please put your payment in the **Payment Box**.

## **FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> Mondays in the Month**  
**1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in the Month**  
**8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Call Marcelle Lord at**  
**514-550-0125 and leave your**  
**name & number.**

## **REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP**

We are discerning as whether or not to sponsor a refugee family. If we do, we need a committed team to work on the following: finance, housing, employment, education, health, shopping and transportation. We will hold a meeting to explore this possibility on **Sunday, Feb. 21 after the 11:00 a.m. mass** in the rectory. If you are interested to participate in this venture, please come join us at the meeting. All welcome to attend.

## **DEVELOPMENT & PEACE**

Create a Climate of Change is the theme of this year's Share Lent campaign. A number of Pope Francis' intentions are at the heart of the campaign, most notably, his encyclical on care for our common home the earth and the Jubilee Year of Mercy he has proclaimed. In this week's bulletin you will find the D&P calendar with a reflection for us to ponder each day. These reflections will help us better understand the theme and how we can actively be part of this campaign.