

RICH IN MERCY: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS
“C” IS FOR COMPASSION

This coming week, from Monday through Wednesday evening, Fr. Mike Shaw will be leading our parish mission, dedicated to the theme: **‘RICH IN MERCY: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS’**. Fr. Mike is also preaching at all the Masses this weekend, to introduce the major themes of the retreat and to inspire our desire to participate in it as fully as we can. He will lead us on a journey to deeper understanding of these beautiful and complex realities: grace, mercy, repentance, forgiveness, salvation, and redemption. In our communal celebration of God's forgiveness on Tuesday, we will rediscover the sacrament of Reconciliation as a precious source of self-knowledge, as a pathway to inner healing and freedom. Finally, we will be empowered to become *missionaries of mercy*: sent out into the world, sharing this good news of forgiveness and healing offered to us in Christ. It should be quite an adventure!

Pope Francis expresses this beautifully in his proclamation of the Year of Mercy:

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, “rich in mercy”, after having revealed his name to Moses as “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness”, has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the “fullness of time”, when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father. Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever, despite our sinfulness and brokenness.

So let us accept Christ's invitation this week to become builders of bridges of understanding, rather than walls of hostility and fear. Let us become, in the words of St. Paul, “ambassadors of reconciliation”, sent forth to live and proclaim God's mercy!

Want to hear more? Then make sure you come out this week for our parish mission, **‘RICH IN MERCY: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS’** led by Fr. Mike Shaw from Monday through Wednesday evening, March 7-8-9. Please come and invite a friend – or an enemy!

SUNDAY DONATION BOXES

Using our Sunday Donation Boxes is a good way for parishioners to have their donations recorded and a tax receipt issued to them at the end of each year.

To receive a box, just call the parish at 514-481-0267.

ST. MONICA'S PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

PART OF THE “LENTEN PARISH MISSION” MARCH 7, 8 & 9, 2016 * JOIN US!

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 5 TO 13, 2016

Sat., March 5: Jubilee of Mercy "24 Hours for the Lord" Continued

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

Sunday, March 6: Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 Pietro Di Meglio By Wife & Family
Deceased members of the Petosa Family By Maria & Raffaele Cinelli

11:00 Michael Collins By Sr. Marthe Carmel
Ella Lewis By Judy Young

Monday, March 7: St. Perpetua & St. Felicity

8:00 Domenico & Giovanna Santini By Alessandrina Caucci

Tuesday, March 8: St. John of God

8:00 For Special Intentions of all Parishioners

Wednesday, March 9: St. Frances of Rome

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini

Thursday, March 10: Weekday Mass

8:00 Ruben Galvan By Raquel & Drex

Friday, March 11: Weekday Mass

8:00 Beatrice Gagnon By Glen Clairmont & family

Saturday, March 12: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Clarke Bedford By Dolores & Bob Parsons
Antonio Bei By his wife Gabriella Bei
Ermando Giuseppie Nudo By wife Elvira Nudo

Sunday, March 13: Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 In Loving Memory: Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo Salvati, Pietro Di Meglio
11:00 Maria Cardilli By Maria Sparapani
Rafeek Rahaman By Glen & Mary Smith
Vincenza Forte By Nursing Division Montreal Neuro Hospital

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of February 27/28, 2016 (to be recorded next week)

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

For almost 50 years D & P has been working with partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East to fund and support projects that allow thousands of people live sustainable lives, put food on the table, educate their children, and live with dignity. Equally important is the work they do educating Canadians to problems facing the world and affording them the opportunity to speak up for the oppressed. The annual Share Lent collection will take place next weekend. D & P counts on your generosity to continue their vital work. You will find an envelope in you Sunday donation box or you may use an envelope placed in the pews.

SHARE LENT COLLECTION FOR

Development & Peace

NEXT WEEKEND AT ALL THE SUNDAY MASSES

MARCH 12 & 13, 2016

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Monica's Lenten Parish Mission

Rich in Mercy: The Gift of Forgiveness - "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy!" **NOT** "Lord forgive us, Christ forgive us, Lord forgive us!" It is rare that we know that we are forgiven before we ask! That is God's approach to our failures. How are we able to include this wonderful gift in our daily lives? Come, and together let us find the answer to this question with **Fr. Mike Shaw**, who will lead us over three evenings beginning this coming **Monday, March 7, to Wednesday, March 9, from 7 to 9 p.m.!** All are welcome!

Coffee and Conversation

Join us on **Sunday, March 13 from 9:50 to 10:50 am**, in the rectory dining room, to view the **NOOMA** film "**Sunday – Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's important to God?**" Free babysitting is available for pre-school aged children if arranged with Anna by Friday March 11. All are welcome.

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information.

