

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord (B) St. Monica's Parish April 4/5, 2015

POPE FRANCIS' EASTER MESSAGE: GO TO GALILEE!

The Gospel of the resurrection of Jesus Christ begins with the journey of the women to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. They go to anoint and honour the Lord's body, but they find the tomb open and empty. The angel says to them: "Do not be afraid!" and sends them to tell the disciples: "*He has been raised from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee!*" The women depart and on the way, Jesus himself meets them.

After the death of their Master, the disciples scattered; their faith shaken, their certainties crumbled, their hopes dead. But the message of the women, incredible as it was, came to them like a ray of light in the darkness. News began to spread: **Jesus is risen!** Then there was his command to go to *Galilee*; the women had heard it first from the angel, and again from Jesus himself. **Galilee: the place where they were first called, where everything began!** They must return to the place where Jesus had walked along the lakeshore, where he called them, where they left everything and followed him.

For each of us, too, there is a "Galilee" at the origin of our journey with Jesus. We are all called to "go to Galilee": to rediscover our baptism as a living fountainhead, to draw new energy from the sources of our faith, and from our own Christian experience. To return to Galilee is to go back to that blazing light with which God's grace touched me at the very start of my journey. From that flame I can light a fire, bringing warmth and light to my brothers and sisters, re-igniting within myself a joy – a good, gentle joy – which sorrow and distress can never take away.

In the life of every Christian, there is also a more existential "Galilee": the experience of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, who called me to follow him and to share in his mission. Treasure in your heart the living memory of that call, when Jesus passed your way, when he gazed at you with mercy and asked you to follow him. Relive that moment when his eyes met yours, when you knew that he loved you.

*What is my Galilee? Where is it? Do I remember it? Have I forgotten it? Have I gone off on roads and paths which made me neglect it? Lord, help me: show me my Galilee, so that I may return there to encounter you and to be embraced by your mercy. The Gospel of Easter is clear: we need to go back there, to see Jesus risen, to become witnesses of his resurrection. This is not going backward, a kind of nostalgia. It is returning to our first love, *receiving the fire* which Jesus has kindled in the world, bringing that fire to all people, to the very ends of the earth. Let us live as Easter people: as witnesses to that light and fire, to the love of Christ, who rose triumphant over death.*

Pope Francis

THANK YOU! AND SAVE THIS DATE APRIL 17!

The COOL youth group core team would like to thank the 20 young people who made the time and commitment to come for the NET Canada sponsored youth retreat on March 13 and 14. The youth had a tremendous encounter with God facilitated by the ministry of the young NET missionaries! There was food, games, skits, prayer, reconciliation service and mass. Thank you as well for the financial donations and the amazing generosity of the parish members who provided food for the group for the entire retreat. We look forward to doing something similar in 2016!

**Save this date! Friday, April 17, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for
St. Monica's Parish Game night. Mark your calendars!**

Pot luck, raffle, games for all ages. Everyone welcome. More details coming soon...

WE'RE BACK! VITALITY CONFERENCE UPDATE

If you've been waiting for follow-up information or are curious about the Parish Vitality Conference held last Nov. 13-15, the first update is now available at parishvitality.com. Check out "Now What?" to find out what some parishes are doing to boost vitality in their community. If you "Missed a Workshop?" you can now attend some of them virtually via YouTube. The website playlist features presentations on Pastoral Leadership and Communications. There will be more to come; next update in April.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL * JESUS IS RISEN!

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 4 TO 12, 2015

Saturday, April 4: Easter Vigil

8:00pm The Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, April 5: Easter – Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 Morning Easter Mass (Christ is Risen)

11:00 Morning Easter Mass (Christ is Risen)

Monday, April 6: Easter Octave

8:00 Nazareno Angelini By Maria Theresa Palucci

Tuesday, April 7: Easter Octave

8:00 Italo Falcone By his Parents

Wednesday, April 8: Easter Octave

8:00 Special Intention By the Wong Family

Thursday, April 9: Easter Octave

8:00 Luigi, Antonio & Sanda Onesi By Settimia Onesi
Domenico Caucci By Ernesta Ciampini

Friday, April 10: Easter Octave

8:00 Aniello D'Addio By Franca D'Addio & Family
Giacomo Fiori By Berardina & Family

Saturday, April 11: Easter Octave

4:00 Edgardo Poce By the Poce Family
Leonardo Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi

Sunday, April 12: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Deceased members of the Cullen Family, Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo Salvati.

11:00 Mirella Trocchia By Nunzio Trocchi
Elmer Cere By the Nolin Family
Guadalupe & Margarita Alonso By Patricia Alonso

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of March 28/29, 2015 totalled \$3,915.00.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE IGNATIAN CENTRE

Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. with CLOSED SET, at St. Ignatius Parish Hall, 4455 West Broadway, H4B 2A7. Tickets: \$25 in advance. Be sure not to miss this evening of high energy popular music, including praise songs! Light refreshments, prizes and more! For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 514-481-1064 or email at centre@ignatiancentremtl.ca.

Faith First & Little Gifts

Faith First Classes or Little Gifts program begins again next weekend, April 11 & 12.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

The Marriage Course

St. Monica's will be hosting *The Marriage Course* from **April 22 to June 3**. Please join course leaders, **Nathalie and John Bondyra**, for our "Come and See" **Introductory Evening** on **Wednesday, April 8 from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the parish hall to learn about how this course can help you build a healthy marriage/committed relationship that will last a lifetime! We encourage everyone, not just couples, to attend our "Come and See" evening to learn about the "Five Love Languages"; and how they can enhance all our relationships! Free babysitting is

available upon request at registration. Deadline to register for the **Introductory Evening** is **April 6**.

The 7-week **Marriage Course** will begin on **Wednesday, April 22 from 7:15 to 9:45 p.m.** The cost is **\$60** per couple, and includes course materials. Deadline to register for **The Marriage Course** is **April 15**. Note that there are no group discussions. Couples privately discuss the evening's topic. For more details, please visit www.relationshipcentral.ca.

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond's movie series "Looking at Life through the Lens of the Sacraments" continues with the sacrament of Holy Orders / Consecrated Life. We will view two episodes of the **Nothing Sacred** series on **Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! All are welcome!

Taken, Blessed, Broken, Shared:

Living the Eucharist

What are some of the ways in which the Eucharist can help you to become the person that God created you to be? How can it be a touchstone for encountering community, bringing peace, enabling forgiveness, finding wholeness and discovering God's love for us? Join **Elizabeth Koessler** on **Wednesday, April 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall for an opportunity to discover how the Eucharist gives us meaning in our everyday life. Free babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by **April 13**.

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.