

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

When I was still in Jamaica, the Father General of the Jesuits, Fr. Nicolas, spoke to us of a problem we have in the Jesuits. He said we are good at celebrating our successes. For example, he said when a Jesuit publishes a new book, his Community holds a sort of “victory” party. He went on, however, to say that we are not good at celebrating our failures. For example, a Jesuit may labour for decades at a particular mission and not see many fruits from his work. When he finishes, there is typically silence or even suggestions of critique. We love success and disdain failure. The problem with all this, even though it seems pretty clear that most of us prefer to succeed, is that we can miss what is most important. And what is most important is fidelity, of seeking to be faithful no matter the situation or the difficulty. In this week’s readings, we hear of the Lord’s appearance among us. The Prophet Malachi proclaims that “the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming.” In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author writes “it is clear that Jesus did not come to help Angels, but the descendants of Abraham.” With the Presentation in the Temple, Simeon declares “my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.” For us, the presence of the Lord does not end with his merely being present. Rather, it is for us to reflect on the quality of his presence. How was and is Christ present to us?

In both the Second Reading and the Gospel, there is the mention of suffering which accompanies the Lord’s presence. Hebrews reads, “Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.” Saint Luke says that Christ will “be a sign that will be opposed” and that “a sword will pierce” Mary’s soul as well. In our own lives, it would be hard to relate to a God who did not know what it is to shed tears over loss or frustration, to continue living when all seems not to make much sense. It is so important for us to know that we are not called to successes but to seek to be faithful. It is not for us to think that our life is meant to be a work of struggling alone. We know that our God has experienced similar struggles, anxieties and uncertainties about what to do. We then know that our path to God and is in the footsteps of Christ’s love. We delight in Christ as our God because he delights in each of us. God does not desire monuments of our accomplishments. God is not disappointed by our failures. God delights in you and will go to any measure to express and share this truth of faith. We move towards God through God’s love. And we move with this love with arms outstretched – desiring to embrace our Lord and each other. This upcoming week we have lots of chances to embrace with the different activities surrounding the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: there is a dance, Novena, Mass, colouring pictures of Mary and a movie about Saint Bernadette. Come and delight in God by delighting in each other.

God Bless and Take Care!

Fr. John

Movie Night: Song of Bernadette

Join us **Thursday, February 6 at 7pm in Lynch Hall** for a viewing of the 1943 Classic movie “*Song of Bernadette*,” starring Jennifer Jones. The evening, part of our *Feast Day Month Celebrations*, is free and includes popcorn and juice. Jennifer Jones won an Oscar as Best Actress in a Leading Role for her performance as Bernadette Soubirous, who from February to July 1850 had 18 visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lourdes France. *We hope to see you Thursday night at the movies!*

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Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes:

We will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday February 11. Our **Celebration of Mass with an indoor Candle Procession and the Rosary begins at 7:30 pm. A FINGER FOOD Potluck reception in all of our Halls will end the evening.** If you would like to drop off something to share, please bring it ready to serve to Lynch Hall before 6 pm. Please join us on this special day.

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Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes:

In preparation for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we invite you to join us in praying the Novena from Sunday, February 2 to Monday, February 10. Our prayer will include the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Novena will take place daily in the church with the exception of Sunday, February 2, when it will take place in the Library hall. We will begin at 4 pm Saturdays and Sundays and 4:30 pm on the weekdays. For those who cannot be with us in the church, we invite you to pray the Novena Prayer at home:

Immaculate Mary, Mother of God, your deepest desire is to bring us to your Son, so that we might follow Jesus more closely. When you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes you made it a privileged sanctuary, where all people can receive God’s healing gifts in body and spirit and in this way meet Jesus Christ. Loving Mother, we ask you to pray for our needs. You are the handmaid of the Lord; intercede for us that the Lord might give us a willing spirit, so that we might better follow Jesus. We will try to imitate your virtues so that we may one day share the union you enjoy with God in Heaven. Amen.

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Careful! Painting in the Church

Beginning February 3 we will be painting the two side walls, vaults and arches of the main body of the church. The painting will be done section by section and we will try to minimize any inconvenience. Please be careful to avoid the scaffolding and the wet paint. The fresh coat of paint is long overdue and will help brighten up the interior of the church. The work will not interfere with our Feast Day celebrations on February 11th. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 3

8:00 am Maria Balangue + [Fely Balangue]
 12:10 pm Carlotta Ilar + [Ilar Family]
 5:15pm Joseph Kaposi's Intention [Mike & Lydia Sherlock]

Tuesday, February 4

8:00 am Daphne Scari's Intention [Sandra & Yvonne]
 12:10 pm Cornelia Gotangco-Alinas + [Zeny Galicia]
 5:15 pm Amanda De Estrada + [Grace Ramirez]

Wednesday, February 5

8:00 am Maura Cadona + [Brenda & Family]
 12:10 pm Pat Campasano + [Zeny Galicia]
 5:15 pm Salvador Verdadero + [Estela Verdadero]

Thursday February 6

8:00 am Remedios Oliver + [Oliver Family]
 12:10 pm All Souls in Purgatory [Violy Balayo]
 5:15 pm All Souls in Purgatory [Cora Balatero]

Friday, February 7

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Juana & Mariano Gruco + [Oliver Family]
 5:15 pm Ricardo Diaz Samayoh + [Grace Ramirez]

Saturday, February 8

8:00 am Eleuterio De La Cueva + [Bing Arellano]
 12:10 pm Thanksgiving – All Saints & All Souls [Annabelle & Eleno]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

**Mario Villacorta, Anita Bautista, Italia Di Biagio
 & John Presley**

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February Fiesta: Join the parish community for an evening of fun with this family-style dance. There will be something for everyone, including some great finger food and activities for young children. *The Fiesta will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes School gym (444 Sherbourne St.) on Saturday, February 8, 6:30 pm to 11pm. Entrance is free, but we ask you to reserve or pick up a ticket. Tickets are available from our Welcome desk in Bernadette Hall. You can also call the Parish Office, 416-924-6257 during the week to reserve a ticket.* The distribution of tickets will help us know how many people to expect and to estimate how much food is needed. We hope to see you there!

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**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 Every 1st Friday of the Month 8:30 am until 7pm**

Come and spend some time in quiet prayer

Next date: **Friday, February 7, 2014**

PARISH MINISTRY FAIR – February 15 & 16

As we continue celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes throughout the month, we want to celebrate the parish and all the many different groups and activities that happen in our community. Join us Saturday, February 15, following the 5:15 pm Mass and Sunday, February 16 from 9am until 8:30 pm in all of our halls for our Parish Ministry Fair. Discover the many different groups active in the parish; find out about different parish events and initiative and meet the many people involved. You might find something you want to join or a way you would like to serve the community. We also have some fun things planned for the weekend. So make time before or after Masses to stop by and celebrate the parish. For more information please call the Parish Office at 416-924-6257.

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Mama Mary in Living Colour:

There is still time to colour or draw a picture for display during the Feast Day Week. Colouring pages are available in Bernadette Hall and in the front entrance of the church. If you have pictures ready for display, please hand them in to one of our Welcomers, our Welcome Desk in Bernadette Hall or to the Parish Office. Thank you!

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Altar Server Team Photos: Next weekend, February 8 and 9, after all of the Sunday Masses, Altar Servers will have their team photo taken in the Sacristy. We remind all Alter Servers not to miss this opportunity to get your picture taken with those you serve Mass with.

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St. Jamestown Youth Centre Steel Orchestra: To celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the St. Jamestown Youth Centre will hold a concert featuring the Steel Orchestra **Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm here in the Church.** Admission is free and everyone is welcome!

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them – every day begin the task anew.” ~ St. Francis de Sales

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of February 2-8						
Sun 2	Mon 3	Tues 4	Wed 5	Thurs 6	Fri 7	Sat 8
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4 pm (Library) Black History Celebration 4:30 pm (church)	St. Blaise: Blessing of the Throats after all the Masses Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4: 30 pm (church)	Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4: 30 pm (church) Liturgy Committee 7pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4: 30 pm (church)	Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4: 30 pm (church) Movie Night: <i>The Song of Bernadette</i> 7pm (Lynch)	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4:30pm (church)	Baptisms 10:30am Our Lady of Lourdes Novena 4 pm (church)