

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK: *Due to a very heavy schedule this week, Fr. John was unable to provide us with his weekly note. We offer this wonderful Catechesis from Pope Francis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

Through the Sacraments of Christian initiation -- Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist -- a person receives new life in Christ. Now we have this life “in earthen vessels” (2 Corinthians 4:7), we are still subject to temptation, to suffering, to death and, because of sin, we can even lose this new life. This is why the Lord Jesus wished His Church to continue His work of salvation, in particular with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and that of the Anointing of the Sick, which can be united under the name of “Sacraments of Healing.” The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of healing. When I go to confession, it is to heal myself, to heal my soul, to heal my heart and anything that isn’t going well. The Sacrament of Penance and of Reconciliation flows directly from the Paschal Mystery. In fact, on the very evening of Easter the Lord appeared to the disciples, locked in the Cenacle and, after greeting them saying ”Peace be with you!,” he breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven” (John 20:21-23). This passage reveals to us the most profound dynamic that is contained in this Sacrament. First of all, the fact that the forgiveness of our sins is not something that we can give ourselves. I cannot say: I forgive my sins. Forgiveness is asked, it is asked of another and in Confession we ask for forgiveness from Jesus. Forgiveness is not the fruit of our efforts but it is a present, a gift of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the purification of mercy and grace which flows incessantly from the wide open heart of Christ crucified and risen. In the second place, it reminds us that only if we allow ourselves to be reconciled in the Lord Jesus with the Father and with our brothers can we really be in peace. And we all have heard this in the heart when we go to confess ourselves, with a weight in the soul, a bit of sadness; and when we receive the forgiveness of Jesus we are in peace, with that peace of the soul that is so beautiful that only Jesus can give, only Him. Do not be afraid of Confession! When one is in line to confess, they feel [fragile] things, even shame, but then when Confession is ended, they feel free, great, beautiful, forgiveness, white (clean), happy. And this is the beauty of Confession! I would like to ask you when was the last time you confessed, that you have confessed? Has it been two days, two weeks, two years, twenty years, forty years? Everyone takes count, but everyone ask themselves: when was the last time that I confessed? And if a long time has passed, don’t miss another day, go, the priest will be good. Jesus is there, and Jesus is much better than the priests, Jesus receives you, He receives you with so much love. Be courageous and go to Confession! Dear friends, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation means to be wrapped in a warm embrace: it is the embrace of the infinite mercy of the Father. Let us remember that beautiful, beautiful parable of the son who left his home with the inheritance money; he squandered all the money, and then, when he didn’t have anything, he decided to return home, not as a son, but as a servant. So many faults he had in his heart and so much shame. The surprise was when he began to speak, to ask forgiveness, the father did not let him speak, he embraced him, he kissed him and made a feast. But I tell you: every time we confess, God embraces us, God makes a feast! Let us go forward on this path. May God bless you.

A Lenten Retreat at Home:

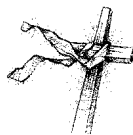
Looking for a way to prepare for Easter? Spend some time praying with the Gospel readings of Lent. Copies of *A Lenten Retreat at Home* will be available every Sunday, along with the parish bulletin. You will also find it on our website: www.ourladyoflourdes.ca

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Lenten Parish Mission

Join us **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – March 17, 18 & 19** 7:30pm in the Church** for our annual Lenten Mission. This year, Sr. Beverley Lawton will join us from Kingston Jamaica to lead us in these prayerful and reflective evenings. **** An Important note about the dates: at the time of publication of the bulletin we were still awaiting news on Sr. Beverley’s visa. Should there be any delay, we have scheduled alternative dates for the following week, March 24, 25 & 26.** We will update everyone as soon as we have information.

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THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Every Friday at 7:30 pm during Lent (except March 7 and April 4) the Way of the Cross will be celebrated in our Church. This is a wonderful way to deepen intimacy with Jesus and to be in solidarity with suffering people in our world. Come and pray with us.

TAMIL COMMUNITY WAY OF THE CROSS: Every Tuesday during Lent (except April 15) the Way of the Cross in Tamil language will be prayed in the Church. This devotion begins at 6pm and finishes at 6:45pm. All are welcome.

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RCIA Rite of Election: Today, Sunday March 9, adults who have been preparing for the sacrament of Baptism in our parish will celebrate the Rite of Election with Cardinal Collins at St. Michael’s Cathedral. This celebration, which normally takes place at the beginning of Lent, marks the entrance into the period of final, more intense, preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which the “elect” are encouraged to follow Christ with increasing generosity of heart. Based on the testimony of godparents and catechists and of the catechumens’ reaffirmation of their intention and desire, the Church makes its “election,” that is their choice and admission of those who are ready to take part in the sacraments of initiation. This step is called election because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election made by God, in whose name the Church acts. It is also called the enrollment of names because the candidates sign their names in the book that lists those chosen for initiation. As a community of faith, we are asked to surround these catechumens, and all who are preparing for the sacraments with our prayers and to accompany them in an ever-deepening encounter with Christ.

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 10

8:00 am Thanksgiving [Belen Family]
 12:10 pm Brian Thorpe + [Deirdre & Colm]
 5:15pm Thanksgiving [Julio Figueiredo]

Tuesday, March 11

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Mrs. Mary Shea + [Alanna Snell]
 5:15 pm Thanksgiving [Elizabeth Figueiredo]

Wednesday, March 12

8:00 am Thanksgiving – Flor’s 76th Birthday [Garcia Family]
 12:10 pm Remedios Oliver + [Oliver Family]
 5:15 pm Mrs. Una O’Connor + [Una O’Connor]

Thursday March 13

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Ophelia Dorothy Miranda + [Ning & Dali Benedicto]
 5:15 pm Consolacion Fernandez + & All Souls [Lucy, Ross & Family]

Friday, March 14

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Mario Manalag + [Corazon Labao]
 5:15 pm Nadur Balatero + [Cora Balatero]

Saturday, March 15

8:00 am Mario Torio + [Gloria Torio]
 12:10 pm Lea Basa + [Zeny Galicia]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ardeza Pin, Cirila Bolosan & Consolacion Fernandez

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The Catholic Women’s League extends a very special thank you to everyone who helped make their rummage sale on Saturday March 1st a wonderful success. As part of the rummage sale, the 50/50 raffle on the day had a winning jack-pot of \$268.00. The winning ticket number was #725734. Unfortunately, the winning ticket does not have the contact information needed to contact the winner. If you have the winning ticket, please contact the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 and leave a message for Caridad from the CWL. Many thanks goes to all the CWL members, family and friends, for their generosity and donations of food, time and effort.

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**CFC SINGLES FOR CHRIST
 Christian Life Program**

Single men and women from ages 21 to 40 are invited to come and join in the Singles for Christ Christian Life Program. The CLP is an integrated course intended to lead the participants into a renewed understanding of God’s call to them as Christian singles. Most sessions consist of three basic ingredients: teaching, group discussion and time for fellowship. The program will run Saturdays 6-9 pm from March 15 to May 24. Please contact AJ Watin at 416-524-4328 or visit www.sfc-toronto.org/clp for more details.

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ANNUAL JESUIT PROVINCIAL’S DINNER

The Jesuit Provincial’s Dinner will be held on April 9, 2014. This year besides recognizing the 50th Anniversary Jesuit Jubilarians, Fr. Leonard Altilia, Fr. Michael Czerny, Br. Paul Desmarais, Fr. John Govan and Fr. John Perry; deceased Jesuits Fr. William Addley, Fr. Eric Maclean, Fr. Dan Phelan and Fr. James Webb will also be remembered. The Knights of Columbus, Ontario are being honoured with the “Magis Award” for their outstanding work and dedication. Tickets are available by calling 416-481-9154 or e-mailing jdo@jesuits.ca. This year, the Jesuit Development Office has generously hired a bus to take those who have purchased tickets from our parish to the mass and dinner. If you have your tickets and would like a ride, please leave your name and number at our Welcome Desk or the Parish Office (416-924-6257)

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SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE will sell fair-trade coffee and tea in Bernadette Hall after Mass today, **Sunday, March 9**. Taste the difference that fair wages make.

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Income Tax Receipts for donations made to Our Lady Of Lourdes in 2013 are ready for pick-up this **weekend** at our **Welcome Desk in Bernadette Hall**. If there is an error in the amount shown on the receipt or you would prefer your receipt mailed to you, please contact the Parish Office at 416-924-6257. Thanks!

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MAMA MARY IN LIVING COLOUR

Thank you once again to everyone who participated in colouring a picture of Mama Mary in celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes Feast. We have now removed the pictures from our stairwell ‘art gallery’ and have them available for anyone who wants to have their artwork returned. Please contact or stop by the Parish Office, 416-924-6257.

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

“Mercy is to fasting as rain is to the earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out your vices and sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will not bear fruit. When you fast a thin sowing of mercy will mean a thin harvest. When you fast what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. So do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering.”

~ Peter Chrysologus, 5th Century

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of March 9-15						
Sun 9	Mon 10	Tues 11	Wed 12	Thurs 13	Fri 14	Sat 15
1 st Sunday of Lent RCIA Rite of Election	Baptism Instruction 6pm Parish Council 7pm	Faith Formation: Prayer & Life Workshop 7pm	Development & Peace 7pm		Way of the Cross 7:30 pm	