

Pastor's Note:

In one of my favourite prayers by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the "Anima Christi," there is a line that reads, "Do not allow me to be separated from you." I love this line because it expresses both the hope and fear we have in our lives of faith. We hope that the Lord will always be with us. We fear that he may let us go, that he will abandon us if we feel ourselves caught in sinfulness. Perhaps for many of us, it is the fear that is more prevalent in our hearts. We all know the words we say and the actions we do that we wish we hadn't. And because of this, we either want to keep God relatively far from us, so that the Lord can't see us too fully, or we think we must win and achieve his love and salvation. In this Sunday's gospel, Christ is responding with great emotion to our misplaced fear and efforts to achieve a spot beside him.

At the end of the gospel passage, Saint John the Evangelist writes a confusing paragraph. He says, Jesus did not "entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about human nature, for he himself knew what was within the human person." We often forget this last sentence and focus on the Lord driving the animal sellers and money changers out of the Temple. In order to understand his action, however, it is necessary to understand that God knows the mixed messages we feel in our hearts. Christ knows our hope to be with him and our fear to be without him. He understands we all long and desire to live and to breathe within the freedom of his love. We want so badly that our biggest fear is to be without it. And so we try and build it, win it and achieve it. The people Jesus drove from the Temple were those who were engaged in the whole practice of offering sacrifice to God – the money changers changed Roman coin into Jewish money so that people could buy an animal to sacrifice. The emotional reaction of the Lord is from a sadness within God that we still often don't know what God is all about. If we think we need to "jump through hoops" in order not to be separated from the Lord, this is clear expression that God's heart remains foreign to us. In driving some out of the Temple, Jesus is begging us to see with new eyes and to believe with new hearts. We don't have to "jump through hoops," we need only open our eyes to see his salvation and promise, and open our hearts to receive the free gift of his love. Lent is the perfect time to believe in him with a newness of heart.

Our hearts can never be the same when we look at the Cross of Christ. Our fear of being left by him is revealed as a lie from the Devil. And God's most intense love for each of us is instead revealed as the truth and gift our hearts have so long for. The Cross is foolishness and tragic on the surface but for us it is life because it is love. It isn't necessary for us to fear that God will leave us "by the roadside." The Cross, with a gentleness like a soft and refreshing breeze, says to us that this can never be the case, that we always have been, always are and always will be loved by our God. Let us not allow our hearts to become like a marketplace, trying to win and achieve the love of the Lord. Let us rather say to him, "Yes, Lord. I see you and hear. And I believe you."

Take Care and God Bless! *Fr. John*



**"Living the Morning Offering"
Lenten Parish Mission:**

Join us **Monday & Tuesday– March 9 & 10 7:30pm in the Church** for our annual Lenten Mission. This year, Fr. Chris Collins, S.J. will join us to lead these prayerful and reflective evenings.

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THE WAY OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 7:30 pm during Lent the Way of the Cross will be celebrated in our Church. This is a wonderful way to deepen our relationship with Jesus throughout Lent. You are also invited to share a **bowl of hot soup in Lynch Hall beginning at 6:30 pm** before the Way of the Cross begins. Take the frost out of winter and join us for fellowship. Then come and pray the Way of the Cross together in the Church at 7:30 pm.

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Sow Much Love to Give

Sow Much Love is Development & Peace's campaign to support poor, small scale farmers as they select, exchange and plant their own seeds. Through Lent we will pray in solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world in our Prayers of the Faithful during our Sunday Masses. Coming up on Solidarity Sunday – March 15, there will be an opportunity to sign a petition urging the Canadian Government to protect the right of farmers to use, preserve and exchange their own seeds. This weekend, you are invited to read the Development & Peace Action Sheets found in this weekend's bulletin. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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Please note the change in the date

The Francis Effect documentary: You are invited to a special screening of Salt and Light's documentary *The Francis Effect* on **Wednesday, March 18th** at 7:00pm in the Church. The film will conclude with a prayer for Pope Francis and a discussion. The film takes an in-depth look at the impact Pope Francis has had on the Catholic Church.

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Join us on **Thursday April 9 at 7pm in the Library** for a talk by former National Post reporter Charlie Lewis on Euthanasia, the movement to legalize it here in Canada, the Roman Catholic perspective and how we become active in building opposition to the legalization of euthanasia in Canada. Watch upcoming bulletins for more details.

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Morning Retreat: Join Fr. Doug McCarthy, S.J. and Dr. Vivian Ligo for a Morning Retreat on Saturday, **March 21 from 9am to 12 noon**. This time of prayer and reflection will take place in the Library and Loyola Halls. The Retreat is free, but we ask you to please sign up by calling the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 or email us at parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 9

8:00 am Thanksgiving [Angeline Bautista]
 12:10 pm Victoria Argotoff + [Sr. Michelle]
 5:15pm Emelie & Evangeline Ortiz + [Angeline Bautista]

Tuesday, March 10

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10 pm Elenita Rosero & Angelita Galicia +
 [Florence Champion]
 5:15 pm Thanksgiving & Complete Healing [Leno]

Wednesday, March 11

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10 pm Thanksgiving [Mary Liu]
 5:15pm Agnes & Elizabeth Ho & Mary Wong’s Intention
 [Elizabeth Ho]

Thursday March 12

8:00 am Felimon & Macaria Bawalan + [Nimfa Pesino]
 12:10 pm Remedios Oliver + [Oliver Family]
 5:15pm Mrs. Una O’Connor + [Una O’Connor]

Friday, March 13

8:00 am Mrs. Salud Victoria Bernardo + [Angela & Marissa]
 12:10 pm Mary St. Croix & Janet Winter + [Bertha Yetman]
 5:15 pm Ella Go + [Josie Go]

Saturday, March 14

8:00 am Servant of God, Alfie Lambe + [Legion of Mary]
 12:10 pm Gail Ward + [Ruth Gannon]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

*Edna Esposo, Pacita Ventura, Esmael Bueno Salmo,
 Gladdy MacKay, Hylie Manuel, Leo McEnaney,
 Aurelio Pineda & Roberto Santos*

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Pre-Passover Seder: The SJ Assisi Interfaith, in collaboration with the CWL – Our Lady of Lourdes Council and our Jewish brothers and sisters, will conduct a pre-Passover Seder in the Library on Thursday, March 26th. The evening will begin with the 5:15pm Mass, followed by a short introductory video about the Seder and the Seder itself. Admission is free, but a ticket is needed, as seating is limited. Participants are asked to please bring a Pot-luck Passover meal: *food may not contain yeast, yeast products, pork or pork products in keeping with Jewish Seder and Jewish dietary requirements.* If you have any questions, or need any clarification, please contact Cenona through the parish office at 416-924-6257.

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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.

JESUIT PROVINCIAL’S DINNER - April 8, 2015: Come join the Jesuits in celebrating Brother Gerry Forest, a Jesuit brother for 50 years! Catherine Von Zuben will receive the “Magis Award” for her work and dedication to Jesuit ministries. The evening will begin with Mass at The Church of The Good Shepherd in Thornhill, ON followed by dinner at Le Parc Dining and Banquet Hall in Thornhill, ON. To order tickets, please call 416-481-9154 or email jdo@jesuits.ca. *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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The RCIA Journey ~ A reminder of our own

Over the next 3 Sundays those who have been preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation in our community will be called to celebrate the Scrutinies. For the Elect and Candidates in the RCIA, this is a time of deep reflection on their individual journey of conversion. The Scrutinies are also at the core of the Lenten journey of the whole community. Each of the three Scrutinies is integrally connected to its respective Gospel narrative: the Samaritan Woman, the Healing of the Blind Man and the Raising of Lazarus. In each of these gospel stories we hear of an encounter between Jesus and another person. Coming to know Jesus and the mercy of God through him moves each person to reflect and to desire change for themselves and for their community. When we celebrate the Scrutinies, it is the living Word of God that scrutinizes and searches and calls to conversion not only those preparing for the Sacraments, but all of us. As our Elect enter into the final phase of preparation we are reminded that we are all on a journey of conversion. It is a time to reflect on our own Baptismal promises and call. May this be a time of grace and blessing for those preparing for the Sacraments at Easter and may that those graces and blessings make this Lenten journey a time of preparation, reflection and celebration for all of us.

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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 your 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.

~ St. Peter Chrysologus

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of March 1-7						
Sun 8	Mon 9	Tues 10	Wed 11	Thurs 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
2 nd Sunday of Lent RCIA: Rite of 1 st Scrutiny 1pm	Parish Mission 7:30 pm	Parish Mission 7:30 pm		Faith Formation: Psalms 7pm (Library) Alpha Training 6pm (Lynch Hall)	Way of the Cross 7:30 pm (join us for Soup at 6:30 pm)	Baptisms Tax Clinic 10am – 4pm Alpha Training 6pm