

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

As a kid growing up my dog was always at the door waiting for me to come home. He would greet me one of two ways: he would either be jumping at me in excitement or he’d have downcast eyes with his tail in between his legs. If it were the latter, I knew he had done something wrong. And so I would walk around the house to see where he had used the bathroom or to find the remains of one of my mother’s shoes. When I would say “it’s okay buddy boy,” he would then start jumping on me. This Sunday we have a long Gospel which contains the three principle parables of God’s mercy in the Gospel according to Luke. Similar to my dog, when we do something wrong, we can think it’s the end of the world, that there is no going back. Yet in the parables, especially that of the Prodigal Son, we see that this fear is absolutely unfounded.

Pope John Paul II in 1980 wrote an encyclical on the mercy of the Father. The Pope said that these parables of mercy most clearly reveal to us the quality of God’s love. We often say that God is love, but our experience of this love is really one of mercy, or that it is a merciful love. When we speak about mercy, some of us may grimace because we think we are speaking about human sinfulness. However, we are not. Rather, we are speaking about the fidelity of God to each of us. As my old novice master used to say, “It’s not our infidelity that is important, but it is God’s fidelity.” The Parable of the Prodigal Son shows us that there is nothing that we can think, nothing that we can say, nothing that we can do that can ever remove or even lessen the love that God desires to share with us.

This free gift of love is hard for us to accept. We may think that because of our own sinfulness that we have let God down, and by doing so, that we’ve disappointed God. And with this disappointment, we may fear that God has taken a step back from us. Yet again, this fear is absolutely unfounded. The shepherd sees his lost sheep; the woman searches for the lost coin; and, the father runs to the returning son. Just as when I said to my dog that it’s okay, in a similar way, God is telling us through Christ, that it is also okay. He never stops loving us. He never lessens his love. He simply loves, and loves, no matter what. And so, if God loves and loves, than we are to receive and receive.

Our heart knowledge of this faithful and merciful love must change us. It doesn’t make us into a different person but makes us into the person we already are beneath our fears, guilt and insecurities. If we know in our hearts that we are loved then we are changed through love and into love. Our faith is not a duty that breeds entitlement and resentment as in the elder son. Rather, it is a response in love and to love. In all three parables God rejoices over us. We sin, we live an imperfect Christian life, but, in a way, we shouldn’t care too much, because we are loved. And nothing can change that.

God Bless & Take Care, *Fr. John*



TODAY!
Hotdogs & Lemonade

Now that September has arrived and as a way of coming back together as God’s family after the summer, we invite you all to join us for some special hospitality. Join us on this weekend, September 14th & 15th after all of our Sunday Masses for free hotdogs and lemonade. The hospitality is on us, served with a smile by members of our Catholic Women’s league. Reconnect with people you haven’t seen in a while and take the time to make some new friends. Hope to see you there!

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Our Lady Of Lourdes

Fall Rummage Sale~ Saturday, October 5

Join us on **Saturday, October 5** in our church halls for our Autumn Rummage Sale. If you would like to drop things off for the sale, you can do so at Lynch hall on Thursday, October 3 and Friday October 4 from 9am to 8pm. There will be a Food Pavilion as well as booths with clothing, household articles and many other items on sale. Come for the food and stay for the friendship! See you there!

We’re looking for volunteers to help with our Fall Rummage Sale! We need people throughout the day, to help set up in the morning, help out during the day and clean up in the afternoon. Join us for a couple of hours or for the whole day. It is always a fun day and a wonderful community experience. If you are new to the parish, or looking for a way to become more involved, this is a great opportunity to get to know people in our parish. If interested, please call us at 416-924-6257.

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Send Us Your Photos

We are looking for community pictures for our website and we need your help! If you have photos from different parish events, both big and small, we would love to use them to highlight the different activities and events happening in the parish. **We are looking for current pictures of the community (and would love some ‘action shots’), photos from our many different celebrations, parish events, and of the different meetings and events of our parish groups. We also welcome archival photos from years gone by.** You can send them to us in digital format or lend us prints which can be scanned (we would make sure the prints are returned to you as quickly as possible). It would also help to have a brief description of the events, including date and who is in the photo. For more info please call 416-924-6257 or e-mail us at parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca. Thank You!

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Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Join us for the Novena to the Canadian Martyrs from Tuesday **September 17 until Wednesday, September 25 at 4:30 pm in the Church.** Our prayer will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 16

8:00 am Lourdes Guerrero + [Manuel, Myrna & Mylene]
 12:10 pm Georgio & Assunta Porretta + [Family]
 5:15pm Louis & Joyce Campayne + [Family]

Tuesday, September 17

8:00 am Eustraquia Quanico's 110 Birthday Intention [Ninfa Quinco]
 12:10 pm Blessed Virgin Mary Pray For the World [Ester Hadlocan]
 5:15 pm Russell Lefort + [Therese LeFort]

Wednesday, September 18

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Lyndon Hector + [Bernadine Stewart]
 5:15 pm Gerardo Santos & Serdinia Aguilar + [Morena Family]

Thursday September 19

8:00 am Olga & Paule Grubisic's Intention [Elena Grubisic]
 12:10 pm Isabel Girao Magbujos + [Garcia & Magbujos Family]
 5:15 pm Una O'Connor's Intention [Mark Desroches]

Friday, September 20

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Susana C. Asuncion + [N. Cruz & Family]
 5:15 pm

Saturday, September 21

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Felix Perera, Lois Peries & Ellsworth Bakelmun +
 [Suzette Anderson]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Isabel Magbujos, Glicerio Soriano & Ben Magalano

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Humanitarian Relief Collection
For Syria

An estimated 100,000 people have already lost their lives in the conflict in Syria over the past two years and roughly 2 million people have fled, taking refuge in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and other countries. The conflict in Syria has unleashed a large-scale humanitarian crisis. This weekend, those who wish to contribute in support of the humanitarian relief efforts in Syria and the Middle East will have an opportunity at all of our Masses. Envelopes can be found in the pews. Donations may be placed in the offertory baskets during our regular Offertory Collection. Thank you.

Pauline Book & Media Fair

Here at Our Lady Of Lourdes
 in Bernadette Hall,

Saturday & Sunday September 14 & 15

before and after all of our Masses
*Catholic books, Bible's, Music CD's,
 DVD Movies, and More...*

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Our Lady Of Lourdes

2014 Kia Sportage Car Raffle

Our Car Raffle is on and the *grand prize is a 2014 Kia Sportage (or \$20,000.00 Cash). 2nd Prize is \$3,000.00 cash and 3rd Prize is \$2,000.00. There are also 8 additional prizes of \$100.00 each.* The draw will take place on Tuesday, December 31, 2013. *Proceeds raised from the raffle will go towards the replacement of our broken windows in the church halls!* WE NEED YOUR help to repair our broken windows by selling some raffle tickets. You can pick up a book or 2 in Bernadette Hall, after Mass or from the Parish Office during the week. Tickets will be available for \$10 each from our Welcome Desk. Help us make this raffle a big success!

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Lector's Workshop

All Lectors are invited to attend a Lector's Workshop. The workshop will be offered on two different days. Please choose from one of the following: **Thursday, September 19 from 7 to 9 pm or Saturday September 21 from 9 am to 11am.** Please call the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 to let us know which date you prefer and to register. You can also e-mail parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca.

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor. ~ Saint Charles Borromeo

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of September 15 - 21						
Sun 15	Mon 16	Tues 17	Wed 18	Thurs 19	Fri 20	Sat 21
Hot Dogs & Lemonade after each Mass! (Lynch Hall)		Novena to the Canadian Martyrs 4:30pm (Church) RCIA begins 7pm (Library)	Novena 4:30pm (Church)	Novena 4:30pm (Church) Lector's Workshop (Church & Lynch Hall)	Novena 4:30pm (Church) Charismatic Life in the Spirit Seminar 7pm (Church)	Pilgrimage to the Martyr's Shrine Lector's Workshop 9am (Church & Lynch) Novena 4:30pm (Church)