

## THE JOY OF LOVE: OPENING OUR HEARTS TO FAMILIES

As we begin a new year, many of us may be facing transitions of various kinds. With my new ministry at the diocese, this is certainly the case for me! It's very easy to lose our equilibrium in times of transition: our sense of who we are, where we belong, where God is to be found. How do we negotiate transition? How do we deal with change? Do we deny it, try to forestall it as long as possible? Do we cling stubbornly to the status quo? Or, conversely, do we jump into the future with "eyes wide shut", not taking the time to value what is already here, failing to carry forward treasures from the past as we bring forth the new?

Today's Scriptures speak to us of transition. Isaiah proclaims the coming of a Messiah who will not only restore Israel, but make it "a light to the nations", bearer of a universal salvation. Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians that they are called to be saints: to make the transition from a sinful past to a life of holiness and peace. The transition from Old to New Testament comes in the Gospel in the figure of John the Baptist: both Hebrew prophet and announcer of a new covenant in the person of Jesus, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." In Jesus' life and ministry, we experience profound continuity with the history & covenant with the Jewish people, but also the inbreaking of something new and utterly original.

This coming Saturday – which also marks the beginning of the week of prayer for Christian Unity – I will be chairing an ecumenical panel (all good friends of mine!) to lead our parish in a discussion of Pope Francis' recent letter to families, entitled "*The Joy of Love*". Is there any greater transition in our society than the one faced by families, as they seek to live out their mission in the world? Pope Francis offers us the hopeful vision of a pastoral and merciful church, "a family of families", called to embrace this invitation to create a culture of welcome, faithfulness, holiness, and life-giving acceptance for all families.

What do we need to do this? The Psalmist reminds us that we have been given "an open ear". In these times of transition, let us listen carefully, discerning with human wisdom and divine guidance the path we are meant to embrace. May God bless all of our families – and our parish family – throughout the coming year!

### ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Finding God in Family Life: Pope Francis on "*The Joy of Love*"

As Christians, we are called to help all families to know that they are loved by God, and that they can help others experience that love. In "*Amoris Laetitia*", Pope Francis offers the vision of a pastoral and merciful church that encourages all people to experience the "*joy of love*". Join **Fr. Raymond and an ecumenical panel of invited guests** next **Saturday, January 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the parish hall** for a fruitful and stimulating discussion of how we, as church, are summoned by this important text to create a culture of welcome, faithfulness, and loving, life-giving acceptance for all families! Free babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by **January 16**.

#### Video Divina

This year, Fr. Raymond's film series looks at movies - and life - through the lens of the Holy Spirit. Join him on **Friday, February 3 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory to view the movie **The Doctor**. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow!

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional info. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or call Anna at the office.

## MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY 14 TO 22, 2017

### Saturday, January 14: Our Lady's Saturday

- 4:00 Italo & Anna Mariani and By Luisa & Angelo Falcone  
Italo Falcone  
Sandy Rassenti By his wife Reggie  
Ermando Guiseppie Nudo By his wife Elvira Nudo

### Sunday, January 15: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti,  
and Emma & Colombo Salvati.  
11:00 William Gilmore By Elena Bertoldi  
Beata Ricci By Ricci Family  
Ana Chambers Parkin By the Nolin Family

### Monday, January 16: Weekday Mass

- 8:00 Special Intention for Maria By Daily Rosary Group  
Laarhoven of St. Monica's

### Tuesday, January 17: Sty. Anthony

- 8:00 Theresa Capestrani By Luisa & Angelo Falcone

### Wednesday, January 18: Weekday Mass

- 8:00 Gerry LeGrove By Patricia Brabant

### Thursday, January 19: Weekday Mass

- 8:00 For all Parishioners' Intentions

### Friday, January 20: St. Fabian & St. Sebastian

- 8:00 For all Parishioners' Intentions

### Saturday, January 21: St. Agnes

- 4:00 Chiara Forlini & Luigi Sparapani & By Teresa Caucci  
Angelo Caucci  
Gerry McLaughlin By Connie & Family  
James Lawrence Webb By Julie Webb

### Sunday, January 22: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:30 Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta  
Gerry Oliver By Christine Brunet  
Thanksgiving Mass for Cathie By Verna DeSouza  
Macaulay & the Pastoral Home  
Care Group  
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Fioravante Rotiroti, Flavio Ricci,  
Deceased members of the Cullen Family.

#### Your Generosity...

*Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...* Collection for the weekend of January 7/8, 2017 totalled \$2,781.40

**ST. MONICA'S CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP HAS  
RESUMED MEETING EVERY TUESDAY EVENINGS AT  
7:00 P.M. IN THE RECTORY BASEMENT.**

**ATTENTION - SUNDAY DONATION BOX USERS  
PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR NEW  
2017  
SUNDAY ENVELOPE DONATION BOX**

**FAIR TRADE ON SALE THIS WEEKEND  
LOONIES AND SPARE CHANGE COLLECTED FOR  
ZAMORAN**

## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES JANUARY 15, 2017

A World Day of Migrants and Refugees is observed in many places in solidarity with the World Refugee Day promoted by the United Nations and observed since 2001 on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June. This January observance was instituted by St. Pius X in 1914. "The phenomenon of migration today is a providential opportunity for the proclamation of the gospel in the contemporary world" (Pope Benedict XVI, 2012)

## WOMEN'S DAY RETREATS

Women's Day Retreats at Villa Saint-Martin, 9451 Gouin Blvd, W., Pierrefonds, (just west of Highway 13). Retreats will be held on Wednesdays, January 18, February 15, March 5, and April 26, 2017.

Registration: 9:15 a. m.

Animator: Sr. Pat O'Neill SNJM.

Thought-provoking presentations with references to Scriptural passages and works of renowned spiritual writers; music; quiet time for personal reflection & prayer; Eucharistic celebration; and sharing for those who wish to participate. ALL women are welcome. Please bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea provided.

Suggested donation: \$15.00

Pre-registration not required.  
Info: (514) 684-1290.

Plan to gift yourself with a few hours of rich spiritual nourishment with women who share your values, as well as your desire to deepen your relationship with God and to grow in faith and hope. Please watch "The Grapevine" for retreat reminders.