

"Lazarus Unbound": God Desires to Set Us Free

Jesus shows a lot of emotion in today's gospel. He is disturbed and troubled; he is sad, and weeps over his friend Lazarus; he gets upset again. Death has that effect on most of us. Death is shocking. Death makes us angry and sad. It seems to have the power to bind us – like Lazarus constricted within his shroud, like Martha and Mary bound up in their grief. Whether death comes suddenly – or after a long, lingering illness – it always leaves us reeling.

And yet, Jesus is right there. He does not always come when we want him, or expect him. Like Mary, we are tempted to say, "Lord, where were you when we needed you?" In today's Gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the tomb. But eventually, Lazarus would again grow old, and die. The full gift of Resurrection comes only after Jesus himself rises from the tomb, triumphant over death itself. He is indeed "the Resurrection and the Life", and his rising, we too rise to everlasting life." The same question Jesus asks Martha in the Gospel, he asks of us: **"Do you believe this?"**

Do we believe this? The answer we give is vital. For every human being ponders the question of why we have to die. We seek answers in religion, philosophy, mythology, or science. However many books are written on the subject, there is no simple answer. When faced with the sadness and confusion of death, we need to reframe the "why" question. Instead of asking "why must we die," start with "Why was I born? Why did God make me?" Then the answer is simple: "God made me to know, love, and serve him in this world, and to be happy with him forever in the next."

When we know this not just as the answer to a catechism question, but from a deep place within our heart, then death is no longer something to be feared. We can "welcome death as a friend." For death does not have the final word. What we welcome is the promise of peace that follows death: the promise of eternal life. Jesus wants to give us this life – in heaven, but also right here on earth. He wants to set us free from all that binds us: our fear, complacency, and brokenness: so come and celebrate his love and forgiveness in our Lenten reconciliation service this Thursday at 7.30 PM!!

Lenten Reconciliation Services in the West End

Tuesday, April 8th at 7:30 p.m. (after 7 p.m. Mass) at St. Ignatius

Thursday, April 10th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Monica's.

ONE HUMAN FAMILY, FOOD FOR ALL (Week 5)

In southeastern Ethiopia, the most impoverished area in the country, drought still poses a serious threat to food security. Development and Peace has put in place a "cash-forward" project which allows small-scale farming communities to build terraced embankments that help fight soil erosion. The rain water that is collected in the brief rainy season is used to irrigate seedling nurseries to ensure food security and generate income. Farmers have also received drought resistance seeds and training session to improve their cultivation techniques.

Youth of St. Monica's Parish * Come Walk With Jesus *

This special day is offered by the NET Infuse 1 Team (www.netcanada.ca) for youth ages 12-17 years old on **Friday, April 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Our theme is *"Walking with Jesus During Holy Week"*. Food will be provided. **Please register by Monday, April 7** by contacting Claire at 514-482-7493 or stmonicasyouth@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 5 TO 13, 2014

	Saturday, April 5	St. Vincent Ferrer
4:00	Morley, Lilly and son Jamey Oke	By Louise Oke
	Sunday, April 6	Fifth Sunday Of Lent
8:30	In Loving Memory: Joseph Onesi, Natalina Donati Ceccucci, Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta, Deceased members of the Cullen Family.	
11:00	John Caporicci	By the Giangaspero Family
	Monday, April 7	St. John Baptist de la Salle
8:00	Italo Falcone Italo & Anna Mariani	By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
	Tuesday, April 8	Weekday Mass
8:00	Antonio Bei	By wife Gabriella Bei
	Wednesday, April 9	Weekday Mass
8:00	Giuseppe & Felicia Onesi	By Settimia Onesi
	Thursday, April 10	Weekday Mass
8:00	Aniello D'Addio	By Franca D'Addio
	Friday, April 11	St. Stanislaus
8:00	Anna & Lorenzo Forlini	By Louise Forlini
	Saturday, April 12	Lenten Mass
4:00	Giovanni & Palma Farinelli	By the Farinelli Family
	Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:30	Antonio Cavallaro	By the Family
11:00	In Loving Memory: Luigi & Rosa Mammone, Nicola Pitaro, Italo Falcone, Italo & Anna Mariani, John Testa, Pearl Aberdine, Domenico Abbatiello.	

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of March 29/30, 2014 totalled \$2,688.35

PASTORAL HOME CARE VISITORS

On Tuesday, April 8, there will be a general meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the parish rectory.

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR MAINTENANCE (April 5 & 6)

PLEASE NOTE that normally, the collection of **SHARE LENT** for Development and Peace takes place on the 5th Sunday of Lent. This year however, it is also the first Sunday of the month when we have our Maintenance Collection. To compensate, the **SHARE LENT COLLECTION** WILL BE HELD ON THE WEEKEND OF "PALM SUNDAY", April 12 / 13.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond will present the movie **Les Misérables** on **Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory. As this is the last movie of the "Meeting Jesus at the Movies" series, you are invited to bring refreshments of your choice to share with the group. Popcorn will be provided. All are welcome!

Coffee and Conversation

Join us on **Sunday, April 13 from 10 to 10:50 a.m.** in the rectory dining room for a special Faith Sharing session of Coffee and Conversation. We will reflect and share on an excerpt from the book **Prism of Love: God's Colours in Everyday Life**, by Fr. Daniel O'Leary.

Please refer to our brochure, website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information.

THANK YOU ALL

Thank you to all the volunteers who either helped with or organized the very successful Multicultural Event last weekend that so many enjoyed. Also, a generous thank you to the PAMANA ng LuzViMinda Philippine Folkloric Dance Company for donating their time and for their fantastic performance! Ticket sales from the entertainment totalled \$800 and \$321 from food sales.

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Part 1: Monday, April 14 at 6:00 p.m.
Repeated at 10:00 p.m. EDT
Part 2: Tuesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.
Repeated at 10:00 p.m. EDT
ON VISION TV

WAY OF THE CROSS

Good Friday, April 18, at 8:00 p.m.
Theme:

"Let Grace Find You"