

Called To Be Holy

In our Christian Heritage we have many “ecological saints”. Beginning with Paul of Tarsus (567A.D.) to Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) the Patron Saint of Ecology. It was in the forest among the trees and the silence that the Great Spirit spoke to her heart. All of nature spoke to her of the Creator. Being in harmony with all of creation was a value she learned among the Aboriginal people.

In 1979 Pope John Paul II named Francis of Assisi the patron saint of environmentalists. The following is one verse from the Canticum of the Creatures written by St. Francis in 1224. All praise be yours my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth who sustains us and governs us and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve him with great humility. There are at least twenty-five more “ecological saints” in our church history, many are not familiar to us but all have proven to be an example to a way of life that calls us to live in harmony with all of creation. These saints have been actively involved in Creation Care Ministry and thus making us aware that Creation Care Ministry is not a recent invention.

St. Bernard is one of these 25 saints, a Cistercian monk and author of many books of theology and a Doctor of the Church. He stated “you will find more in the forest than in books. The trees and the rocks will teach you what no master could reveal.” He also preserved 20,000 hectares of forest. These saints make us reflect on our own Christian journey and how we regard creation.

It is interesting to note the list of ecological saints end in the 17th century, when Christians came under the influence of Cartesian thought, which caused a rift in humanity's relationship with creation. Will the 21st century be a period of ecological renaissance for the Church? Will we be responsible for being part of an ecological renaissance? Men and women of God, following Jesus' example, have a special gift of interpreting the present time and put their trust in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 8:19-22). This passage, while enigmatic, offers hope to all who are affected by the present environmental crisis. This hope will lead to action.

Adult Faith Enrichment – Upcoming events

Diocesan Lenten Mission 2019 Rejoice and Be Glad: Pope Francis' Roadmap for Holiness and Mission

When we hear the word “holiness”, it can seem remote and very far from us. But as Pope Francis suggests in his recent apostolic exhortation, **Gaudete et Exsultate**, the call to holiness is a universal one, because “all of us have been looked upon with divine compassion.” Come join Fr. Raymond Lafontaine and the members of his diocesan team as together we explore what it means to be missionary disciples: living out Jesus' call to be holy, to bear witness, and to serve generously. The Mission will include the screening of the film **Pope Francis: A Man of his Word (2018)** on **Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m.**, followed by three consecutive evening sessions, **Monday, March 25 to Wednesday, March 27, 2019 from 7 to 9 p.m.**, which will feature elements of teaching, witness, praise and worship. Please register by **March 19**. All are welcome!

Note: *For the duration of the Lenten Mission, Samia Boghdady, of Theologia Book Ministry, will be at St. Monica's with a selection of books and other media for you to purchase.*

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main entrance or contact Anna at the office (514)481-0267, ext. 22.

Development and Peace: Share the Journey Lenten Campaign

Share the journey with members of the Umuechem community in Nigeria.

In 1990, a peaceful community in the south of Nigeria became the victim of what has been recognized as the first crime committed by an oil company. Traumatized by a massacre of unparalleled violence, a large majority of the members of this community fled to neighbouring communities, never to return home again. To make sure that their story is never forgotten and to combat impunity, Development and Peace's partner Social Action is supporting the Umuechem community in their legal action against the oil company. Discover the story of people forced to flee their homes and ways for each one of us to act in solidarity with them: devp.org/lent.

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 16 - 24, 2019

Saturday, March 16: Weekday Mass

4:00 Adelina Guaiani by Arnaldo Guaiani
Aniello D'Addio by wife Franca & family
Deacon Richard Haber by Dolores Parsons

Sunday, March 17: Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 **IN LOVING MEMORY:** Leona Clarke, Eduvijes B. Meriales,
Luigi & Alba Paliotti and Colombo & Emma Salvati
11:00 Vincenza Forte by Nadia Arcuri
Jean-Louis (John) Rheume by the Angelo Lazaris family
Jordan Alexander by Euntte, Pat & Ronnie Smith

Monday, March 18: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:00 For all Parishioners Intentions

Tuesday, March 19: Saint Joseph

8:00 Paolo & Emidia Turini by Pietrina Turini

Wednesday, March 20: Weekday Mass

8:00 For all Parishioners Intentions

Thursday, March 21: Weekday Mass

8:00 Roberto Ugarte & Virginia Armijo by Ines

Friday, March 22: Weekday Mass

8:00 For all Parishioners Intentions

Saturday, March 23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

4:00 Antonio Bei by Gabriella Bei & family
Annita Forlini by Albano & Franca Forlini
& family
Deacon Richard Haber by Franca D'Addio

Sunday, March 24: Third Sunday of Lent

8:30 Vincenza Forte by Nadia Arcuri
Jim Lamont by Erik Larson
Giovanni, Maria & Elena Piccolino by the Piccolino family
11:00 **IN LOVING MEMORY:** Desolina Onesi

Thank you for your ongoing support of your Parish. Collection for the weekend of March 9 & 10, 2019 totalled \$ 1,582.05
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St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, 17 March 2019

An Irish Blessing

May you always have...
A sunbeam to warm you,
Good luck to charm you,
And a sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you...
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you,
And whenever you pray,
heaven to hear you.

Fair Trade Items are on sale this weekend.
Loonies and spare change will also be
collected for Zamoran.



Couples for Christ: will conduct a
**Christian Life Program on Saturday,
March 23 at 7 p.m. at our Lady of
Fatima Parish Hall, 875 Marcel-Laurin
Blvd., St. Laurent.** It is an integrated
course in the basics of Christianity leading
to a renewed understanding of God's call
to all Christians. It consists of an orienta-
tion session and a series of 12 different
talks with group discussion after each talk.
Come and experience His great power and
glory in your lives. The program is free.
Snacks and coffee will be served after each
session. For details contact Bobot Palanca
514-758-2988 or bobotpalanca@yahoo.com
or Karla Palanca 514-781-0329 or
kaiplanca@yahoo.ca.

Genesis to Jesus: presents the whole
sweep of salvation history, and helps you
make sense of the Bible, literally from
Genesis to Jesus. By the end of Lent you'll
understand the importance of Easter as the
eighth day of creation in light of God's
plan for our salvation. Held at the Beverly
Room, **St. John Fisher Church, 120
Summerhill Ave., Pointe Claire on
Friday evenings from March 8 – April
12 at 7:15 p.m..**

Women's Day Retreat: Will be held on
**Wednesday, March 20 at Villa Saint-
Martin, 9451 Gouin Blvd. W., Pierrefonds.**
Registration at 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 reflection
and prayer, Eucharistic celebration and
sharing. Bring a brown bag lunch: coffee
and tea provided. Suggested donation \$15.
For more information: 514-696-8188.
All women are welcome!

