

POPE FRANCIS' EASTER BLESSING: "URBI ET ORBI"

Dear brothers and sisters in Rome and throughout the world, Happy Easter! What a joy it is for me to announce this message: **Christ is Risen!** I would like it to go out to every house and every family, especially where the suffering is greatest, in hospitals, in prisons. Most of all, I would like it to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen, there is hope for you, you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil!

Love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious! Like the women who went to the tomb and found it empty, we too may wonder: what does it mean that Jesus is risen? It means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; that it has the power to transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom. The love for which the Son of God became human and followed the way of humble self-giving to the very end—this same merciful love has flooded with light the dead body of Jesus, transfigured it, made it pass into eternal life. Jesus did not return to his former life, to earthly life; Jesus entered into the glorious life of God with our humanity, opening us to a future of hope.

This is what Easter is: it is the exodus, the passage of human beings from slavery to sin and evil to the freedom of love and goodness. "The glory of man and woman is the living God; the glory of God is the human person, fully alive." Christ died and rose once for all, and for everyone, but the power of the Resurrection, this Passover from slavery to evil to the freedom of goodness, must be accomplished in every age, in our everyday lives, in each of us.

So this is the invitation which I address to everyone: Let us accept the grace of Christ's Resurrection! Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too. Let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish. And so we ask the risen Jesus, who turns death into life, to change hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, war into peace. Yes, Christ is our peace, and through him we implore peace for the whole world: peace for the Middle East, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine: for all peoples torn by conflict and for refugees who await help and comfort. Peace for Africa, Asia, Latin America! Peace in the whole world, still divided by greed, wounded by selfishness, by human trafficking, by all forms of slavery and oppression. Peace to our Earth, torn apart by the unjust exploitation of natural resources! May the risen Jesus bring comfort to all victims of natural disasters and make us responsible guardians of creation.

Dear brothers and sisters: bear in your families and in your countries the message of joy, hope and peace which is powerfully renewed every Easter. Thank you for your presence and for the witness of your faith. To all of you I say with affection: may the risen Lord, the conqueror of sin and death, guide you and all of humanity on the paths of justice and peace, love and eternal life.

Pope Francis

ST. MONICA'S PARISH PILGRIMAGE

GREECE: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

October 15-25, 2014 - LED BY FR. RAYMOND LAFONTAINE

EXTRA TRAVEL PRESENTATION ADDED:

Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Monica's Rectory: 6405 de Terrebonne, Montreal

Registration/Info: Stephen Pickford, Aladdin Travel Agency

514-489-5723 or aladdin@aladdincorp.com

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 19 TO 27, 2014

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| | Saturday, April 19 | Easter Vigil |
| 8:00PM | The Easter Vigil | |
| | Sunday, April 20 | Resurrection of the Lord |
| 8:30 | Easter Morning Mass | Christ is Risen! |
| 11:00 | Easter Morning Mass | Christ is Risen! |
| | Monday, April 21 | Easter Octave |
| 8:00 | Antonio & Annunziata Castelli | By Piccolino Family |
| | Tuesday, April 22 | Easter Octave |
| 8:00 | Maria Ciampini Castelli | By Family |
| | Wednesday, April 23 | Easter Octave |
| 8:00 | Ignazio Ciampini | By Ernesta & Family |
| | Thursday, April 24 | Easter Octave |
| 8:00 | Agnese, Martino & Antonio Gagliardi | By the Family |
| | Friday, April 25 | Easter Octave |
| 8:00 | Aida Polisena | By Daughter & Family |
| | Saturday, April 26 | Easter Octave |
| 4:00 | In Loving Memory: Leona Clarke, Fioravante Rotiroti, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Mike Kilbertus, Deceased member of Charles J. McDonald Family, Edgardo Poce, Alessandro Palladini, Angelo Caucci. | |
| | Sunday, April 27 | Second Sunday of Easter (or) Divine Mercy |
| 8:30 | Guglielmo Teodori | By Vivian Teodori |
| 11:00 | Antonio Ricci | By the Family |

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of April 12/13, 2014 totalled \$4,049.75; and the Development & Peace collection totalled \$4,241.50

BAKE SALE

Attention all parishioners - it's time to bake, buy or both! Our 2nd Annual Bake Sale will be held on the weekend of May 3 & 4 after all the Masses in support of the Food Pantry and to purchase a dishwasher for our church hall. Please consult the bulletin in the next few weeks for more details.

USED BOOKS & NEW JEWELLERY SALE

Our "Villa Girls" will be holding a used book and new jewellery sale to raise funds for breast cancer research on May 4 in the church hall. If you have any old pocket books to donate, please bring them in on the weekend of April 26/27.

Canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II

"Next Weekend, on Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis will canonize two Popes whose witness has deeply marked the history of the 20th century: John XXIII and John Paul II. In solidarity with the millions of pilgrims gathered at St. Peter's Square in Rome, come and join us as we offer a special Mass of thanksgiving in honour of these great saints."

Adult Faith Education

God's Call to Me: Abundant Life!!

When we are living unconsciously and without purpose, life can seem overwhelming. We lack energy, feel irritated, anxious and stuck. But, there is a way out!

Ms. Theresa Murphy, will explore with us some necessary tools that will help us break through the cycle of negativity, and embrace the abundant life that is our birthright and call as God's children. If you would like to fuel up your energy and raise your life, please join us on **Wednesday, April 30, 2014, from 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. Please register by **April 25**.

Please refer to our brochure, 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 church entrance or contact Anna at the office.



GO - LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

THANK YOU TO ALL!!

On behalf of the pastoral team, I would like to extend our gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter services so beautiful and meaningful. To all those who played a visible role in the services—readers, servers, musicians, and singers; to those who worked behind the scenes—sacristans, altar guild, liturgy committee, and environment/décor (those beautiful Easter flowers are always a highlight!); and to those whose donations helped defray the costs: thank you ever so much! God bless you all with fifty days of Easter Joy!