

TRANSFORMED BY MERCY

This year, the theme for our adult faith program is “**Transformed by the Holy Spirit.**” What a beautiful account of transformation we find in today's Gospel! In the timeless story of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, we meet a Father who waits, unconditionally loving, arms outstretched, for the return of **two** sons who have drifted away from him: one physically, the other spiritually.

When Pope Francis was asked to serve as a bishop in Buenos Aires, he chose as his motto *Miserando atque eligendo*: “*Looking upon him with mercy, Jesus chose him.*” Since his election as Pope, Francis has placed the theme of mercy at the very heart of his papal ministry, bearing witness to it in word and deed. In his impromptu press conference on the return from World Youth Day 2013 in Rio, he spoke of the need for a more compassionate and welcoming response to those who feel excluded from the Church, by famously saying: “*Who am I to judge?*” He went on to explain:

"Mercy is a larger theme than the immediate question you raise. I believe this is the time of mercy. There are many problems in the church – the bad example of some priests, corruption, clericalism – these have left many wounds. The church is a mother: she must reach out to heal the wounds, with mercy. The Lord never tires of forgiving, and we don't have any other path than this one. As a mother, the church must find mercy for everyone. When the Prodigal Son returned home, his father didn't say: “Sit down. What did you do with the money?” No, he held a party. When the son was ready to talk, they talked. The church must do the same. It's not enough just to wait for people to return: we must go and seek them. This is mercy. I believe that our time is a kairos of mercy.”

Are we willing to be transformed by divine mercy? Do we dare to believe in a God whose love is that big, that unconditional? Or are we still tempted to see God as harsh, petty, and punitive? In the end, we become the God we worship. So as we receive the Prodigal Father's healing mercy, as we welcome this undeserved gift, let us enter into this dynamic of transformation. Then, like St. Teresa of Calcutta, we can become vessels of mercy to others, bringing that love especially to those who are most hurting, both near and far.

**SPECIAL CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE FOR
NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016**

BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL PARISH CELEBRATION HONORING:

FR. RAYMOND (25TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE PRIESTHOOD)

AND

FR. BERTOLI (65TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST.
MONICA'S PARISH)

**THE 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M. MASSES ARE CANCELLED BUT
ARE REPLACED BY ONE MASS ONLY AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please Note: Mass Intentions that have been scheduled for the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. masses will be celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass instead.

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND (SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2016)

AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES.

LOONIES and SPARE CHANGE WILL ALSO BE COLLECTED.

St. Monica's Contemplative Prayer Group

Contemplative Prayer Group will meet every **Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory beginning September 20.** After listening to a talk on the spiritual journey, we meditate together for up to half an hour. Please join us! For information, please contact Audrey Booth through the parish office

MASS INTENTIONS SEPT. 10 TO 18, 2016

Saturday, September 10: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 In Loving Memory: Italo & Anna Mariani, Italo Falcone,
Angelo Caucci, Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry Winslade.

Sunday, September 11: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Antonietta & Sante La Posta By Concetta La Posta
Michele Mustillo By his daughter Anna
11:00 Sister-in-law & Brothers-in-law By Berardina Fiori
Vincenzo Salituri By Angela Onesi
Ursula Lafontaine By Peter, Anne & Sarah
Wilkinson

Monday, September 12: The Most Holy Name of Mary

8:00 Angelarita Serena By Maria Teresa Palucci

Tuesday, September 13: St. John Chrysostom

8:00 Maria Cardilli By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
Special Intention for Wong Family By the Family

Wednesday, September 14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 Ignazio Ciampini By wife Ernesta Ciampini & Family
Harry Mills By Richard & Patricia Haber

Thursday, September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 Special Intention for Sergio By Norma & Eduardo
Deceased members of the Lee, By Hyland Family
Bruce & Borisso Families

Friday, September 16: St. Cornelius

8:00 Carlo Scarsella By wife Rosa

Saturday, September 17: St. Robert Bellarmine

4:00 Pietro Di Meglio By Wife & Family
Antonio Bei By his wife Gabriella Bei
Deceased members of the By Mary McDonald
Charles McDonald Family

Sunday, September 18: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 In Loving Memory: Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti,
and Emma & Colombo Salvati.
10:30 Rosolino & Constanza Sparapani By Maria Sparapani
Babby Anthony Aiello By his father Carmelio Aiello
Emma Trancesco Buonamici By daughter Nicolina

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of Sept. 3/4, 2016 totalled \$3,419.00. Maintenance \$1,539.00.

FAITH FIRST CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2016

CLOSING DATE for registration SEPTEMBER 11

Registration forms for the 2016 /2017 season are available at the entrances of the church, church hall, and rectory.

"LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE for all prospective students on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If you are interested in a Catholic education for your son, come and meet the students, teachers and administrators who make up the Loyola family. Tour our school, learn about our sports teams, explore the labs, Fine Arts and Robotics facilities. Financial Aid is available to students who qualify. To learn more, please visit www.loyola.ca/admissions".

Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming Events

St. Monica's Faith Sharing Registration and Special "Come and See" Session

This year, our reflections are taken from the books **Traits of a Healthy Spirituality** and **In Steadfast Love** by Melannie Svoboda. Groups meet for 14 sessions throughout the year at convenient weekday or weekend times & locations. To join one of our Faith Sharing groups, please fill out a registration form at the church entrance by **October 2**. If you want to experience what we do in a regular session before you register, join us for our special **"Come and See"** session on **Saturday, October 1 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Please fill out the **"Come and See"** registration form before **September 28** if you plan to attend. Someone will be available to answer your questions about the program after each Mass, next weekend, **September 17 and 18**. For more information, please contact Anna at the office.

Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

If you desire to complete your Sacramental Initiation, enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, or just simply know more about our faith, please contact Glenda Cadogan through the parish office. The R.C.I.A. group meets on **Wednesdays at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory, starting **Sept. 28**.

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

PASTORAL HOME CARE MEETING AFTER THE 8:00 A.M. MASS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 IN THE RECTORY BASEMENT