

**ADVENT HOPE: A WORK IN PROGRESS**

***“Be patient. God isn’t finished with me yet!”*** Whenever I am tempted to get impatient with myself, this saying brings me comfort – and **hope**. If, as St. Paul suggests, we are “God’s work of art”, we are still very much a “work in progress.” This is why we can be grateful for all that God has already accomplished in us, yet humble in regard of our real limitations.

This is reflected beautifully in today’s second reading. Paul is bursting with pride in the church of Philippi, a Christian community very dear to his heart. Writing from his prison cell, his joy rings clear: “I am confident of this: the One who began this good work among you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ.” How will this happen? Through continued growth in compassion and love, knowledge and insight, wisdom and discernment; through lives dedicated to right conduct and justice, to the glory of God.

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist comes proclaiming a baptism of repentance: “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!” This week, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis will solemnly inaugurate the Holy Year of Mercy by opening the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica. He has invited all the faithful to drink deep of the Lord’s mercy by experiencing it in the healing power of the **sacrament of reconciliation, which we will be celebrating as a community this coming Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Please come and join us!**

*What are your concerns about your future? Are you ready to trust that God is already at work in you, and that God desires to bring this good work to completion?* Let us bring these questions to prayer as we continue our Advent journey, deepening our trust in the “slow but steady” work of God. Through God’s grace, and through our active cooperation with that grace, may we become the “masterpiece” God has created us to be.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION**

What better way to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis than to avail yourself of the Lord’s healing mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? St. Monica’s Advent Reconciliation service will take place from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a service at St. Ignatius of Loyola on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Please also pray for the children of our community who will celebrate their First Reconciliation on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS****Living with Limits, Living Well!**

Pope Francis’s latest encyclical “Praise Be To You” calls for swift action on climate change, and challenges us to live in harmony with all creation and to practice true stewardship. How can ordinary people answer this call in a way that responds to the growing gap between rich and poor, as well as the accelerating degradation of our environment? Sharon Di Fruscia and Members of St. Monica’s Faith and Justice Committee will lead us on a seven-week study, on **Thursday evenings, January 7 to February 18, 2016, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish rectory, where we will explore the possibilities of answering this call! A fee of **\$15** is requested to purchase the reading material, and we ask that you register by **December 15** to ensure that these materials arrive before the first session. For information and to register, contact Anna at (514) 481-0267 ext. 22 or [anna.diodati@stmonica.ca](mailto:anna.diodati@stmonica.ca).

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 church entrance or contact Anna at the office.

## MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 5 TO 13, 2015

### **Saturday, December 5: Our Lady's Saturday**

**4:00** Angelo Caucci By Teresa Caucci  
 Leonardo Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi  
 Concetta Di Vincenzo and By Mafalda Zegarelli & Family  
 Raffaele Zegarelli

### **Sunday, December 6: Second Sunday of Advent**

**8:30** Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family  
 Anna Maria Fiori By Livio & Family  
**11:00 In Loving Memory:** Deceased members of the Cullen Family,  
 Carmel Pinto, Robert Pinto, Francesco Masella

### **Monday, December 7: St. Ambrose**

**8:00** Mazzella & Maiolo Family Maria By Family  
 & Domenico Ambrosio By Son & Family  
 Carmilla Pacheco Aleong By Ursulene Mora-Farmer

### **Tuesday, December 8: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**8:00** Anna Bodalia By Rosa & Luigi  
 Santino Saraullo By Massimino & Alessandro Saraullo & Family

### **Wednesday, December 9: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**

**8:00** Luigi, Antonio & Sanda Onesi By Settimia Onesi  
 Special Intention for Terri Matthews By Dauna Lyn Bowlen

### **Thursday, December 10: Weekday Mass**

**8:00** Elizabeth Flynn By Sharon Di Fruscia

### **Friday, December 11: St. Damasus I**

**8:00** Deceased members of the Vaz & By Gilda Pinto  
 Pinto Family

### **Saturday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**4:00 In Loving Memory:** Pietro Di Meglio, Mike Kilbertus, Alessandro  
 Pallandini, Pasquale D'Addio, Danny Dupont, Leonard & Terry  
 Winslade, Angela Supino Di Giovanni, Lucille Wong.

### **Sunday, December 13: Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:30** Marco Lucci By Luisa & Angelo Falcone  
 Special Intention for Barbara Walker By Glen & Mary Smith  
**11:00** For all Fiori Family By daughter Berardina  
 James Webb By Julie Webb

### **Your Generosity**

*Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for weekend of  
 November 28/29, 2015 totalled \$ 3,501.15.*

## **2016 SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES**

This weekend, owners of Sunday Donation Boxes are able to pick up their new box for **2016** at the main entrance to the church. **Owners who had box numbers above 360 last year, now have new numbers.** (In past years, we have notice a decrease in donation box users; and to help cut costs, we have had to order less boxes to compensate.) **Please refer to the alphabetical list provided for your new number.**

## **TOY AND FOOD TREES**

The "toy and food trees" are still on display at the front entrance of the church. We invite you to please pick an **ornament** off the trees and make a family's Christmas a little bit brighter. In order for the toys and food to be distributed with our Christmas baskets, **they must be returned no later than Sunday, December 13.**

## **WARDENS' ELECTION**

**THIS SUNDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 6, AFTER**  
**11 A.M. MASS**

There will be a general meeting of all parishioners for the purpose of electing two new churchwardens. If you live within the church boundaries, and feel called to serve in this ministry, please pray about allowing your name to stand for election. You may speak to Fr. Raymond or any of the current wardens for more information.

## **ADVENT PRAYER** **BOOKLETS**

The Advent prayer booklets are still available for you to purchase at the main entrance of the church. The booklets are now at the reduced price of \$1.00 each. Please put your fee in the Payment Box.

## **HATS, MITTS, GLOVES** **AND SCARVES!**

Each year, we collect mitts, hats, scarves and gloves. This year, these items will be donated to our parish poor at the Food Pantry. We invite you to place your gifts of these items under the Christmas tree at the front of the church near the tabernacle for donation. Thank you.

