

CONSECRATED LIFE: A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

Every year, on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd), the Church celebrates a day of prayer for consecrated life. As St. John Paul II stressed when he introduced this event in 1997, its purpose is threefold: *"In the first place, it answers our need to praise the Lord and to thank him for the great gift of consecrated life, which enriches and gladdens the Christian community by its many charisms and by the fruits of so many lives totally given to the cause of the Kingdom. Second, it is intended to promote knowledge of and esteem for the consecrated life by the entire People of God. Consecrated life, in its many forms, is at the service of the baptismal consecration of all the faithful. The third reason regards consecrated persons directly. They are invited to celebrate together the marvels which the Lord has accomplished in them, to discover the rays of divine beauty spread by the Spirit in their way of life, and to become more conscious of their irreplaceable mission in the Church and in the world."*

"Our brothers and sisters in Christ living consecrated lives make great contributions to our society through a vast number of ministries," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, president of the U.S. Bishops' Conference. "They teach in our schools, take care of the poor and the sick and bring compassion and the love of Christ to those shunned by society; others lead lives of prayer in contemplation for the world."

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis*, the Vatican II decree on religious life. We at St. Monica's have been blessed – and continue to be blessed - in so many ways by the gift of consecrated religious in our midst. From the presence of the Congregation of Notre Dame at our parish and school through the 1950s and 1960s, up to the 26 years of Holy Names Sister Beverley Watling's ministry as pastoral associate, and by the witness of so many others, too numerous to be named, we "make a grateful remembrance of the past" while embracing "the future with hope." And so, we pray:

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom: in active and contemplative life; in poverty, chastity, and obedience; as sisters, brothers, religious priests, and in Secular Institutes; as consecrated virgins, associates, and members of ecclesial lay movements. We pray in a special way for all who have committed themselves to the many forms of consecrated life here at St. Monica's Parish. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who celebrates life with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE WITH FR. CARL KRULL: A contemplative program in everyday life for those who have a longing for a simpler and more direct union with God, having formerly meditated on Scripture with satisfaction, but feeling an increasing frustration and inability to go on doing so. The program involves following a detailed guidebook, giving an hour a day to contemplative meditation, and meeting with the group once a week and with a spiritual director as you wish. Suggested contribution: \$100 for 20 sessions (no one will be turned away due to a lack of funds). Please contact the Centre for more information or if you would like to register at [514-481-1064](tel:514-481-1064) or centre@ignatiantremtl.ca.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY * SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2015

This year, Worldwide Marriage Encounter invites all married couples to celebrate World Marriage Day. World Marriage Day is a day that honors all married couples as heads of the family, the basic unit of society, and salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. A special celebration will be held at *Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral @ 5:00 p.m.* A bilingual mass will be presided by *Monsignor Christian Lépine*. Following the mass, a reception will take place at **La Plaza Hotel** 420 Sherbrooke O., Montreal, Qc. **Time:** 7:00 p.m. The theme for World Marriage Day has been permanently adopted as **"Love One Another"**. This phrase is the commandment given us by Jesus in John 15:12. It speaks to us in a simple but challenging way of how our Heavenly Father wishes us to live. Loving one another is a daily decision - simple, but challenging. For reservations, please contact: *Daisy & Tino (514) 327-9962 / Anna & Vic (514) 494-2688 Cristina & Rick (450) 967-8290 / Mary & Len (514) 809-7556* marriageencounter@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JAN. 31 TO FEB. 8, 2015

Saturday, January 31: St. John Bosco

4:00 In Loving Memory: Alessandro Palladini, Aniello D'Addio, Ignazio Ciampini, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Joseph Onesi, Luigi & Rosa Mammone, Deceased members of the Charles J. McDonald Family.

Sunday, February 1: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Lorenzo Galvan By the Baptismal Team
Kathy Felli By Rosa & Luigi Salvati
11:00 Ilario Maiolo By the Family
Andre St. Martin By the Family
Ernest Clark By Suzanne & Guy & Family

Monday, February 2: The Presentation of the Lord

8:00 Jonathan Castilho By Olivia Johnson

Tuesday, February 3: St. Blaise, St. Ansgar

8:00 Gabriele & Antonia Poliziani By Daughter

Wednesday, February 4: Weekday Mass

8:00 Theresa, Julian & Kevin Rooney By Gary Rooney
40th Day of Death Lorenzo Galvan By Raquel & Drex Merals

Thursday, February 5: St. Agatha

8:00 Luigi, Antonio & Sanda Onesi By Settimia Onesi

Friday, February 6: St. Paul Miki and Companions

8:00 Agnese, Martino & Antonio Gagliardi By the Family
Timoteo Dacuycuy By Maura Dacuycuy & Family

Saturday, February 7: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Gabriele & Antonia Poliziani By Daughter
Jerry Vietri By Luigi & Lucia Di Nardo

Sunday, February 8: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 In Loving Memory: Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo Salvati, Deceased members of the Cullen Family
11:00 Erasto Lopez By the Sierra Alonso & Family
Thomas Francoeur By Sr. Lorraine Lebert

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of January 24-25, 2015 totalled \$3,258.75

ARE YOU USING ONE OF THESE NEW 2015 SUNDAY DONATION BOXES!

If you have one of these boxes (#102, 112, 122, 189, 207, or 251) please call the office at 514-481-0267 with your name, address and phone number so that we can record your box. Thank you.

COOL (Children of Our Lord) YOUTH RETREAT

Friday, March 13 at 6:30 pm until Saturday, March 14 at 5:30 pm

To Register Contact: stmonicasyouth@gmail.com or call

Claire at 514-482-7493

Suggested Donation \$20 (includes dinner Friday, Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday). In partnership with NET Ministries of Canada <http://www.netcanada.ca/>

SPIRITUAL COMPANION - FRIENDSHIPS

St. Therese of Lisieux lived in a Carmelite convent with her older sister Pauline. Pauline was with Therese throughout her brief life, illness, and death at the tender age of 24. It is no accident that Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs. Having a spiritual companion, as Therese did, can be of great help and comfort on the sometimes difficult spiritual journey. Cultivate spiritual friendships in your own life. (-Take Five for Faith)

REHEARSAL FOR ST. MONICA'S ALTAR GIRLS AND BOYS
SATURDAY, FEB. 7 AT 3:30 PM OR SUNDAY, FEB. 8 AT 10:30 AM

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

Bible Study:

Join us on **Wednesday, February 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the parish hall for the third session of our bible study, **The Spirituality of the Sacraments: On Earth as it is in Heaven**, with **Pastor Brent Walker**. This is a unique opportunity for us to experience Scripture in a sacramental way, and to explore the biblical roots of the Church's seven Sacraments. All are welcome.

Coffee and Conversation

In this session of NOOMA, we will view "STORE – Is anger the issue, or is the real problem what you get angry about?" Join us on **Sunday, February 8, from 9:50 to 10:50 am** in the rectory dining room. Babysitting available upon request.

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond's movie series "Looking at Life through the Lens of the Sacraments" continues with the movie **Philomena** on **Friday, February 20 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! All are welcome!

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.

2014 TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for donations made during the year 2014 to

St. Monica's Parish
by regular Sunday Donation
Box users

will be available for pick up at
the back of the church
this weekend.