

EUCHARIST: LIVING IN JESUS WHO LIVES IN US

In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to "abide in his love." "Abiding" is a wonderfully evocative Biblical word: it means "to remain", "to dwell", "to draw life", "to be at home with." Keeping Jesus' commandments is not just observing some set of external rules, fearful that we will be punished if we disobey. Jesus' "commandment" is in fact an **invitation**: to find our home in the Father's **love**, to experience the **joy** God desires for each of us, to embrace God's call to **friendship** with one another, and to discover the **fruitfulness** that comes from a living relationship with God in Jesus.

How can we respond positively to this invitation to new life? Often, with the busyness of our daily lives, the struggles and burdens we cope with, we forget that we have been called by Jesus to abundant life in Him and through Him. How is God finding his way into your heart? Especially after a long, cold winter, spring is a wonderful time to be reminded of a God who is the source of life and beauty: bright sunshine, blossoming trees, flowers springing from the earth, God at work in and through his creation. We so easily take all this for granted. We are called to carve out some quiet space to meditate on God's word, to thank him for our daily blessings, to ask for strength in our daily needs: to remain connected to Jesus, as branches drawing life from the vine.

One unique and precious way in which Jesus' pledge to "abide" with us is made real is in the gift of the Eucharist. As our catechetical program breaks for the summer, we pray today for all the children whose faith is being nourished by the "Be My Disciples" program, and in a special way for those who next weekend will be welcomed around the table of the Lord as they celebrate their **First Holy Communion**. May they truly **become** what they **receive**: the Body of Christ, Jesus' true and living presence in the world. May God also bless their families, their catechists, and all those who have prepared them for this special encounter with Jesus, who comes into their hearts to reveal the Father's love for all of God's children. **We are the Body of Christ!**

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE "COME AND SEE" EVENING

"Because of Christ, the reality of service is of such importance to the Church that it is a Sacrament incarnated in a particular ministry, that of the diaconate." There will be a **Come and See** evening for single or married men who feel they may be called to the Permanent Diaconate, making Christ the Servant present in the liturgy, in the proclamation of the Word, and in the exercise of charity. **Come and see** on Thursday, May 7, 6:00 p.m. at Archdiocese of Montreal (2000 Sherbrooke St. West), within walking distance of Guy-Concordia metro and parking available via du Fort St. For more information and to sign up, please contact Deacon Michael Di Girolamo at 514-925-4300 x278.

ST. MONICA'S VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015 2.00-4.00 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL**

St. Monica's has a rich tradition of generous parishioners who graciously share of their time, their many talents, and the gift of themselves in a variety of parish ministries. Whatever your area of involvement – liturgy, faith formation, sacramental preparation, youth, prayer and spiritual growth, social outreach, pastoral home care, stewardship, or ministries at the service of the community such as wardens and pastoral council – you are a precious and important part of the community. We literally couldn't do it without you!

Come and join us in the parish hall on Sunday afternoon, June 14th, at 2:00 p.m. There we will:

- Experience fellowship
- Share stories, memories of the past, and hopes for the future
- Recognize the important work that each of you is doing
- Share a delicious "high tea" with sandwiches, sweets, and beverages

Please let your ministry leader know no later than Sunday, May 31st whether you will be able to join us. Ministry leaders are asked to e-mail their list of names to the parish office (st-monica@videotron.ca) no later than **Wednesday, June 3rd** so that we can do the final compilation of participants and so adequately prepare for this wonderful event! Looking forward to a wonderful celebration together!

Father Raymond, on behalf of the Pastoral Council

MASS INTENTIONS MAY 2 TO 10, 2015

Saturday, May 2: St. Athanasius

4:00 Bob Brabant By Pat Brabant
Julie Prillo By Pauline & George Wong
Vincenzo & Francesca La Posta By Concetta La Posta

Sunday, May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 In Loving Memory: Leona Clarke, Pietro Di Meglio.
11:00 Flavio Ricci By Mother & Family
Elmer Cere By the Nolin Family

Monday, May 4: Weekday Mass

8:00 Antonio & Domenica Poliziani By sister Rosa
Giusseppe Fiori By his Wife & Family

Tuesday, May 5: Weekday Mass

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini
Mariano Santini By Olga Matta Santini

Wednesday, May 6: St. Francois de Laval

8:00 Ilario Maiolo By Family
Carolina Santini By Olga Matta Santini

Thursday, May 7: Weekday Mass

8:00 Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family
Deceased members of the Lee & By the Hyland Family
Bruce Families

Friday, May 8: Weekday Mass

8:00 Hugo Ragazzon By his Neice
Elia Salvati By Iolanda

Saturday, May 9: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Angelo Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Iole Falciani By the Falciani Family

Sunday, May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Agnese & Guglielmo Teodori By Vivian Teodori
Lorenzo Galvan By St. Monica's Food Pantry
11:00 In Loving Memory: Nicola & Stella Rotiroti, Joseph Onesi,
Luigi & Rosa Mammone, Trudy Jones.

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of April 125/26 totalled \$4,459.00.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGE TO THE MONTHLY MAINTAINANCE COLLECTION STARTING THIS WEEKEND MAY 2/3, 2015

THE MAINTAINANCE COLLECTION ENVELOPES WILL NOW BE
COLLECTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE REGULAR SUNDAY
COLLECTION. (The basket will only be passed once.)

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION

Faith First registration forms for the 2015-16 season are now available this weekend May 2/3 at the entrances of the church, church hall, and rectory. **PLEASE NOTE: All new, as well as, returning students must fill out a form before August 15 and return it the rectory to guarantee a spot.** The cost of the program is \$80 for one child, \$105 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more. Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further information or if you would like an electronic copy of the registration form, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by email at jennie.armstrong@bell.net.

Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming events

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond will present the movie **Julie and Julia** on **Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory. As this is the last movie of the "Looking at Life through the Lens of the Sacraments" series, you are invited to bring refreshments of your choice to share with the group. Popcorn will be provided. All are welcome!

St. Monica's Spring Retreat

The tremendous advances in science and technology over the last century have allowed us to understand the universe in which we live in a whole new way. Please join us for our Spring Retreat, **The Wonder of God in the Unfolding Universe: The Sacrament of Creation**, with Sister Mary-Ellen Francoeur, on **Saturday, May 23 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, for a sacred time away to explore how this new understanding invites us to experience God in new ways. The vastness and beauty of it all leaves us in a state of wonder and awe! Please register by **May 20**.

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.

INTERFAITH PRAYER FOR PEACE AND THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In our war-weary world, this gathering will pray for peace and in particular for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Our Youth Group will be making a contribution to the prayer. It will take place on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Relais Mont-Royal, 500 Mont-Royal East, just around from the Mont-Royal Metro.