



In-Residence: Fr. Raymond Lafontaine
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Ext. 223

Ken Saldanha	Ursulene Mora-Farmer	Paul Wong
Marline Evoy	Nives Degano	Widat Kebede

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS AVAILABLE (30) MINUTES BEFORE EACH WEEKEND MASS

Marriages: Contact the Parish Office **6 months in advance** (514) 481-0267 - Ext. 221

Baptisms: Telephone: 514) 481-0267 - Ext. 221 or email the Parish Office: st-monica@videotron.ca

Parish Registration: Forms are located at the entrance doors. Please enter **ALL** your contact information and kindly give it to an Usher or place it in the collection baskets. If you want Donation Envelopes with a Registered Box number, please indicate it on your form and one will be assigned to you after you have been contacted. Year-end Tax Receipts will be either mailed or emailed.

On-Line donations – Please register at: www.stmonica.ca CanadaHelps – Give



14 SEPTEMBER 2025

Access - East Side Entrance

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14

Every year on September 14, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. At first glance, it may seem strange to exalt a symbol of suffering and death. After all, the Cross was the Roman Empire's method of executing criminals. Why would Christians celebrate it?

The reason is profound: through the Cross, Jesus Christ transformed suffering into redemption, death into life, and defeat into victory. What once symbolized shame and cruelty became the greatest sign of divine love and salvation.

This feast has deep historical roots going back to the 4th century. After Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, his mother, St. Helena, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Around the year 320 A.D., she is believed to have discovered the True Cross—the very wood on which Jesus was crucified—during excavations in Jerusalem.

In 335 A.D., the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated in Jerusalem on September 14, built over the believed site of both Calvary and the tomb of Christ. The annual celebration of the dedication soon became associated with honoring the Cross itself, giving rise to this liturgical feast.

Theologically, the feast is not about glorifying pain or death. Rather, it is about celebrating the victory of Christ over sin and death through His self-giving love. The Cross is the throne from which Jesus reigns, not in earthly power, but in sacrificial love. St. Paul expresses this beautifully: “the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1: 18). To many in the ancient world, and even today, the Cross may seem like weakness or failure. But to the eyes of faith, it is a sign of divine strength and wisdom. Paul also writes: “He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted” (Philippians 2: 8-9). Christ's humiliation became His exaltation. By embracing the Cross in obedience and love, He overturned the curse of sin and opened the gates of heaven.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is not just a remembrance of an event in salvation history—it is an invitation. Jesus tells His followers: “if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9: 23).

This feast reminds us that the Cross is part of every Christian life. Suffering, sacrifice, and self-denial are not meaningless; when united to Christ, they become redemptive. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we proclaim our identity in Christ and our hope in His resurrection. On this feast, the Church calls us to look not away from the Cross, but toward it—to see not only the pain, but the power; not only the death, but the love that gave us life.

New Youth & Young Adult Group at St. Monica's Parish – ACTS!

We are excited to announce the formation of a new youth and young adult ministry here at St. Monica's Parish, as part of our pastoral year focus: **ACTS – Awake in Courage, Truth, and Spirit.**

This initiative is aimed at two age groups:

- **Teenagers (Ages 13–18)**
- **Young Adults (Ages 18–35)**

This is a wonderful opportunity for our younger generation to:

- Grow deeper in their **Catholic faith**
- Be **formed and strengthened** by the Gospel values
- Learn how to **courageously face the pressures** of modern society
- Share and discuss their faith in a space where they are **understood and supported**
- **Ask questions**, resolve doubts, and grow with others in a spirit of fellowship
- Become active, faithful, and **productive members** of both the Church and society

We warmly invite all youth and young adults, as well as parents, grandparents, to encourage participation in this faith-enriching journey. For more information or to register, please contact:

saintmonicascourageouscatholic@gmail.com or fr. jaison@stmonica.ca

Honoring Two Decades of Fr Ray's Ministry at St Monica's.

After 20 years of devoted service to St. Monica's parish, we will be saying farewell to Fr. Ray Lafontaine on Sunday, September 21 at the 11:00am mass. We invite everyone to join us for this special celebration of Thanksgiving as we honor Fr. Ray's faithful ministry and the many ways, he has touched our lives and our community.

A reception will follow in the parish hall, where we'll gather for fellowship and an opportunity to personally thank Fr. Ray for his years of dedication. Please save the date and join us for this important and heartfelt moment in our parish life.

MASS INTENTIONS: September 13 - 19, 2025

Saturday, 4:00pm – September 13, 2025: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Brenda Chan

Maria Cardilli

Deceased Fiori Family

Ernesta Ciampini

Pauline Wong

Salvatore Cardilli

Berardina Fiori & Family

Pauline Wong & Family

Sunday, 9:00am – September 14, 2025: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Ignazio Mattei

Leonardo Ricciardi

Deceased Members of Paoli & Turini Family

Domenica Mattei & Family

Ricciardi Family

Alessandro Paoli & Pietrina Turini

Sunday, 11:00am – September 14, 2025: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Adelaide Fazi Francescangeli

Carlo Marson

Antonio Bei

Marco & Giuseppina Lucci

Gino & Family

Brocca Family

Gabriella Bei & Family

Luisa & Angelo

Tuesday, 8:30am – September 16, 2025 – MEMORIAL – St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian

Noreen Hynes

Claire Rolland Wilkinson

Ria

John Wilkinson

Wednesday, 8:30am – September 17, 2025: St. Robert Bellarmine

Mario Matta

Ilario & Stellina Maiolo

*Olga Santini Matta & Son
Family*

Thursday, 8:30am – September 18, 2025 - Weekday

Parents of Wim & Ria Laarhoven

Ria

Thursday, 7:00pm

Anna & Lorenzo Forlini

Erminio Forlini

Friday, 8:30am – September 19, 2025: Saint Januarius

Wim Laarhoven

Irene Rolland Rodrigue

Greta

John Wilkinson