

THIS IS WHAT WE CELEBRATE AT CHRISTMAS

Against the expectations of her family, a teenage girl finds herself pregnant. The laws of the State force her to follow her fiancé to another province, where she doesn't know anyone. She gives birth to her child in abject poverty. Facing persecution, she is forced to exile herself to a foreign land, where she raises her son among refugees...

The media are full of stories like this one, day after day, to the point that we don't notice them anymore; except when the photo of a dead child, who has just been washed up on a beach, comes along to upset us. Then it's no longer just a story. For here is a child just like mine. His family, too, is just like mine, even as they struggle through a terribly, cruel tragedy.

And the story of the pregnant teenager isn't just a story, either. Her name was Myriam. Her fiancé was called Yosef. She named her son Yeshuah. We know them better under their anglicized names: Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Yes, Jesus was a real child with flesh-and-blood parents, victims of the politics and the wars of his time, suffering exclusion, poverty and exile. Surrounding this family, we find a few simple shepherds, some astrologers from foreign lands, two elderly people at the Temple.

In the lives of this couple and this child who resemble us so much, Christians from every age have recognized the Hand of God at work. God tracing a new path for our history. God opening up a future that promises, beyond all violence and war, a Reign of justice, peace, and joy. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. The memory of these people. The inauguration of a new era in our history. The arrival in our world of a God who, wonder of wonders, makes himself as small and as fragile as a newborn babe.

How can we celebrate Christmas, therefore, without thinking of the thousands of families who, even today, endure tragedies similar to those endured by that family from Nazareth? May Christmas open our hearts and our homes to lost teenagers, to desperate young couples, to refugees without hope, to exiles without friends, to all who feel as small and as vulnerable as a newborn child. Just like Jesus.

Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher, President of the CCCB

On behalf of Fr. Bertoli, our deacons Richard and Dennis, our pastoral associates Anna and Jennie, the parish staff, and all of us here at St. Monica's, we wish to one and all a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy, and good health. Thank you for the many ways in which you so generously support the mission of our Parish. Following the example of Pope Francis, a true prophet of divine mercy and love, may each of us be filled with the joy of proclaiming Christ: in our hearts, our families, and our society. God bless you all!

Father Raymond Lafontaine, Pastor

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS**Coffee and Conversation**

Join us on **Sunday, January 10 from 9:50 to 10:50 am**, in the rectory dining room to view the **NOOMA** film **"You – Do we get so hung up on debating our faith that we miss out on the point of it?"** Free babysitting is available for pre-school aged children, and all are welcome.

Video Divina

Join Fr. Raymond for **The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler**, the fourth film of this year's "Movies with a Mission" series, on **Friday, January 15 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.

**NEW YEAR SCHEDULE FOR 2016**

Thursday, December 31, 2015:

New Year's Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2016:

Mary the Holy Mother of God Mass at 11:00 a.m.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 26, 2015 TO JANUARY 10, 2016

Saturday, December 26: St. Stephen

4:00 Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family
Tito Forlini By Teresa Caucci

Sunday, December 27: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 Luigina Ciciarelli By the Poce Family
Italo & Anna Mariani and By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
Italo Falcone

11:00 In Loving Memory: Deceased members Charles J. McDonald Family, Joseph Onesi, Luigi & Rosa Mammone, Filomena Tibuc.

Monday, December 28: The Holy Innocents

8:00 Lorenzo Galvan By his daughter Raquel Galvan & Drex Meriales

Tuesday, December 29: 5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity

8:00 Iole Falciani By the Falciani Family
Amelia Brocca By her Daughter

Wednesday, December 30: 6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity

8:00 Cecilia Delziel By Gary Rooney

Thursday, December 31: 7th Day within the Octave of the Nativity

4:00 p.m. – New Year's Eve Mass

(In Loving Memory: Giuseppina Fiori)

Friday, January 1: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

11:00 a.m. – New Year's Day Mass

Saturday, January 2: St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

4:00 In Loving Memory: Elaine Conlon, Alice Brookes.

Sunday, January 3: Solemnity Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 Louise Smith By Dominic Supino
Maria Cardilli By Agnese Ciciarelli
Deceased members of Cinelli Family By Maria & Raffaele Cinelli
11:00 Michael Collins By St. Monica's Food Pantry
James Flynn & Margaret Majeski By Sharon Di Fruscia
Domenico Abbatiello By his Wife & Family

Monday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Seton

8:00 Special Intentions for all St. Monica's parishioners

Tuesday, January 5: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all St. Monica's Parishioners

Wednesday, January 6: Weekday Mass

8:00 Special Intentions for all St. Monica's Parishioners

Thursday, January 7: St. Andre Bessette

8:00 Isa Mazzella By her Daughter & Husband

Friday, January 8: St. Raymond of Penyafort

8:00 Italo & Anna Mariani & Italo Falcone By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
Agnese, Martino & Antonio Gagliardi By the Family

Saturday, January 9: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Jerry Vietri By Antonio Aversa
Giuseppe Di Roberto By Mafalda Zegarelli
Anna Fiorilli & Donato Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi

Sunday, January 10: Baptism of the Lord

8:30 In Loving Memory : Leona Clarke
11:00 Louise Smith By Teresina Supino
Michael Collins By Richelieu Rose Group of Sisters & Associates

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PASTORAL HOME CARE VISITOR?

Do you know anyone who might make a good visitor to the sick and aged in our community? A 6-session formation program on pastoral accompaniment of the sick and elderly is being offered at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (4567 West Broadway) in January. For more information or to register, please contact Cathie Macaulay at 514-925-4354 or Ann Robertson through the Parish Office.



Just Dropping By

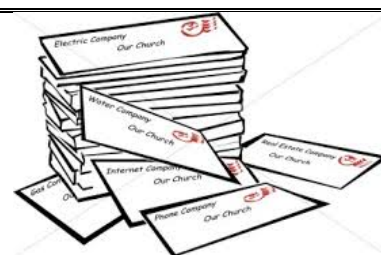
BULLETIN SCHEDULE

The regular printing of the Bulletin will begin again for the weekend of January 9/10, 2016. Proceeds of collections taken during the holidays will be recorded at the same time.



TAX RECEIPTS 2015

Please note that all donations must be in no later than December 27, in order to receive a tax receipt for 2015. Donations received after this date will be credited for 2016.



CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office is closed from Thursday, December 24, 2015 to Sunday, January 3, 2016. The Office will reopen again on Monday, January 4, at 8:30 a.m. In Case of Emergencies, please call 514-481-0267, just leave a message and someone will call you back. Thank You.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE – JANUARY 1