

Pastor's Note:

Following his baptism, Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth and began his public ministry. In the Gospel, we see and hear the Lord announce God's Kingdom, which has come near to us. Christ begins this work by reading from the Prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth. These are his first public words, and, as such, outline what his proclamation and work are all about. Jesus said that he has come to bring good news to the poor; release of captives and recovery of sight to the blind; and, to set the oppressed free. These words make definite that the Lord's announcement of God's Kingdom is done through the proclamation of mercy. Saint John Paul II wrote that love and mercy are the same. When we experience mercy we are experiencing love. Even though that may be the case, and mercy is something we always need and is faithfully given to us by God, I think it is also something with which we can have an awkward relationship.

In our minds, we can give to God the role of a referee. We live life and with every step we wait for the sound of the whistle. God stops the play, identifies the infraction and gives a penalty. All may be forgiven but we still wait with apprehensive and fearful hearts for the sound of the whistle. Mercy seems to always be given because we are always messing up, always making mistakes, always sinning. Mercy, however, is not primarily about our mistakes, about our sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not a celebration of our sinfulness, rather it is a celebration of the faithful and merciful love of God. Mercy is not the consequence of our sinfulness. It is God absolutely refusing that even one should be lost to Him. God does not accept that we begin to think of ourselves in any way other than God's children, as His daughters and sons. We sometimes think that our words and actions have become insurmountable obstacles between ourselves and God. But mercy comes with its infinite power and renders powerless those things we think are too big to be forgiven. The Lord Jesus came for our salvation. And our salvation is worked through God's mercy. Adam and Eve hid from God when they broke God's command. Do we do anything different? Maybe not, but we can begin now. The next time we hear the whistle blow, our stomachs need not tighten, we need not say "I've done it again!" When we hear the whistle, it isn't primarily about correction. Instead, it is God wanting to remind us of His most unquenchable love for his children. If we have the faith to let God be our Father, all the time, then indeed the words of the Lord will be true and real for us and within us: "Then he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'."

Take Care and God Bless, *Jr. John*

Saturday, February 2nd— February Fiesta

Join the parish community for an evening of fun with this family-style dance. There's something for everyone, including great finger food, fun and games and lots of dancing! Our theme this year: *Country and Western!*

The Fiesta will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes School gym (444 Sherbourne St.) on Saturday, February 2, 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Entrance is free, but we ask you to reserve or pick up a ticket. Tickets are available this weekend. This will help us know how many people to expect. We hope to see you there! This year our Fiesta will include the drawing of the winning ticket for our Car Raffle.

+++++

Monday, February 11 7:00 pm – Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with Mass and an indoor Candle Procession: A FINGER FOOD Potluck reception in all of our Halls will end the evening. If you would like to drop off something to share, please bring it ready to serve to Lynch Hall before 7 pm.

+++++

Mama Mary in Living Colour:

We want to make the celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes Feast bright and colourful and we need the help of our young parishioners. Colour or draw a picture of Mamma Mary and we will display it during the Feast day week. ***Pick up a colouring page or two today after Mass.***

+++++

Our Lady of Lourdes 2019 Car Raffle – Next Saturday!

2019		2018
7130	Tickets Distributed	7220
\$37,550	Money collected	\$38,000

If you have sold tickets and have the stubs and money, we ask you to please bring it in to the parish as soon as possible. You can do so at the entrances of the church after the Sunday Masses or at our Parish Office throughout the week. Help us make this raffle a **HUGE** success!

+++++

Notice to Parents: Sacramental Prep Classes for Kids Now Offered at the Church!

Classes for First Confession and First Communion will begin February 3rd at 1pm and Confirmation Preparation a little later, in the spring.

Many parents have already registered their children, but if you haven't yet done so, there is still time. For more information, please contact the Parish Office about registration at 416-924-6257 or email us at parish@ourladvoflourdes.ca. Thank you!

If you are interested in helping out with the programs here in the parish, we would love to have you on our team. Please contact Michelle, through the parish office for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 28

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10pm Felipe Calapatia + [Calapatia Family]
 5:15 pm IDELTA COUVINHA + [Ceilia]

Tuesday, January 29

8:00 am Charles Kelley + [Ada]
 12:10 pm Celestino Benedicto + [Benedicto Family]
 5:15 pm SUN HEE KIM "CECILIA" + [Amy]

Wednesday, January 30

8:00 am SHIRLEY KELLEY'S Intention [Ada]
 12:10 pm CRISANTA, Laurentino & Armando Moral + [Liza Mostaza]
 5:15 pm

Thursday, January 31

8:00 am Lawrence Aina's Birthday [Funmi]
 12:10 pm Jorge & LOURDES Sievert + [Sievert Family]
 5:15pm Lawrence Aina's Intention - Birthday [Funmi]

Friday, February 1

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10 pm Leocadio & MACARIA Carolino + [Rebecca Cayanga]
 5:15pm All Souls in Purgatory [Cora Balatero]

Saturday, February 2

8:00 am SANTIC MARA + [Ana]
 12:10pm Jose Sazon + [Remy, Belle & Family]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

*Sun Hee Kim "Cecilia", Robert Mitthenthal
 Dene Staynor, Rufino Galang*

+++++

Syrian Refugee Family Resettlement Update:

This past Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019 marks one year since the Syrian family of 6 sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes arrived in Toronto. It also marks the end of our 12 months of sponsorship. Fr John would like to thank everyone who responded so generously with their time, talents, and financial & in-kind donations to support the family, as well as those who volunteered to serve on the Resettlement Committee. The family is doing well and looks forward to continuing their integration to Canadian society. If you have any questions please contact Bill Hatch, Outreach Coordinator at 416-924-6257 x2556 or outreach@ourladyoflourdes.ca

+++++

Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick

In Anticipation the World Day of Prayer for the Sick we will have a communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick. **Mass will begin at 3pm in the Church on Thursday, February 7.** Seniors as well as those with chronic illnesses or preparing for surgery and invited to receive the sacrament.

260 Wellesley St E - Power & Water Shut-Off

As of this printing, 260 Wellesley St E, a 33-story apartment building in our neighborhood, was still without power and water. A water pipe burst on Tuesday, January 22 and leaked into the building's electrical room. Emergency crews and the Red Cross have been on the scene, but it has been unclear how soon utilities will be restored. If you or anyone you know is affected by this situation (including anyone elderly or with mobility issues), and looking to make a connection or receive assistance, please feel free to reach out to any of our outreach ministries:

Social Outreach Office: 416-924-6257 x2556 (Bill Hatch)
 Lourdes Food Bank: 416-972-0630 (Lynne Carino)
 Lourdes Saint Vincent de Paul: 416-924-6257 x2998

Please also feel free to connect with us if you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

+++++

**AFRICAN HERITAGE/BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 CELEBRATING "YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH, and
 VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT".**

Sunday, February 17th, 2019

Praise Songs: 4:00 pm; **HOLY MASS: 4:30 pm**

DAY OF REFLECTION, SHARING, PRAYER on:

Preliminary Meetings and Synod of Bishops on Youth!

Saturday, February 16th, 2019

10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Lynch Hall.

For info: Bernadine: 416-504-1507; Sr. Hazel: 416-920-0132; Audrey: 905-472-3337; Nancy: 416-458-5347.

**ALL ARE MOST WELCOME,
 ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE!**

+++++

BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

"Love, in fact, is the vocation that includes all others; it's a universe of its own, comprising all time and space—it's eternal. Beside myself with joy, I cried out: 'Jesus, my love! I've found my vocation, and my vocation is love.' I had discovered where it is that I belong in the Church, the niche God has appointed me. To be nothing else than love, deep down in the heart of Mother Church; that's to be everything at once—my dream wasn't a dream after all."

~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of January 27 to February 2, 2019						
Sun 27	Mon 28	Tues 29	Wed 30	Thurs 31	Fri 1	Sat 2
3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Kids at Mass RCIA		Alpha: How Can I have Faith?			Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	February Fiesta Car Raffle Draw