

Pastor's Note:

In my first years in the Jesuits, there were certain events or activities in which we wore clerics, the black shirt that priests wear. We were always super excited to wear them. They made us feel 'special' and elite. In a word, a shirt gave us concrete identity. In this week's Gospel, Jesus is dealing with something similar. The people in the synagogue hear what he says and are generally pleased. St. Luke writes, "All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." Their approval however, was short-lived. Initially Jesus words, like when we wore the priest shirt, gave the people of Nazareth a concrete sense of identity. He was speaking to them as the People of Israel, and as the people of his own home town. Would they not have felt 'special,' elite? But when Jesus continues, he reminds them that Elijah was sent to the widow in Sidon; and Elisha was sent to Naaman, the Syrian. In these words Jesus is saying that God is for all. There is no 'special' or elite; there is only the child of God. And our being God's child is the fundamental and primary source of our identity, of who we are. As we receive more and more who we are in God's eyes, then the living of our faith becomes clearer.

As we pray for and seek to be disciples of the Lord, we may wonder how to do it. St. Paul makes clear that the way of discipleship is the way of Christ. And the way of Christ is the way of love. In this week's passage from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians he gives examples of what we might think would be the most perfect expression of being a Christians. He says that if we can speak with the tongues of angels but do not have love, then we have nothing. He says that if we have prophecy and all knowledge and even a faith to move mountains, but do not have love, then again we have nothing. And even if we give our bodies over for martyrdom, but do not love, we have nothing. And so, if all these things without love are nothing, then it seems that love is everything. It is God's love that gives us our identity. It is God's love that is the food for the living out of our faith. It seems that a faith without love, following the teaching of St. Paul, would be nothing. Therefore our faith and love can never be separated; because love is the greatest, it is everything.

The people who heard Jesus speak in the synagogue wanted an identity based on being the elite, or part of the 'in-group'. Sometimes we can feel the same. But we must always remember in our hearts that such a feeling or desire is a temptation because we turn the eyes of our faith away from the Lord and towards the opinions of others. What is it then to be a disciple, what is it to be a Christian? It is to be a person of love, it is to be a person who loves. "Now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

Take Care and God Bless, *J.R. John*

Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes: In preparation for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we invite you to join us in praying the Novena from February 2 to February 10. We have included the Novena prayers and intentions in our Bulletin today. **You are invited to join us each day (except on Saturday and Sunday) at 4:30 pm in the Church for the Novena.** Our prayer will include the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

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**Communal Celebration of the
 Sacrament of the Sick**

In Anticipation the World Day of Prayer for the Sick (February 11) 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.

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Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Monday, February 11 7:00 pm:
**Join us in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of
 Lourdes with Mass and an indoor Candle
 Procession and Rosary**

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.

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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@ourladyoflourdes.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, February 4

8:00 am Sergio Rodas's Intention [Juvy]
 12:10pm Christopher Tan & Felizardo Aton + [Encar Benemerito]
 5:15 pm GERMANA RODRIGUES PEREIRA + [Ceilia]

Tuesday, February 5

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Thanksgiving-MARIA JAYAG's 60th Birthday [Maria]
 5:15 pm Mr. & Mrs. Manuvelpillai + [Alfred]

Wednesday, February 6

8:00 am Armenio Ibarra + [Annabelle Ibarra]
 12:10 pm REMEDIOS OLIVER + [Oliver Family]
 5:15 pm DOROTEA T. TOLENTINO + [E. Tolentino]

Thursday, February 7

8:00 am David Morton + [Jean Nahorniak]
 12:10 pm JUANA & Mariano Gauco + [Oliver Family]
 5:15pm

Friday, February 8

8:00 am
 12:10 pm Thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes [Joseph Kaposi]
 5:15pm BERENICE CAMPAYNE + [Family]

Saturday, February 9

8:00 am PETRONE MARKUNAS + [Joseph & Jerry Markunas]
 12:10pm Dr. Andrew Smith's Intention [Gabriel Cruz]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

*Edmonda Joseph, Fernando Cabral
 Florentina Jabile Quiming, Benedicto Planta
 Jozes Sukic & Melinda Ansay*

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EDGE

For youth aged 12-14

Edge is a Catholic youth ministry program that provides a safe, fun for youth to find solid Catholic community, get answers to their questions about faith, and most importantly, experience Jesus in a profound and personal way.

Watch for details on upcoming meetings in future bulletins.

For more information: Michael: 416-458-8119, Madelaine: 647-453-1925, or Lorenzo: 647-291-8380

**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!**

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Tax Clinic: The Our Lady of Lourdes Volunteer tax clinic is on March 16, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the 2018 tax year. Please call the parish office @ 416 924-6257 for an appointment.

For those unable to attend the clinic, we have the "Drop-Off Service". This service is now available all year!! Please call the parish office @ 416 924-6257 for more information.

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St. Jamestown Youth Centre Steel Orchestra

On **Friday, February 8, 2019 at 7.00.p.m.** the St. Jamestown Youth Centre is having a concert in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes here at the church featuring the St. Jamestown Youth Centre Steel Orchestra and Singing Group. All are welcome.

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

"Why does Jesus say 'I thirst' [from the cross]? What does it mean? Something so hard to explain into words--.... 'I thirst' is something much deeper than just Jesus saying 'I love you.' Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you—you can't begin to know who He wants to be for you. Or who He wants you to be for Him."

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of February 2 to 9, 2019						
Sun 3	Mon 4	Tues 5	Wed 6	Thurs 7	Fri 8	Sat 9
4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Kids at Mass RCIA 1 st Confessions Class 1pm	Novena 4:30 pm	Novena 4:30 pm Alpha: How Can I have Faith?	Novena 4:30 pm	Sacrament of the Sick 3pm Novena 4:30 pm	Novena 4:30 pm	Baptisms