

### Pastor's Note

The other day I was reading about an entertainer who has had a prolonged battle with addiction, even to the point of attempting to take her life. She said that she was trying to find a sense of more in life, of peace and the fullness of life. She said she didn't realize it at the time, but she was really searching for God, even if, in all the wrong places. Though with perhaps less extremes, I think we can all relate to what she is saying. We feel a desire that reaches out for something more. It's as if we are reaching for something but we not exactly sure what or where it is. But we're not grasping at "thin air," we are grasping and reaching for Him. For our God, for our Father. And so the words of the Psalm reverberate within our hearts - "Lift up your heads, O Gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in."

This Sunday we have the passage from Luke's Gospel that describes the Presentation in the Temple. We see Mary and Joseph bring the baby Jesus to present him to God. In the temple there is both Simeon and Anna. Simeon and Anna have sought and longed for the coming of the Messiah. Both praise God when they see the baby Jesus. Simeon takes the baby in his arms and Anna speaks about the redemption of Jerusalem. On seeing the Lord, the "ancient doors" of their hearts were opened wide to receive the Lord into their lives. We too want to open wide the doors of our hearts to Him. And yet, at least for myself, despite my desire to open my heart, I can keep my foot on the door, ensuring it remain closed. There must be a reason why we seem to hesitate in letting the door be "opened wide." The only reason that makes sense to me is that we are unsure what will happen if we let it be "opened wide." We may long for something more, but we sure don't want to put in jeopardy that which we already have or know. So the foot comes down and we keep it somewhat closed. But there is an answer to our hesitation, reluctance and uncertainty. It is found in the words of Simeon to Mary.

Simeon told Mary that "a sword will pierce your own soul too." These words, spoken so near to Jesus' birth, somewhat surprisingly point to his death on the Cross. As we read in the second reading from Hebrews: "It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons and daughters to glory, should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings." While we try to find the trust,

confidence and faith to let the doors of our hearts be "opened wide," we can look to God's actions. In Christ we see God seeking to reveal our salvation and redemption. God doesn't force it upon us, but shows it to us in Christ. That is, the Lord came into the world for us; he gave everything he possesses for us; and, he gave even his life for us. Our hesitation and reluctance to let the Lord in fully is lessened by seeing clearly his motivation. It isn't to coerce, to manipulate, to condemn, to destroy. It is to love. And this is the more we all long for. It isn't a what but it is a who – it is the Lord!

God Bless & Take Care! *Jn. John*

### LOURDES 2019 CAR RAFFLE Final Week - It's not too late to buy your tickets!



#### This Year's Prize Board:

- Grand Prize: 2019 Honda HR-V LX HS  
(valued at \$27,057) or \$22,019 cash
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$3,000 cash
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$2,000 cash
- 8 additional prizes of \$100 each

#### Raffle Draw: Saturday, February 8, 2020

Help us make this raffle a **HUGE** success! Pick up a book (or two) after Mass or from the Parish Office during the week. Tickets are available for \$10 each from our Welcome Desk.

Proceeds for the raffle will go towards the renovations of the Welcome Spaces of the church.  
**Pick up your tickets today!**

*Also, just a gentle reminder to please bring in your ticket stubs, money, and (if any) unsold tickets. You may bring them to the Parish Office, Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm. On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, you can bring them to Bernadette Hall, which will be open throughout the day. Thank you!*

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, February 3

8:00 am Ambrocio Baria + [Caridad]  
 12:10pm MARA SANTIC + [Ana Z.]  
 5:15 pm Souls in Purgatory who are least remembered [Joann Kuizon]

#### Tuesday, February 4

8:00 am David Sequeira + [Friends]  
 12:10 pm HELEN & Gordon Traill + [Eileen Casey]  
 5:15 pm Thanksgiving [Joseph Johnson]

#### Wednesday, February 5

8:00 am Eusebio Robles + [Estrella Robles]  
 12:10pm Thanksgiving for Personal Blessings [Mitos Fernando]  
 5:15 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]

#### Thursday, February 6

8:00 am Jude Mari Mira +  
 12:10pm REMEDIOS OLIVER + [Oliver Family]  
 5:15 pm DOROTHEA T. TOLENTINO + [Estrella T.]

#### Friday, February 7

8:00 am Intentions of MARILYN WEIR's Family [Lynn Smart]  
 12:10pm JUANA & Mariano Gruco + [Oliver Family]  
 5:15 pm All Souls in Purgatory [Cora Balatero]

#### Saturday, February 8

8:00 am PETRONE MARKUNAS + [Joseph & Jerry Markunas]  
 12:10pm NENITA & Martin Sr. Manejable + [Gemma Manejable]

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

*Carol Lombard, Ramon Guzman, Angelina Bautista  
 Francisco Caringal, Norvic Lapenig, Patricia Thomasos  
 Elaine Nangini, Barbara Jaworski, Edwin Coraje Dumadapat  
 Edna Berdiso, Nancy Minhinick, Antonio Bermejo*

### Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

**Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes** | Feb 3 to Feb 10 (excl. Sat & Sun) in the Church, 4:30pm | Includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

**Movie & Pizza Night** | Thurs, Feb 6 at 6pm in the Upstairs halls (Library/Loyola Room) | Screening the 1943 Oscar-winning *Song of Bernadette*. Please RSVP to [info@lourdes.to](mailto:info@lourdes.to) or 416-924-6257 so we know how much pizza to order! Thank you.

**February Fiesta & Car Raffle Draw** | Sat, Feb 8 | 6:30pm to 10:30pm at the Our Lady of Lourdes School gymnasium (444 Sherbourne St).

**Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** | Tues, Feb 11, 7pm | Mass in the Church and an Indoor rosary procession, followed by a potluck reception (please bring food to Lynch Hall by 6:45pm).

**Communal Celebration for the Sacrament of the Sick** | Wed, Feb 12, at 3pm in the Church | Celebrating the Day of Prayer for the Sick | Anyone with a serious

or chronic illness, seniors and those preparing for surgery are welcome.

### Parish Events

**Feast of St. Blaise & Blessing of Throats** | Mon, Feb 3 | Blessing following each of the daily Masses (8am, 12:10pm, and 5:15pm) in the Church.

**Seniors Day Program** | Ages 55+ | Fri, Feb 21 | 1-3:30pm, Lynch Hall and Library room.

### Black History Month

**Black History Month Celebration** | Sun, Feb 16 | Praise Songs at 4pm followed by Mass in the Church at 4:30pm | Chief Celebrant and Homilist: Rev. Father Michael Meunier (Missionary of Africa).

**Black History Month Day of Reflection** | Sat, Feb 15 | 10am to 2pm in Lynch Hall | Will include sharing and prayer on writings on the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church by Pope Francis, Bishop Robert Barron and Fr Thomas Berg.

### Neighbourhood & Community

**St James Town Youth Centre Steel Orchestra and Singing Group** | Mon, Feb 3, 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church | Concert in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. All are welcome.

### Lent 2020

**Ash Wednesday** | Wed, Feb 26 | Masses at 8am, 12:10pm, 5:15pm and 7pm.

**Way of the Cross** | Fridays throughout Lent at 7pm beginning Fri, Feb 28.

**Lenten Penance Service** | Wed, March 18 at 7pm.

**Lenten Parish Mission** | March 23, 24, and 25 at 7pm each evening in the Church | Theme: "Written on my Heart" Presenter: Michael Swan.

*Humility consists, not in condemning our conscience, but in recognizing God's grace and compassion. – St Mark the Ascetic*