

Year of Mercy, Lenten Journey - Week Two

Let Us Ponder:

*A door opens in the centre of our being
And we seem to fall through it into the immense
depths which, although they are infinite
are all accessible to us. Thomas Merton*

As we recognize our Call to follow Jesus as People of Mercy, God raises within us the realization that a **Life of Mercy** is not just a busyness of doing. It is truly a Way of Life as sons and daughters of God. It means consciously-'opening the Door of our Hearts so that we come to understand that our heart-door opens inward to the inherent goodness seeded in us at birth, and opens outward to the world where we bring this goodness and share it with others. When we enter the Door to our Hearts and go inward, this non-physical door allows us to move beyond where we presently are in our beliefs, emotions, attitudes and actions. By so doing, our spiritual growth evolves and our union with the Holy One matures.'

Joyce Rupp: Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self

GOD'S OPENED DOOR

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. Matt.7:7

This is a promise of God to each of us. The gift of God's presence and the power of His help are always there for you and for me. We have only to ask, and then reflect on all the times God has touched our lives with His compassion, love and mercy. In the midst of all our life problems, the door has always been opened to us. Have we dared to go through?

This week we are called to spend quiet time with our God each day, if possible. Allow ourselves each day, time to enter into the stillness of God's presence if only for a short time. Open the Door of Your Heart and sit quietly with God. It is from this stillness with God and the awakening of our souls that we will hear God's invitation to take what we have, and continue to receive from Him, to give to others: to be his hands and feet, heart and voice in our homes, parishes and communities. In this way we truly will be **People of Mercy**.

Prayer:

God our Heavenly Father, help me to perform works of mercy in my daily life this week and bring the Good News of the Gospel to all whom I meet through my actions of mercy and love.

Assure me of your protective presence each day this week and when I become tired, confused or frustrated help me to come to you for help.
May every seeking footstep of mine take me through your doorway of love.
I open the door of my heart to you

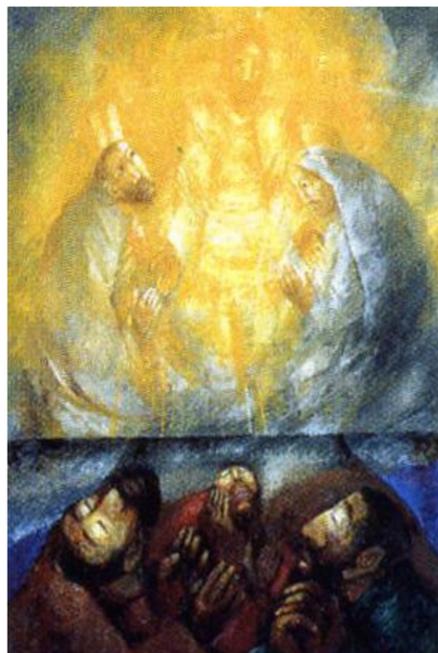
My God within me, I adore you.

*Patricia Moore, Spiritual Development sub-committee member,
Ontario Provincial Council, CWL*



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Second Sunday of Lent February 21, 2016



*From the bright cloud the
Father's voice is heard, "This is
my son, the Beloved; listen to
him!"
~ Luke 9.35 ~*

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Series - "Having Mercy"

Wednesday evenings 7 - 8 pm, Main Hall
February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23

Join us for a five week series for youth and adults. Find a pathway to understand and live Mercy more fully. The sessions will be filled with rich examples, Scriptures, and questions for discussion and sharing. For information contact Greg Beath.

Stations of the Cross

9:30 am on the Fridays of Lent.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ST. BONAVENTURE

WEEKDAY LITURGY: Monday to Friday, 9 am

SATURDAY: 9 am

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 9 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 4 pm

SUNDAY LITURGY

Saturday Vigil: 5 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Feb. 22	9:00 am	Thanksgiving
Tues. Feb. 23	9:00 am	†Andrea Klein
Wed. Feb. 24	9:00 am	Special Intentions
Thurs. Feb. 25	9:00 am	†Peter Glowezewski
Fri. Feb. 26	9:00 am	†Alfred Cockburn
Sat. Feb. 27	9:00 am	Teresa Thomson Carol Lang †Bella Gonsalves †Rosa Fernia †Rosita Sanchez †Frances Hopperton
		All Souls The Friars
Sat. Feb. 27	5:00 pm	†Joza Jani
Sun. Feb. 28	8:30 am	Parishioners
	10:00 am	Aurore Lagace
	12:00 pm	Thanksgiving

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp:	†Peter Glowezewski
Vigil Lamp:	A. Rodrigues and Family
For the Sick:	Deacon Sal Badali, Lois Walsh, Leonel & Judith Alvarez
For the Deceased:	Francisco Jimenez

Prayer Network: Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact: Sr. Adua Zampese at 647-343-1340

Private Prayer: Contact Friar Boniface at 416-447-5571 ext. 500

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, February 22

6:15 pm Sparks/Bonaventure Room
7:00 pm Brownies Parish/Francis Room
7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice/Church

Tuesday, February 23

10:00 am Spiritual Growth in the Second Half of Life/Francis Room

7:30 pm Bible Study Group/Oak Room

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 pm GRASP Group/Oak Room
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room
7:00 pm Lenten Series-Having Mercy/Main Hall
7:30 pm Family Choir Practice/Church

Saturday, February 27

9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room
9:30 am Al Anon Group/Bonaventure Room

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Eucharistic Ministers Needed

For years I felt that Eucharistic ministers were special people worthy of that ministry in the church and could not see myself (full of faults and questions) being one of them. Until one day I had this urge to apply. I believe the Lord was pushing me to participate more actively in the life of St. Bonaventure. It has been now four years. I feel very blessed for serving the church in this manner and a greater communion with my fellow ministers and all that come to receive Christ's Body and Blood.

These are the words of one of the regular Eucharistic ministers. She, and all her fellow ministers, have made and continue to make a wonderful contribution to St. Bonaventure's parish community.

We are currently in need of additional Eucharistic ministers at all masses and invite parishioners to consider this ministry of service to our community. For more information call Carole Clune at 416-445-5713.

If you would like to join us, please contact Fr. David Stachurski at 416-447-5571 to arrange a short interview.

Won't you consider joining us as simple travelers on the journey? Sainthood is not a requirement.

STEWARDSHIP - A WAY OF LIVING

February 14 Offertory Collection

Thank you for your generous donations!

Regular Collection: \$6,972.20

Maintenance Fund Offering: \$80

Donate Now: \$405

Pre-Authorized Giving: \$3,039

ShareLife Sunday - March 13, 2016

Working wonders for those entering the priesthood...At ShareLife-funded agencies such as Serra House, St. Augustine's and Redemptoris Mater Seminaries, individuals undergo extensive theological education and practical field training. Through ShareLife, you are helping to sustain vocations for the priesthood and inspire discernment for God's call. **Last year ShareLife helped 80 seminarians in their formation studies.** On ShareLife Sunday, please give generously. You can work wonders!

2015 Tax receipts

Receipts for your 2015 donations have been mailed.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast & CWL Bake Sale - Thank You for Your Participation!

Thanks to all that participated on February 7 to make this a great event. A special thank you to Revera Living for providing the food, the Knights of Columbus for coordinating the event, the CWL for providing the Tea & Coffee and for organizing the bake sale. A great time was had by all!

News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society

"One goal for each day: to convey the tenderness of Christ to those who are most in need." -Pope Francis-

The goal of our Society is to assist those who need a helping hand with groceries, clothing and other essentials. Persons in need, including parishioners, may contact us, confidentially, at ssvp-stbonnie@hotmail.com

Ministry with Maturing Adults

Tuesday mornings 10:00 am, Francis Room
Feb. 23, March 15 & 22.

Spiritual Growth in the Second Half of Life.

Topics: Caregiving, Walking by Faith, Our Life Story, Growth in Wisdom, Prayer and A Lifelong Mission. Facilitator: Sister Mary Rose Marrin, CSJ

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

The deadline for this month's casseroles is Sunday, February 21. If you can spare a few hours to make a casserole each month, contact Eva Trace at 416-447-3040.

Workshop on the Art of Discernment

March 5th, Saturday, 9:00 am, Loretto College
'A day to reflect on making choices in life' workshop presented by a team of men and women religious and a married couple; on March 5, 2016, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at Loretto College, 70 St. Mary Street (south of Bay/Bloor Subway). Suggested donation is \$25. To register or for more information contact: Frances Harrison-Atell, fharrison-atell@csj-to.ca or 416-467-8070 ext.2691

Learn About Hawaiian Culture and Dance

February 21 to May 8. Classes on Sunday afternoons for 10 weeks. Recital is May 14.
Children: 2-3 pm; Teens: 3-4 pm; Adults: 4-5 pm.
To register contact Linda Etkorn at 416-510-0264 or lindaetzkorn@rogers.com

Men's Lenten Day of Retreat

February 27, 2016, Saturday, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
At Queen of Apostles renewal Centre, Mississauga. Deacon Doctor Greg DeMarchi will preach on the theme: "God's mercy as an entrance to prayer and spiritual life." Coffee & muffin on arrival & lunch is included. To register please call 905-278-5229.

St. Bonaventure Baseball — Mark your calendars!

Registration: January 29 to March 11.
Evaluation days: Week of April 4
Coaches Meeting: Week of May 16
Regular Season: April 18 to June 6
Playoffs: Week of June 13
Finals Day: June 18
Registration forms are online and at the Ministry Centre.



Fasting: A Way to Turn to God

In the last five years, five weddings have occurred with my family: brothers, nieces, and a nephew have married. Each family was deeply grateful for the wedding, but remarked that the detailed preparations were demanding. Their preparations had to go with the ritual (the wedding ceremony) but also with processes that aimed to help the couple sustain a spiritual, holy, and deeply loving relationship. You might wonder how preparing for a wedding relates to fasting.

When fasting is viewed as a preparation, it is seen in a more spiritual manner than simply "giving something up." Some persons may view fasting as giving something up, and in a negative way, view the process as a trial. However, throughout the Church's history, fasting has been a part of the preparation for both initiation (the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) as well as for repentance. Even today in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the elect (those persons who are seeking Christian initiation) join with the

Christian community-or rather, we join them-in fasting during the liturgical season of Lent in preparation for their initiation at the Paschal Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Fasting in this regard has two characteristics: preparation and penitence.

During Lent the elect and those already baptized as Christian mark the period with fasting. This period prepares the elect for life as a Christian, and those already Christian are reminded that they, too, are always on the journey of conversion, that is, of turning away from all that is not of God, what we call sin, and turning God's

call and presence, which heals us of sin and brings us into a deeper life of holiness. In an ancient liturgical rite, this was ritually marked by the elect turning toward the west, the direction of sin, evil, the Devil, and spitting while renouncing these very things. Then, turning to the east, the rising sun, that is the Son, Christ Jesus, they would affirm their faith in God the Father, Christ Jesus, who rose to take away sin, and the Spirit, who cleanses us of sins and brings us into deeper union with the Father through Christ Jesus.

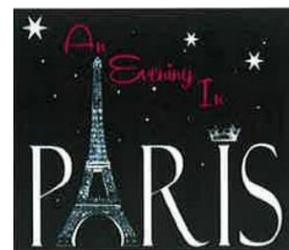
Lent, then, is when the parish community, and those seeking to become disciples with the Church, begin a period of purifying themselves so that God might liberate them for a deeper union with God. At the same time, all of us are called to deepen our life of holiness, both within the Church and during our daily lives, to follow God's invitation to be holy in the world.

When fasting is viewed in a fuller context of preparation, it is not simply giving something up, but rather, the turning away from all that fractures our relationships with God, the Church, our families, and all humankind. Through the spiritual practice of fasting, then, we express our desire not to be held under the power of things and turn our attention toward growing in God's call to holiness. During this Lent, we can ask ourselves how our fasting connects to preparing ourselves for deeper holiness and as a way of repentance, of turning from sin toward God's gracious and merciful presence.

Fasting, then, is part of our process for deepening our discipleship.

By Kristopher W. Seaman, DMin, is a doctoral student at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He is the former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. He earned a Master of Arts degree in liturgical studies from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, and a Master of Arts degree in systematic theology and a Doctorate from catholic Theological Union.

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An Evening in Paris

Saturday, April 16, Donalda Club
Tickets \$80/each
Call 416-630-0330 or online at www.stclareinn.org

St. Clare Inn's Annual Fundraiser is back! Stroll the streets of Paris, take your picture with the Eiffel Tower, snack on great Parisian fare and bid at the live & silent auction...all for a great cause. Come and join us!



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