

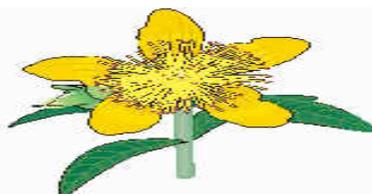
St. Edward the Confessor

February 3, 2019

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

And now

faith,



hope,

and **love** abide,
these three;

and the greatest
of these is

love



1 Corinthians 13.13

Thank You

Thank you very much for your support and generosity.



We have a few weeks to catch up on regarding weekly offerings....

The collection for January 19 was \$560.

The collection for the weekend of January 27 & 28 was \$780.

The Helping Others collection was collected over the past two weeks and totaled \$270

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Council meeting this Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 at the church. Anyone who is interested in the life of the church is welcome to attend.

Passion Play

This week's meeting for the Passion Play will be at 2:00 pm on Sunday in the church. We are still welcoming any youth who would like to be a part of this annual event to either come to the practice or contact Craig Buchanan at 514-886-8746. Any youth in high school or older are encouraged to participate.

Parish Vitality

Last Saturday more than 80 people gathered from 16 Montreal parishes to carry the momentum sparked by the November Parish Vitality Conference. Parish Vitality is at the heart of the missionary shift that we are being asked to undertake. The purpose of the follow-up meeting was to provide an opportunity for our communities to network and share ideas about how the Holy Spirit is calling us to serve and outreach in our neighborhoods, to explore what is needed to move us forward on our paths of missionary transformation, and to explore how we can collaborate at the local level. Our team from St Edward's was grouped with St John Fisher and we agreed that we can both benefit from collaboration.

Parish Vitality calls us to reimagine the parish, to transform it from a maintenance church that is mostly concerned with buildings and infrastructure, to a mission church that is focused on community, ministry, discipleship and evangelization. We do this by knowing our people and the needs of our community and creating intentional communities of practice. One of the critical differences between a parish culture that produces Practicing Catholics and a parish that produces Missionary Disciples is that the former produces those who follow Christ while the latter produces those who follow Christ's priorities in the world. What kind of parish are we?

Connected Events

Here are two upcoming events that were promoted at the end of our Parish Vitality meeting:

Lent: A Fresh Look

Parish Mission presented by Fr. Thomas Ryan CSP

Mission Evenings: Sunday, March 10 to Tuesday March 12. Hosted by St Luke's Church, 106 Anselme-Lavigne, D.D.O. For more information contact office@st-luke.ca or call 514-684-6488

Divine Renovation,

Open House at St. Ignatius.

A day-long conference with keynotes by Fr. James Mallon, author of "Divine Renovation – from a Maintenance to a Missional Church". June 15. Information: stig.ca/dr

The Perspective of Justice

Revolutionary Love

As hard as it was for the people of Jesus' native place to accept, the fact is that he was a prophet, no less a prophet than Jeremiah.

Just as Jeremiah had been warned that "they will fight against you, but not prevail over you, so the people rose up and expelled Jesus from the town. But he went straight through their midst and walked away."

The message of Jesus and the prophets before him was to love all men as God loves them. The reason why they ran into problems is that so many people do not want to hear about "love for one another even as God has loved us."

The love that Jesus preached "is not snobbish," so it includes the filthy poor and the stinking homeless.

It "does not brood over injuries," so it asks not how we can get even with this criminal but how we can help restore this human being.

It "does not rejoice in what is wrong," so it causes us to react strongly against all forms of injustice and oppression.

This is revolutionary love. "Prophecies will cease." One day the talk about love will end, and the kingdom of love will become a reality. Of that there is no doubt.

The only question, in the meantime, is about who will "be filled with indignation" at the prophet of love, and who will be walking with the prophet through the midst of the crowd.

"The missionary is a person of charity. In order to proclaim to all his brothers and sisters that they are loved by God and are capable of loving, he must show love toward all, giving his life for his neighbor. The missionary is the 'universal brother,' bearing in himself the Church's spirit, her openness to and interest in all peoples and individuals, especially the least and poorest of his brethren. As such, he overcomes barriers and divisions of race, cast or ideology. He is a sign of God's love in the world—a love without exclusion or partiality."

Pope John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, 1990:89.