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**2015 Parish Campaign**  
Sunday, May 3  
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## **SPRING GARDENING**

By Fr. Chris Valka, CSB

The Gospel this week speaks of Jesus as the vine and ourselves as the branches. Those branches that do not bear fruit, we are told, will be cut off. But even those that do, will still be pruned so that they may bear even greater fruit.

It is a timely and helpful metaphor as we enter the spring gardening season. How many of us have started to clean out our gardens and start to prune our plants? If we are thinking about it, gardening can be a very helpful spiritual exercise – especially when we consider the Gospel this week.

Unless we clean and prune, our gardens will be a wild mess. Some plants dominate others; and new growth occurs upon the old. We have all seen gardens like this and plants that are never pruned; and we have seen the difference that good thought and careful pruning can make.

Last week's bulletin starts to tell the story of our parish garden: this indeed is a season of possibilities and change here at St. Basil's. USMC has a new President and the TV Mass is soon to leave St. Basil's for a different location.

In the welcome package given to new parishioners last weekend, was a booklet identifying the four ministry pillars of our parish: sacramental and prayer, community, music, and social justice. You can see this on our website as we have recently reorganized the menu to reflect this understanding.

Under the surface, a fifth pillar is beginning to sprout: young family ministries. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks as we will all have a chance to participate in this new growth.

However, the Gospel reminds us that growth is not possible without the difficult work of pruning; though sometimes, the Holy Spirit makes this a bit easier so long as we are open enough. Some of the changes are the result of parish

decisions, like the emerging family ministries; and others, such as the two regarding the new President and TV Mass, are not. Nevertheless, we have to pray hard to know the difference between what we need to fight for and what we can let go of – confident that it is making room for something new.

Let us pray for such grace to be present in our parish, our families and in our lives.

READINGS: *Acts 9.26-31; 1 John 3.18-24; John 15.1-8*

## **HUMANITARIAN RELIEF**

### **NEPAL EARTHQUAKE**

The Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting financial contributions for humanitarian relief following the catastrophic effects of a serious earthquake on April 24

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. Basil's Church – Nepal Earthquake – Humanitarian Relief

Please keep in your prayers all those affected by this crisis in Nepal.

## **JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION**

This Sunday is the John Ford First Sunday Food Collection for the Daily Bread Food Bank. Your gifts of food or money will be gratefully accepted in the vestibule of the church at each mass.

## **THE SERRA CLUB**

The Serra Club of Toronto Downtown will hold their next regular meeting on Wed. May 6 at Fr. Madden Hall immediately following the 12:10 parish mass for vocations.

Guest speaker is Joe Sinasac from Novalis who will be speaking on "Print Media in 2015". Guests are welcome. Contact 416-964-8694 to register.

**COFFEE HOUR CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

This Sunday is the last 10:30 a.m. coffee hour. We will see you in September. Thank you to all those who helped to ensure we had coffee and goodies this past year, and special thanks to Sally Lianko for overseeing this important ministry

We are ending the coffee hour one week early due to problems with our kitchen. As many are aware, our kitchen has had many issues for a while. This past week, we have a health and safety-training seminar for our Out of the Cold Volunteers and it became clear that the current limitations of our kitchen need to be addressed. Because of the nature of our Out of the Cold and Miller Group programs, we will continue to operate those as normal; however, all other uses of the kitchen are being suspended until we can resolve the issues. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Chris.

**OFFERTORY**

Sunday, April 26, 2015 \$ 10,165.26

**Basil's Book Club**

We are onto our next book study! But this won't be just any book study...

All are welcome to join us in our discussion on *Community: the Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block. Get ready to prepare for and participate in the great feast of Pentecost near the May 24th weekend!

We only have few copies left to sell but you could purchase your own copy through Indigo or Amazon and join in the discussion.

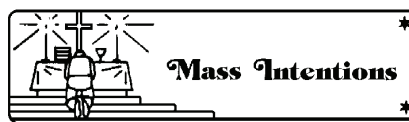
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**May 3 – 9, 2015**

**Sunday**

- 9:00 – Emilio and Carlotta Corte +,+
- 10:30 – Pro Populo
- 12:00 – In honour of the Eternal Father
- 4:30 – Victoria Dela Fuente +

**Monday**

- 7:30 – Isabel Zimmer +
- 12:10 – Caterina Ciavarella +
- 5:10 – Frank & Mike Gregoire +,+

**Tuesday**

- 7:30 – Marian Macoretta +
- 12:10 – Michael Corridan +
- 5:10 – Margaret Rita Kilgallon +

**Wednesday**

- 7:30 – Thalhemer family
- 12:10 – Vocations Mass
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

**Thursday**

- 7:30 – Visitacion and Eulogio Potes Sr. & Jr. +,+
- 12:10 – Anne Gregoire +
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

**Friday**

- 7:30 – Souls in Purgatory
- 12:10 – Andrew Cox +
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

**Saturday**

- 5:00 – Maria Naciel +

**PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Bohdanna Kobalsayj, Mary O'Brien, Sharon Han, Doris Marcon, Ancoretta Amigleo, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Rev. Kenneth Decker CSB, Clare DeMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath and Marina Kazakis.**

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially Sigrid Zimmermann**



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