

St. Joseph's Parish Lecture Series (Lecture #1)

Apocrypha

**A Wavering Catholic's Reflections on God, Human Suffering and the Relationship
Between History and the Past**



A poetry reading and lecture on the piece "Apocrypha" by Hungarian poet János Pilinszky (1921-1981) presented by Christopher Adam, Executive Director of St. Joseph's Parish.

Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

St. Joseph's Parish - Oblate Lounge (151 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N8)

János Pilinszky, a young soldier in the Hungarian military during the Second World War, witnessed first-hand the horrors of concentration camps in Germany in 1944/45, as his unit followed the retreating German forces. Much of Pilinszky's poetry was inspired by what he saw during the War, combined with his own Catholic faith.

After the War in 1954, the publication of the poem *Apokrif* (Apocrypha), was the first time that the poet's work was permitted to appear in print, following a state-imposed period of silence for what Hungary's Stalinist authorities labelled as his excessive "pessimism." Pilinszky approaches the Second World War past, a tragedy then still very much within living memory in postwar Hungary, from the perspective of Catholic and Christian faith--albeit, a faith that is deeply uncertain, ambivalent and even tormented.

English language translations of *Apocrypha* will be distributed at the lecture and these will be read together, followed by a talk and a discussion. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend, but space is limited. Please RSVP with Brandon Rushton: brushton@st-josephs.ca / Tel.:

613-233-4095, Ext. 251.