

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 20, 2008

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Is it fanciful to speak of the *Sacred Space* website in this way?

What thanks we owe to the legions of scientists, technologists and computer buffs who have made it possible to reach round the world in this way. Inspired by a vision of a worldwide web, they created the means by which we can fulfill what Isaiah barely glimpsed.



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 7:00 p.m. Jeannette Chartrand by Maurice, Frances & Pauline

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Dorothy Blackman by Annie Guertin

11:00a.m. Pastoral Mass for Parish Community

**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS:** \$2,170.95 Thank you

### **Quite a Challenge: *The move from the practice of preparing for Sacraments to the practice of formation to the Christian life!***

"When do you start your first communion or confirmation preparation program?" A good question! It is also an unsettling question. Why? Because preparing for sacraments in isolation does not accomplish much. Ideally, the celebration of sacraments is part of a larger mosaic; it is only in the context of that larger mosaic, the Christian life, that sacraments make sense. Apart from that larger mosaic they do not amount to much. They are not much more than a momentary blip. Unfortunately, that seems to be the situation we are in today. Many have lost the sense of that larger mosaic. Yes, we still ask for the sacraments, at least for once, but we do not have much of a clue when it comes to appreciating them for the role they are meant to play in the larger reality of the Christian life.

That is what is behind our bishop's summons in the diocesan catechetical project, ***Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom***: "We must have the humble courage to journey from the practice of preparing for the sacraments to the practice of forming to the Christian life." It's not easy! How to make the switch? There will be a fair amount of groping... Hopefully, the Spirit will guide us.

### **We have some copies of the Pope's Encyclical on Christian Hope**

Towards the end of last year, Pope Benedict XVI published an Encyclical Letter entitled ***Spe Salvi, On Christian Hope***. For those interested in reading it, you can get a copy at the Parish Office. The price is \$7:00.



### **Next Sunday's 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses:**

#### **The Beginning and the First Part a bit different**

Coming into church on Sundays, signing ourselves with water from the baptismal font, and starting the Mass are very routine activities for us. So routine, in fact, that we easily overlook how significant these ordinary activities really are. That is why we plan to re-arrange, elaborate and unpack them a little to make us take notice. It will imply, by way of exception, a different way of handling the beginning and the first part of the Mass.

Why do we do this? It has to do with the fact that our parish has about 25 of our younger members getting ready for the sacrament of Confirmation and about the same number for First Communion. That is the sort of thing that does not only concern the candidates and their more immediate families. It concerns us as a parish. And it also affects what on Sunday we come together for, namely to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of God's love for us, of God's great desire to have us share in God's own communion of life of Father, Son, and Spirit.

These candidates for Confirmation and for First Communion are our brothers and sisters in Christ. And we want to have them among us when we as a parish are privileged to celebrate God's claiming us as his own. That is what we want to highlight in the first part of the two Masses next Sunday. We will be a bit more deliberate about God's calling and choosing us, God's gracing us with his love, and our praising and thanking God for giving us his Son Jesus as Light on our human journey. That applies to all of us when we come together for Mass, but especially next Sunday to our candidates for Confirmation and First Communion.

If all this sounds a little mysterious, the best thing is to join us, be part of it, and experience it first hand. The way we plan to handle that first part of the Mass will not make the Mass longer; we will make some adjustments that will make the Mass end at pretty much the same time as usual. We count very much on your understanding, your cooperation and above all participation to make it work.

#### **Getting the church in shape for *Ordinary Time* was a bit of a challenge**

Many thanks to those who spent some time with us last Sunday after the last Mass to take the Christmas decorations down. It was a bit of a challenge because of the limited number of us. Or are our Christmas decorations too elaborate? Any way, we got it done. And by noon on Monday, Wayne had the church in shape for *Ordinary Time*.

That *Ordinary Time* will be short this year because of Lent starting so early, February 6. We will make up for it after *Pentecost* with a pretty long stretch of *Ordinary Time* then.

#### **Christians are supposed to be together!**

***Pray without ceasing*** is the theme of this year's **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that week. Has any progress been made on bringing the churches closer together? Or is it really a matter of churches coming closer together? It may be more a question of the now divided churches being more deeply rooted in Christ Jesus. Only then will divisions be overcome. Are the churches, our own included, ready for that?

As far as the Churches in Aylmer doing something together to mark that week, it will be in the form of an ***Ecumenical Candlelight Service*** which will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian – Potter's Wheel Christian Fellowship, 1 Eardly Road, next Sunday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.

Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Church, has some interesting and challenging reflections on the question of Christian Unity. This week's insert to our bulletin makes them available.



**In preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City:**

**The Ark of the New Covenant at St. Aloysius Church, January 25**

This coming Friday evening, January 25, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., **The Ark of the New Covenant** which has been traveling across Canada for almost a year now will be in St. Aloysius Church in Gatineau (300 l'Abbé-Murray Street). All parishioners of the English parishes in our diocese are invited to participate in the service that will be held there. The service will consist of an extended Liturgy of the Word followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**The Ark of the Covenant** is a wood sculpture. One of its unique features is that it is decorated with four bigger icons and four minor icons that represent some aspect of the meaning of the Eucharist. The four major icons are: The Last Supper, The Passion and the Death of Jesus, The Vigil of Mary, The Resurrection of Jesus. These icons will be the focus for some reflection during the extended Liturgy of the Word. The minor icons, but no less significant, are: The Feeding of the Multitude, The Wedding at Cana, The Washing of the Feet, The Disciples of Emmaus.

**49<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JUNE 15-22, 2008 (QUEBEC CITY)**

Those interested in attending this event must register with the Gatineau diocese. There are approx. 60 places left for our diocese. Please contact Gerald Baril 819 771-8391. There is a \$30 rebate if you register online before February 15, 2008: <http://www.cei2008.ca/en/>

**CWG SUPPER:** Tuesday, January 22 all CWG members are invited to supper at the Aylmer BBQ at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call Lillian at 819 685-1232 or the Parish Office at 819 684-6926.

**BINGO & BEAN SUPPER:** St. Aloysius *Bingo & Bean Supper* on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Bingo is from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by a bean supper. Bingo: pay at the door. Supper: \$5.00. RSVP by January 24<sup>th</sup> to Susan at 819 663-3619.

**TRAINING FOR ALTER SERVERS:** Training for alter servers on Saturday January 26 at 9:00 a.m. The invitation is open to both young and older parishioners. There is a **need for new servers at all three Masses**. Also, **parents and their children are encouraged to come and serve as families**. Information, call Sean: 819 684-8539



Altar Servers



**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Kindly remember, Wandaw Bobrowski, Hilda Preslawski, Odette Gratton, and their families in your prayers.

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY:** Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the McDonald family on the loss of Agnes.

**Visit our Website: [www.stmarkparish.ca](http://www.stmarkparish.ca)**

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