

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 3, 2008

Matthew 5:1-12

We have no portrait of you Lord, but in the Beatitudes you show us your interior landscape, the source of your joy. This is not a set of regulations, but a vision of where true happiness lies.

Let me taste it, phrase by phrase.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4TH

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Don Barrette by CWG
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Piedade Gomes by Shirley
	7:00 p.m.	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Claire Hebert by Cecile Carol McLean by LeGuerrier Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Elva Bowers by Carl & Family
	11:00 a.m.	Michel Morin by Claire Laframboise Marjorie Maisonneuve 5 th Anniversary by the Family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,406.31 Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY: Our Mountain Climbing towards Easter begins

This coming Wednesday, our church will look quite different; it will have a Lenten look: the cross, the burlap, the ashes, the banners, the purple. They underline the fact that as Christians we are signing up for the renewal on the way to Easter when we will have our baptism renewed. The Scripture readings and the music will sound different too as part of the Lenten repertoire.

On **Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.**, we will have our service in which we receive the ashes. The receiving of the ashes is a sign that we are serious about the upcoming season of renewal and conversion.

However, let us not lose sight of Easter. We do not observe Lent for its own sake. It is meant to get us in shape to celebrate the central mystery of our faith: the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. That core mystery will be celebrated right after Lent during **The Three Great Days** of Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday. And then we will have fifty days for digesting it all.

THE THREE LENTEN PRACTICES: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

How will we mark our 40-day trek to Easter? The traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving have much to commend themselves. Some may argue, didn't we get rid of most of the rules about Lenten discipline? Yes, the strict rules about them were relaxed some years ago. But it makes a lot of sense to still observe the practices, as long as we keep in mind what they are aiming at: to get us in shape for **Easter**.

Prayer: Our Sunday liturgies, with their rich Bible readings, provide the basic orientation for Lent. How about making a special effort to use the reflection starters that you find at the top of the first page of our



Sunday bulletin? And for every day of Lent there is a reflection as an insert to the bulletin. Friday evenings we'll have the *Stations of the Cross*.

Fasting: We diet; we cut down on food and drink for a variety of reasons. During Lent we could refrain from some food, from a drink, from a party, from a video as a gesture of solidarity with those who have no choice in these matters for the simple reason that they do not have them. And we can also do it for ourselves, showing that we can distance ourselves from so much of what our consumer society says we need.

Alms: This flows naturally from the previous two practices. Almsgiving says we care for others even to the point of depriving ourselves from something. How about if we put the money that we save by some form of fasting aside and make it into our contribution to the special **Development and Peace** Lenten collection that will be held later on in Lent?

A FEW HOURS AROUND THE *ARK OF THE NEW COVENANT* at St. Aloysius church

To get a bit of a feel for what the **Ark of the New Covenant** (that is travelling through Canada in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City in June) is all about, one needs some familiarity with the role the **Ark of the Covenant** played in the Old Testament. There it evoked God's presence to and protection of Israel. For us as Christians that presence of God to our world has taken on the shape of Jesus Christ, especially in his Death and Resurrection. That is where the **New Covenant** is being sealed and that is what we are privileged to celebrate with praise and thanksgiving in our Sunday Eucharist. That is why the organizers of the Eucharistic Congress came up with the idea of the **Ark of the New Covenant**.

We had it for a few hours in St. Aloysius Church last Friday evening. It is indeed a beautiful sculpture. It is decorated with eight icons that represent some aspect of the meaning of the Eucharist. During the extended Liturgy of the Word we reflected on four of these icons: the Last Supper, The Passion and the Death of Jesus, the Vigil of Mary, the Resurrection of Jesus. After those reflections we celebrated the Eucharist.

The turn out was not great, but for those who were there it was a faith-forming experience.



BAPTISM: This Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m., five children will be baptized. Kindly remember them and their parents in your prayers.

Cameron	son of	Erin Shuart Levesque & Thomas Levesque
Brayden	son of	Joanne MacDonald & Adrien Joey Latreille
Jayden	son of	Stephanie Clairmont & Denis Charron
Abbie	daughter of	Andree-Lynn Abraham & Kevin Fahey
Cameron	daughter of	Christine Dunnigan & Kraig De La Salle

WHAT A JOY IT WAS to have the *Confirmation and First Communion Candidates* with us last Sunday!

Yes, it made especially the 11:00 a.m. Mass a little longer because there were so many of them but, from the reactions received, it was an enlightening experience for all of us! The point of the exercise was to have us all see that what the candidates are preparing for concerns us all. We need to be reminded that we are all called by name by our gracious God and that we are all drawn into God's very own life by baptism. And we experience God's abundant hospitality when God invites us to the table God sets where we are nourished with the best God has to offer, his very own Son Jesus Christ, in the bread and wine we share.

Some had never been aware of the significance of having the Baptism Font at the entrance of the church. Others were touched by seeing the Confirmation candidates light their baptism candle from the Easter Candle, while the parents of the First Communion candidates lit the baptism candle from the Easter Candle and then handed the lit baptism candle on to their children. And what a beautiful gesture it was to have the candidates then light the candles of all of us present! It was an eloquent sign that, as believers, we know ourselves graced with the God-given light that Jesus Christ is for us on the journey through life.

Let us continue to support each other in the precious gift of faith.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

ALL VOLUNTEERS are invited to the parish hall on **Tuesday evening, February 5th** after the **7:00 p.m. Mass**, where food and drinks will be served. This is a small gesture of appreciation from the Parish for all those who donate their time and energy and whose dedication makes this Parish so vibrant. The **CWG monthly meeting which should be held that evening has been postponed until March**. Hope to see all of you!

DAY RETREAT: Sister Rosemary O'Toole will be viewing and discussing her DVD of her *Holy Land Pilgrimage* in the Marvee Room from 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 9th.

THINK FAST 2008 COMING UP: FEBRUARY 22-23

Plans are well underway for our **Think Fast 2008**. It is part of **Development and Peace's** effort to raise our awareness of what developing countries have to cope with. It is nice to see that a few of our parishioners who have first-hand experience of spending some time in developing countries are part of the organizing committee.

Participants spend 24 hours together with a sleep-over in the basement of the church. They fast, they wrestle with development issues, they pray, they have many activities, watch movies, and in the process they have lots of fun. It is part of the preparation program for our Confirmation candidates, but others are welcome to participate as well. For more information and for registration, please call Bob Rutter at 819 685-1968 or Chris Santillan at 819 684- 6374.

The event begins Friday evening, **February 22nd at 8:00 p.m.** and it concludes on **Saturday, February 23rd** with a shared Meal after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.



FOR INCOME TAX RECEIPTS...

It is that time of the year again. If you want to receive a receipt for the contributions to St. Marks's church you made during the past year, please drop a stamped self-addressed envelope in the collection basket and before long you will receive your receipt.

For those who do not use church envelopes, this may be an opportune time to consider getting into the habit. It is the principal source of income for the church.

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



ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to all who want to make their faith home here! You may have come from other places. You may have been "away for a while". Be assured that we love to have you among us.

We would appreciate it very much if you identified yourself at Mass. It would also help if you would take the time to fill out a registration form. The next time you are with us, you may leave it in the collection basket or give it to one of the ushers or to the priest. **WELCOME!**

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

Bulletin design & Web content/design by: Catherine LeGuerrier

Need a website or flyer? Visit www.catleg.ca or e-mail: catleg@catleg.ca