

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

March 30, 2008

40/3/50
THE PASCHAL SEASON

John 20:24-29

Thomas' pessimism is a blessing for us. We can almost feel his resentment at having missed Jesus' first appearance, his resistance to the good news and to the enthusiasm of his friends. He retreated to the role of skeptic. But because of his skepticism, we enjoy this rich scene of his personal, physical encounter with the risen Jesus. When I feel alone in my doubts, I will remember your words, Lord: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31ST

Monday	7:00 p.m.	Annunciation of the Lord
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Dorothy Blackman by CWG
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Jim Kelly by Mary & Family
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Don Barrett by Senior Choir
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	John Runyon by Don & Lana
	11:00 a.m.	Gordon McFadden, 12 th Anniversary by Marie
		Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Boucher & Sons by Pearl
		Rodney & Melissa French by family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$ 3,959.95 Thank you!

Fine Showing for Development and Peace

Thank you very much for all who contributed, as part of our Lenten effort, to the **Development and Peace** Share Lent collection: **\$4,688.58**. The financial aspect is part of an even more important concern, the issue of social justice, peace, and development.

The Liturgies of the Three Great Days: A Summary of the Christian Faith

Looking for a summary of the Christian faith we may be inclined to go to the Church's Catechism. That is not a bad place to go to. But we find the Christian faith just as authoritatively summed up in the Church's liturgy. That is especially true of the liturgies of the **Three Great Days** that we experienced last week.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, **The Celebration of the Lord's Passion** on Good Friday, and **The Easter Vigil** on Holy Saturday, and **the Celebration of the Eucharist** on Easter Sunday were faith-filled and prayerful. Many thanks to those who made these liturgies happen, those who made the church be in shape for them, those who led us in the singing (and there was much of that!), those who served our community in the different ministries that are part of these liturgies, and those who celebrated with us.

Except for **the Easter Vigil**, all were well attended and participated in. It was a good thing that during the Vigil Martine Mrazova was baptized and that most of our Confirmation candidates were there. Otherwise, we might have been very small in number. It is hard to know what the reason for that was. Was it too cold? Too late? Did the Senators-Leafs hockey game get in the way? Some might say it is too long and we do not understand what it is all about; it is all too complicated. It is true that the part of the Scripture readings is a real challenge! That is why in many churches they skip most of them. But that is our Christian faith! The Risen Jesus Christ did not just fall out of the heavens. He is preceded by a long history of God's grace-filled dealings with us and

his death and resurrection are the climax of God's unceasing care for us. That has to be honoured too. Surely, we would not want to end up with a *Reader's Digest* version of the Christian faith.

It is time to evaluate

On April 7th our Liturgy Committee will meet. A good part of the meeting will be devoted to an evaluation of how the liturgies of the **Three Great Days** went and how the 40-day Lenten season in preparation for those days was handled. If you have any comments to make on them, please let a member of our Liturgy Committee know: Maria McNaughton, André Sirois, Julie Cool, Trudy Connelly, Marina Moore, Michel LeGuerrier, Bill Marvee. Was there anything that you appreciated particularly? Was there something that you felt was missing? There may have been something that annoyed you or that you could not make sense of or that was done badly. Your opinion is important, because we are all responsible for our parish's liturgical life.

Important workshop coming up for the English Parishes in our Diocese: Saturday, April 19 - 9:00 a.m. to noon at Our Lady of Annunciation Parish

Twice a year, representatives of the English Parishes in our Diocese come together to work on projects that we are all struggling with. We are all facing considerable challenges today. It is important that we discuss these together and that we support each other in meeting those challenges instead of trying to go our own way.

Our major project is to work on the implementation of the orientations given by our Bishop in his little document **Discovering Jesus Christ: The Path to Freedom**. This time we will have a fresh voice leading us in our work, Father Bill Burke. He is the priest that gave us a much appreciated Lenten reflection on March 2.

For whom is this workshop? For any parishioner that is interested, but especially for those who have a leadership position in our parish: members of Parish Pastoral Council, members of the Fabrique, members of parish committees, parish ministries. May we count on you?

We are again meeting at Our Lady of Annunciation Parish in Hull. They have proven to be excellent hosts for these occasions.

Two Excellent Summer Institutes at Saint Paul University: Let us make use of them! July 7 - 18

There is ample evidence that those who guide the parish's liturgical life and those who are involved in various parish projects of religious education or faith formation can benefit significantly from some more formal training in these areas. That is what the two **Summer Institutes** at Saint Paul University in Ottawa offer. One is in **Pastoral Liturgy** and the other is in **Religious Education**. Men and women from across Canada come to them. It is in our own backyard. How about taking advantage of them?

Courses in **Pastoral Liturgy** are:

- Introduction to Liturgy
- The Catechetical Foundations of Liturgical Renewal
- Receiving Baptized Christians into Full Communion
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Liturgical Year
- Sunday Eucharist

Courses in **Religious Education** are:

- Accompanying Adult Faith: Vision and Pastoral Practice
- Foundations in Religious Education
- Catechesis: Processes and Resources
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Ethics and the Religious Educator
- Spirituality for Ministry

Don't be intimidated by the titles of the courses. It is the instructors that really count. And they are all very good.

Brochures and registration forms are available at the entrance to the church.

There is also some money set aside in the budget to assist parishioners who plan to take one or more of these courses. If you intend to apply for some financial assistance, please do so well in advance so that the money available can be fairly distributed.

A beautiful little piece from Father John's February 24 homily

On Sunday February 24th, Father John reflected for us on Jesus meeting the woman at the well. In that context Father John said: *"What is this water? It is the thirst of God for us. In the words of the Catechism: 'Jesus*

thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us." If we find ourselves in the desert with Jesus, there to be tempted, it is because it is so difficult for us to believe that God thirsts for us. We think it must all come from us. And what God asks during Lent is that we recognize that the very desire for life arises really 'from the depths of God's desire for us. *As the Catechism says: 'Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst in him.'*

I believe that this is what the woman discovered. She found someone who really desired her. It was God. Henri Nouwen said it beautifully: *'The spiritual life is a life in which you gradually learn to listen to a voice... that says, 'You are the beloved, on you my favour rests.'*...It is not a very loud voice because it is an intimate voice. It comes from a very deep place. It is soft and gentle. I want you to hear that voice. We both have to hear that voice and to claim for ourselves that that voice speaks the truth, our truth. It tells us who we are. That is where the spiritual life starts – by claiming the voice that calls us the beloved.

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

Evelyn	daughter of	Kimberly Bowie & Leo Stewart
Brianna	daughter of	Judlyn Phillip-Falschau & Kouassi Agbodh-Falschau
Jenna	daughter of	Lisa Fortin & Mario Beaudry
Koby	son of	Nathalie Fortin & Audley Francis
Matthew	son of	Courtney Burns & Eric Brisebois



AMITIE RELIGIOUS ARTICLES: We invite you to come and visit us if you wish to purchase souvenirs for First Communion, Confirmation or Baptism. We have rosaries, plaques, medals, books, statues and crosses. March/June, we are giving 10% off and we absorb the taxes; for seniors we can come to you. Call: Carmen & Gerry Proulx at 819 682-2269. Thank You!



ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to all who want to make their faith home here! You may 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 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 the priest. WELCOME!

Thank you very much for the Easter Lilies

That is a fine gesture of faith to remember our deceased with an Easter Lily. The Risen Christ's victory over death is our hope for them and for us. Unfortunately this year, some have wilted already. Were they in the car in freezing temperatures too long? Still, they are beautiful and give our church a real Easter flavour.

To join the United Nations' International Year of Planet Earth

As part of the United Nations *International Year of Planet Earth*, the Episcopal Commission for Social Affairs of the CCCB has published a pastoral letter ***Our Relationship with the Environment: The Need for Conversion***. We have some copies of this letter available.

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



Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

Bulletin design & Website content/design by: *Catherine LeGuerrier*

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