

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 22, 2008

Mathew 10:26-33

Did you smile, Lord, when you assured your friends that they were worth more than sparrows? You were promising something much more, something quite momentous: that even the very hairs of my head are numbered.

We mortals are born and die in our millions, many of us unregarded or forgotten. Yet you say your Father cherishes each of us personally. Without that faith I may despair.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 23RD

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 7:00 p.m. Claire Hebert by Cecile & Vincent Emond

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Fr. Thomas Klatt by Annie Guertin

11:00 a.m. Hilda & Reginald Workman by Kevin Workman

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:

\$2,866.50

Thank you!

Do all who celebrate *Saint-Jean-Baptiste* this week know who John the Baptist is?

Yes, by all means, let us celebrate **Quebec's National Holiday** this Tuesday, but let us not lose sight of the real John the Baptist, whose date of birth the Church celebrates on June 24th. That already indicates how important John the Baptist is in the Church's calendar. His is one of only two saints' celebrations that commemorate a natural birth; the birth of Mary on September 8 is the other one. Normally, a saint is commemorated on the anniversary of his or her death, "birth into eternal life".

What is more important is that the story of Jesus cannot be told without the story of John. All four Gospels mention John the Baptist, albeit in different ways. The line that John is especially known for is in the context of an incident in the Gospel where it was a matter of who the early disciples should follow. There is no hesitation in John the Baptist when he points to Jesus: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30). It is interesting to see what the Christian tradition has done with this line of John the Baptist, when it came to determining the date of birth for John the Baptist. It was fixed on a day close to the summer solstice, when the days were becoming shorter. The light is decreasing so that it can again increase at the coming of Christ celebrated in Christmas. The progressive decrease in daylight in the northern hemisphere from the feast of John the Baptist until Christmas echoes the above-mentioned statement of John the Baptist. Daylight will begin to increase once the *Light of Lights* comes into the world.

How important John the Baptist is for the story and the significance of Jesus is also underlined with a statement that John made about Jesus and that, in fact, we still use at every Mass: "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) Again his pointing to Jesus!

What John is well-known for too is his standing up for truth without compromise; that would cost him his head, literally (Mark 6:17-29). Is the truth worth that much to me?

And then there is the beautifully encouraging incident, when John – at a low point in his life, when he is imprisoned – sent messengers to Jesus with the question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Mt 11:3) Any Christian worth his/her salt must be willing to wrestle with that question. Why bother with Jesus? What does he bring anyway?

Luke in his Gospel (chapter 1) has constructed a narrative of the conception and birth of John the Baptist that includes such moving characters and scenes as Elizabeth and Zachariah, Mary's visiting Elizabeth, the origin of the *Benedictus*, the great hymn of love and thanksgiving still recited in the Church's morning prayer.

All this to say that the real John the Baptist is more than a marginal figure in the story of the Good News that we, as believers, are privileged to live from!

Continuing our Reflection on the Eucharist (9)

The International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City comes to an end this Sunday. Our reflection on the Eucharist, however, continues. After all, the Eucharist is big enough to spend a fair bit of time on looking at it in order to appreciate it more. Here, then, follows the ninth instalment:

We are now at the second part of the Eucharist, what is properly called *the Liturgy of the Eucharist*. Before we get into details on it, it is important that we see the part of the Mass we are talking about as a whole. It is best to simply respect the make-up of this second part of the Mass:

- presentation of the gifts of bread and wine;
- the Eucharistic prayer;
- the communion rite.

These elements belong together. One calls forth the other and flows into the other. And it is not helpful to want to isolate one particular element, blow it up all out of proportion to such an extent that the rest of this second part does not seem to matter or is at the most, secondary.

Where does the make-up of this second part of the Mass come from? From Jesus himself! Look at the Last Supper scene:

- * Jesus took the bread and wine;
- * said the prayer of thanks/blessing to God;
- * broke the bread;
- * gave the bread and the wine to his disciples.

In other words, the way this second part of the Mass is constructed takes its lead from what Jesus did at the Last Supper. We want to respect and honour that.

The bread and wine we bring represents us, our world. We bring that to that all-important event of Jesus' death and resurrection, in which our world is re-created, celebrated in the Eucharistic Prayer. It is here that the Spirit intercepts the bread and wine and transforms them so that they become the bearers of Christ's self-giving. It is then, at communion time, that we "get our gifts of bread and wine back", but now they are transformed and we are privileged to be nourished by that self-gift of Jesus, so that in turn we are transformed to become the Body of Christ.

BAPTISM: This Sunday Afternoon at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., fourteen children will be baptized. Kindly remember them and their parents in your prayers.

Zoey Michelle Ida	daughter of	Allison Godin & Robert Beaudoin
Julia Anna Suzanne	daughter of	Michelle Schingh & Alexandro Gomez
Lauryn Rae	daughter of	Helen McGee & Cliff Prud'homme
Avry Claude	son of	Melissa Gendron & Johnathan Drolet
Jacob Sandy	son of	Julie Belisle & Paul Delorme
Riley Francis	son of	Angela Fairhurst & Steven Stafford
Annabelle Marie	daughter of	Carly Denison & Jean-Francois Leduc
Kyannah Isabella	daughter of	Angie Larocque & Derling Velasquez
Adrian Daniel	son of	Krista Denison
Kiera Victoria	daughter of	Bonnie Kerr & Robert McGoey
Jordan Shaheen Matthew	son of	Drahomira Schreiner & Imran Qureshi
Logan Francis Robert	son of	Maureen Quigg & Andrew Martin
Jacob-Philip	son of	Ivy Navarro & Christian-Eric Bourguignon
Kathleen Diane	daughter of	Diane Garvin & Stephen Dolan



Off to Manila, the Philippines

Next Sunday, I will be on my way to Manila. What am I going to do there? As you know, I belong to the religious community of the Sacred Heart Fathers (S.C.J.). The leadership of our international community wants

to bring the members of our community who serve in various parishes together in a convention. I suspect and hope it will be a worthwhile learning experience. July 17th is my return date.

Father John will be filling in for me while I am gone. He is “my boss” here in Canada, and he suggested that I go. Thank you, John, for giving me this opportunity to see and experience another part of the world for a few weeks. No doubt, many other parishioners will be on trips and vacations in the next little while. To all, safe and enjoyable journeys!



On Sunday, July 6th in the Church Hall, from NOON until 2:30 p.m.
Everyone Welcome! Donations only. “Come and enjoy”!

CEILING OF THE CHURCH TO BE RE-PAINTED!

This will happen the week of July 7th. At least, that is what the plan is at this point. In preparation, Wayne is removing a number of the hooks that are presently in the ceiling. The only hooks that are left are the ones that we use for the sets of banners we have for the various liturgical seasons.

Two Summer Institutes at Saint Paul University: 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**.

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:

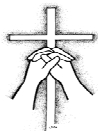
- Accompanying Adult Faith: Vision and Pastoral Practice
- Foundations in Religious Education
- Catechesis: Processes and Resources
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Ethics and the Religious Educator
- Spirituality for Ministry

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

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

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 awhile”. 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.**



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Dave McCormick, Claire Rochford, Tony Sciampacone, Wandaw Bobrowski, Hilda Preslowski, and their families in your prayers.

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

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

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