

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 31, 2008

Matthew 16:21-27

Peter has just been congratulated as the rock on which Jesus will build his church. He is comfortable in a theology of grace and glory. Suddenly that rock looks sandy and unsafe. Jesus calls Peter abruptly out of his comfort zone into the world where suffering must be faced. *Lord, I love to see you in beautiful churches, with music and warm light. Let me recognize you too in pain, loss and insecurity.*



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1ST

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Peter Dufault by Francine Verdon
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	David Leclair by Emmett Bouchard
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Runyon & Charron Families by Don & Lana Father Morin & Gerry McElheron by Mary & Family
	11:00 a.m.	George Mueller by Charlotte & Lloyd Richards

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,278.16 Thank you!

«Catechesis Sunday», September 21:

A New Initiative for Quebec Parishes

The Bishops of Quebec are launching a new initiative with designating the third Sunday of September as “**Catechesis Sunday**”. We may wonder what that is all about. It is the sort of initiative that tries to address the new situation we as Church find ourselves in. That the situation of the Church in Quebec society – and for that matter in the entire Western world – has changed drastically is a given. We experience it daily in many different ways.

The question is: how do we handle it? We can lament and complain about it. Little is achieved with that. Do we have to passively accept it and resign ourselves to it? That would be a defeatist attitude that can in no way be reconciled with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we believe in and that as individual Christians and as a parish community we are the bearers of. Yes, we are being challenged today. No question!

The Quebec Bishops hope that with designating September 21 as “**Catechesis Sunday**” they will entice the parishes to develop strategies that will in some way meet the challenges. Here at St. Mark’s we will try to respond to that challenge. Our **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** is presently working on a plan that falls in line with that. We’ll keep you posted on what form Sunday September 21 will take. We don’t start from scratch. And it won’t be limited to that Sunday either. In fact, we hope that on that Sunday we can set a process in motion that will mark the various pastoral activities of the coming year(s).

Naturally, a PPC cannot do this on its own. The entire parish community is to be receptive to that, support it, and implement it because the sort of **catechesis** that is called for is one that is borne by the parish community. In other words, it cannot be left to a few generous volunteers who will be asked to do things a little differently. Moreover, the sort of **catechesis** that is called for today is not simply teaching catechism to the children. It is more comprehensive than that. It is an ongoing formation in the faith we cherish, a formation that stretches over our entire life-span.

Ready to take on the challenge? Let us make Sunday September 21 work!

Our particular take on “Catechesis Sunday”

Each parish will most likely give its own shape to “**Catechesis Sunday**”. After all, it is not a question of having something new to invent. Instead, let us build on what is already in place, but let us try to be more deliberate and coherent about it. Take a look at the front page of our Sunday bulletin where the diagram displays the four poles of parish life: **liturgy, faith formation, fellowship, service/outreach**. The same is expressed in a different way on the inside back page of the bulletin, where the parish activities are listed.

It is in those four areas that, as a parish, we live from and bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When those four areas are well looked after we are really doing **catechesis**, we are really doing the mission that Jesus Christ now still works at and continues through us who are his Body, his Church. Yes, those four poles will figure quite prominently. The point is that these four areas are not neatly separated compartments where each can do its own thing. They are dependent on each other, they feed each other, they interact with each other, they need each other. If one is neglected, then the other three are not in very good shape either; the parish is not healthy.

The next time we celebrate Baptism here is Sunday, September 28, but it needs to be prepared!

It is unheard of today to celebrate Baptism without any preparation. The times that you could simply phone the rectory and inquire about “*when can we get it done?*” are behind us. We can no longer proceed that way for a variety of reasons. Our society and our church have changed so drastically, and that also affects the way we believe and the way we practice our faith. Moreover, we also try to respect the immense richness of the *Sacrament of Baptism*. After all, Baptism is much bigger than “*Taking away original sin.*”

Every parish struggles with finding a way to take this into account. It affects the way Baptism is celebrated, but also the way we prepare for it. In our case, the preparation consists in a home visit after the initial contact is made. Then, we have three evenings of reflection on the significance of what the parents are asking for their children, and the children are presented to the parish community at one of our Sunday Masses. After that, we take the plunge! Yes, it could be done differently, but this is what we feel comfortable with. If you are interested in being part of the preparation or of the celebration of Baptism itself, let us know. Let us make it a parish activity.

We begin the preparation for the next Baptism on Wednesday, September 10. So if you know of anyone who would be interested in that, please pass on this information

Interested in helping the Sunday-Mass Preaching Moment achieve its intended purpose?

Have you ever noticed that, if someone asks “*How was Mass?*” most of the comments center around the preaching and the singing/music. That is interesting. It at least indicates that, in this case, preaching is considered to be important. And rightly so! But is the importance we apparently ascribe to the preaching moment or to the homiletic moment in the Mass reflected in the care “**we**” give it?

Who is the “**we**” in this case? We may be inclined to think immediately of the preacher. And that is not entirely mistaken. He/she bears a special responsibility for the preaching moment. But we should not stop there. The worshipping community bears a responsibility too. Why and how? The issue that is at stake in the preaching moment is the faith life of the worshipping community. Is the faith life of the community well or badly served by our Sunday Mass preaching? Can it be improved? Those are fair questions to ask.

The question we ask is not a matter of going after the preacher. It is more serious than that. We take it for granted that the community is prepared to take the homiletic moment at Mass seriously. In that case, can we find some mechanism by which the community measures and gauges, to the extent that this is possible, the faith effectiveness of the preaching that occurs in its midst? More is called for than the well-intended “Good sermon, Father” after Mass. It is a matter of the community claiming ownership of the homiletic moment because its faith is in the balance. It presupposes that both the community and the homilist/preacher within the community see, respect and support each other as fellow believers and fellow hearers of the Word that brings salvation.

Stay tuned. We may have a mechanism for that, if you are interested.

PPC MEETING: Tuesday September 2nd, 7:00 p.m.

CWG MEETING / POTLUCK SUPPER: on Tuesday September 2nd

Membership Registration: from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. followed by a “**POT LUCK SUPPER**” in the church hall. All ladies in the Parish are most welcome to attend. For more information about CWG of St. Mark’s Parish, visit <http://www.stmarkparish.ca/cwg.html> or call Office 819 684-6926.

SIGN UP FOR A GOLF GAME AT KINGSWAY GOLF CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 17TH

Charles Patrice from the Diocesan Centre is putting together a golf tournament. It has two purposes: (a) to have fun, and (b) to raise funds for the Diocese Pastoral projects. If interested, put a “foursome” together and register asap by calling 819 771-8391 or by emailing: patrice@diocesegatineau.org



THE OTTAWA SACRED MUSIC SOCIETY ADULT CHOIR: is holding its membership drive for 2008-09. The 40-member choir, under the direction of Uwe Lieflander (ulieflander@rogers.com), performs at special liturgical celebrations and sacred music concerts throughout the Archdiocese.

Please contact 613 226-1140 to schedule an audition or visit the following website for more information: (<http://www.sacredmusicsociety.com/index.html>)



GARAGE SALE: Our Lady of the Annunciation, 189 Archambault St. in Gatineau is holding a garage sale on **Saturday, September 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Info: 819 771-4613

BIBLE STUDY CATHOLICISM 201 – St. Aloysius Parish

Starting Tuesday, September 9th through to December 16th, at 7 p.m. (in the church basement of St. Aloysius Parish, 300 Abbe-Murray in Gatineau) every two weeks, Fr. Poole will be giving a course on Catholicism 201. It is a version of the Alpha Course but based on the Catholic Church. One DVD will be shown every two weeks and there will be a question and answer period to follow. Refreshments will be served.

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, Tony Sciampacone, Corrie Welch, Kent McConnell 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