

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 16, 2008

Matthew 25:14--30

- This is a difficult parable for the cautious and conservative, who want to keep things as they are, risking nothing and avoiding adventures. Many have gifts for singing, sport, leadership, language, business or whatever, but do not use it, perhaps for fear of failure.
- Am I allowing any of God's gifts to me to rust unseen? Do I fear what might happen to my life if I fully embraced my gifts?



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17TH

Friday	9:00 a.m.	McFaul family by Hugh
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Jimmy Mulvey by Elaine Sloan Jeanne Munro by the Senior Choir
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Maurice MacAulay by Gilles & Agnes Florence White by Jim & Theresa Shea
	11:00 a.m.	Wood Family by Gloria

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:

\$2,410.77

Thank you!

The month of November: we remember the deceased

The month of November is traditionally the month in which we give more attention to the remembrance of the dead. Christians do so in a unique way based on what is central to our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of that is *The Book of Life* where parishioners are invited to write the names of their deceased relatives. During the month of November we will have it displayed in the center of the church next to the Paschal Candle.

The Journey to Confirmation and First Communion 2009 is underway

We have had our orientation sessions with the candidates who are preparing to be confirmed and to make their First Communion next year. This first session had a lot to do with getting acquainted with each other, getting the registration forms in order, explaining the various steps that are part of the journey towards those significant events. It is encouraging to see that, on behalf of St. Mark's parish, we can count on a good number of parishioners who are willing to journey with the candidates. They are our fine preparation teams; and as a parish we are very grateful to their willingness to put their faith in action by becoming fellow-journeymen. That is great!

What does the journey consist of? It is a combination of various activities. Of course, there are a number of sessions where the focus is on the candidates themselves: For Confirmation candidates - some Sunday evenings; for First Communion candidates - some Saturday mornings. But in addition to that, candidates for both sacraments will be participating in some parish activities, for example the upcoming Advent Event, the Guignolée (organized by Saint Vincent de Paul), the Lenten Penitential Service, etc. In this way the candidates will be exposed to parish life. This feature is in line with what our Bishop suggests: *to move slowly from a narrow focus on the sacrament itself towards formation in the Christian life*. This is a necessary move and brings the particular sacraments out of their isolation and see them as part of church life which is bigger than the sacraments.

The Confirmation Candidates with us at this Sunday's 11:00 a.m. Mass

The Bible is the principal source for us as Christians. The celebration of every sacrament contains a *Liturgy of the Word*. Look at the make-up of the Sunday Eucharist: during the first half of the Mass, we *huddle around the Word of God*. That is the reason why, at this Sunday's 11:00 a.m. Mass, the candidates are given the Bible. We will be using it quite frequently at our sessions as we journey towards Confirmation.

Part of parish life too: the election of members on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and on the Fabrique (or the Wardens)

A parish is not run by a priest alone. We all have an opportunity to contribute to its life. That contribution of us all must be coordinated and channelled. Two important bodies are the forum in which that coordination and guidance take place. The members of these bodies are elected by parishioners, normally for a three-year term. One of these bodies is for pastoral issues: **The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC);**

The other is for administrative and financial aspects of parish life: **The Fabrique (or The Wardens).**

Both these bodies will have three vacancies by January 1st because the three-year term of these members is completed. So these positions (six in all) need to be filled.

A nominating committee (Jean-François Landry, Rosemary and Ken Smith) has been formed. They will receive the nominations (closing November 30) and, if necessary, oversee the elections (December 7).

If you are willing or if you know of someone capable and willing to serve our parish in one of these capacities, **please contact the nominating committee: Jean-Francois Landry (819 682-0064), Rosemary Smith and Ken Smith (819 682-8397).**

The new "Living with Christ" Sunday Missals have arrived. Should they be used? Yes. The Question is How?

That is the way Bishop Raymond Lahey begins his observations. You find them on pages 546-548. As a general rule, their use during Mass should be very limited. It is not a good practice to follow the presider and the reader in their prayers and readings. Imagine, going to a play where everybody brought a copy of the play and followed the actors... Of course, that presupposes that the presider and the reader speak their texts clearly and audibly. Let us work on that instead of bringing out the Missals.

Naturally, for those who have difficulty hearing, it is entirely appropriate that they use the Missals. But for the rest of us, leave the Missals aside and listen attentively. That makes for better participation, and that is what we are aiming for.

So, why have the Missals at all? Precisely for the purposes that Bishop Lahey suggests. We encourage you that you buy one (for \$5.00) and that you use it at home.

Another version of the 2009 Sunday Missal: one for Young Catholics

Novalis is providing an English version of a Sunday Missal that Jesuit Fathers in Mexico have put together with a younger public in mind. Do not let the title fool you. Adults (myself included) can greatly benefit from it. Its most attractive feature is the explanation it gives of key words in the Sunday Scripture readings.

The cost for this version is \$8.00.

Twice a year a "Marriage Preparation Session" in our Diocese

The next Marriage Preparation Session for couples who plan to get married in one of our English parishes in the Diocese will take place November 28-30. The Session is usually held at the Diocesan Centre, 180 boul. Mont-Bleu (Hull sector). Those interested may want to contact Ginette Delorme at 819 771-8391 for registration. The next session will be held May 1-3, 2009.

Meetings

First Communion (parents only): Monday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Wardens: Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Baptism Preparation: Wednesday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m.



PRINCIPLE #6

In the extraction management, and use of resources, human rights must be respected. Preference must be given to the rights of indigenous peoples and those who are marginalized by poverty or because of race and gender. **Reflection:** Appalachia, an economically depressed area in the **Eastern Part of the United States** has been plumed and scraped for generations for its large coal deposits. **Poverty** and ecological destruction are among the bitter harvests of the region's legacy. "There is a saying in the Region (Appalachia) that "coal is king". That's not exactly right. The kings are those who control big coal and the profits and power that come with it. (This land is home to me 1975).

Special Note!!!! Press Release: Development & Peace Montreal. "Immediate action needed to address the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo". We are extremely concerned that a lack of international action could lead to renewed war in the region which between 1998 and 2008 killed more than 5 million Congolese civilians. The organization has already sent \$50,000 for an emergency relief project aimed at providing aid items to 90,000 homeless civilians in Eastern Congo. Contributions can be made by telephone (1 888-664-3387) online, or sent by cheque marked "Emergency Congo" to the following address: Development & Peace, 1435 Rene Levesque Blvd. West, 3rd. Floor, Montreal (Quebec), H3G 1T7.

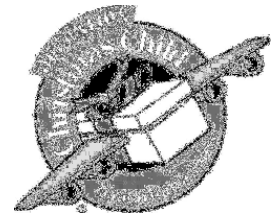
"OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD" involves the packing of a shoe box with toys, school supplies and hygiene items - which is distributed to hurting children around the world at Christmas time. Last year, 661,530 shoe boxes from Canada were collected and distributed to children in more than 15 countries.

Shoe boxes and information pamphlets are available at both entrances. If you prefer, you can use your own shoe box or plastic container (maximum size 9x12x5) or a backpack. **Please bring back filled boxes during the weekend Masses of November 23rd.**

They can be left in the **Marvee Room** or around the Altar.

Don't forget to insert the \$7 cheque in your box to cover the shipping charges.

For more information please call Shirley @ 819 685-0576 or visit: www.samaritanspurse.ca/occ



A Reflection from Sacred Space 2008

Armistice Day on 11th November puts me in mind of the stupid wastefulness of war, and the overwhelming joy of peace when arms are laid down. No wonder that the peace-makers earn one of Jesus' Beatitudes; they shall be called children of God (Matthew 5:9). As I move into prayer, I detect rumblings of resentment, or unforgiven injuries, in my heart. That is where wars start. Let me bring them before my eyes in prayer, the people who stir my displeasure. I try to enter into their skin and their heart, and I say to them: go in peace, I have no quarrel with you.

"Cursillo" [cur see yo] is a Spanish word meaning short course.

A **Cursillo Weekend** is a 'short course in Christianity'.

This three-day course in Christian living gives you the time and the tools to help you focus on your faith journey. A team of lay people and clergy present talks on a variety of topics that invite you to reflect upon and discuss what Christianity can mean in your daily life at home, at work, in your community and within your Church. If you are interested there will be a **"Mens' weekend"** starting on **November 20th** ending on Sunday afternoon. For Info: Contact your parish representative André Sirois @ 819 685-1478.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Bill McCrank, Dave McCormick, Tony Sciampacone, Corrie Welch, Kent McConnell, Pat Norlock, Wanda Bobrowski 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