

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FEBRUARY 8, 2009

Mark 1:29--31

- Jesus liked physical contact. He lifted the sick woman by the hand. He put his fingers into the ears of the deaf mute and touched his tongue with spittle. He touched lepers. Jairus begged him: Lay your hand on my daughter to make her better.
- Lord, let me not fear to touch, to bless, and to come close to others as you did.



### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Marcel Vezina by Linda
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Richard Normandeau by Pat & Family John Hull by Gladys & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	June Williams by Anthony & Family
	11:00 a.m.	Dolly Mainville by the CWG

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:**                      \$2,446.05                      Thank You!

### **What a Joy it was to have the *Confirmation and First Communion Candidates* with us last Sunday...**

Yes, it made 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 and experience 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***. You noticed that it all began around the ***Baptism Font***, for very good reason. That is our entrance into the very own life ***of God Father, Son and Spirit***, while it is also our entrance into ***the Body of Christ, the Church***. Some 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. In other words, what we did at last Sunday's Masses is speaking our faith in a more explicit manner. No luxury today.

### **Could the above not have been done at some other time than at our Sunday Masses?** **Not really.**

What we did last Sunday was the Enrolment Ceremony for our Confirmation and First Communion candidates. They will be Confirmed and they will be making their First Communion in the Easter Season. Getting Confirmed and making one's First Communion are not activities that concern only the persons themselves and their families; they concern also the parish community to which they belong.

The candidates make the journey to these sacraments in the midst of and with the help and support of their parish community. So it is only natural that, when they formally begin that journey, they do so when the parish community gathers, and that is at the Sunday Eucharist. So instead of their enrolment being seen as an

interruption of our Sunday Eucharist, our Sunday Eucharist is the proper setting for it. In other words, doing the enrolment at some other time and only for them and with their families would contradict what they are about, but it would also be a denial of what we are about on Sunday when we gather for the Eucharist. So let us continue to support our candidates on their faith-journey to their respective sacraments.

### **Hospitality, the hallmark of a healthy parish community:**

#### **How are we to be hospitable and to whom...**

At last Monday's **Parish Pastoral Council** we spent some time on the notion of hospitality. There are so many aspects to it. Yes, we have our hospitality ministers at Sunday Mass, a somewhat newer name of our ushers; and their service is much appreciated. But the ongoing concern is to have our entire parish community be **hospitable**. That is so crucial, especially in our time, where a great number of people have no ties with a parish community, but every so often drop in to take a look. A lot of people are searching today, and it can be such a **moment of grace** when they are fortunate enough to stumble upon **welcoming** parishioners! So let us open wide our arms in every aspect of parish life.

#### **Preacher's Aid meets this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.**

We started this project three weeks ago. A group of eight parishioners meets for one hour. One half of the hour is meant to have the parishioners report on the previous Sunday's homily with the homilist being present while he listens to what the parishioners have heard. The homilist is not to explain what he meant to say or what he actually said; the homilist needs to hear what the hearers have heard. The second half of the hour is spent on going over the readings of the coming Sunday. The participants will give their first reactions to these readings and this, in turn, may help the homilist in preparing for next Sunday's preaching. That is why this project is called **Preacher's Aid**.

Ideally, the group of eight parishioners is to be a rotating group. They commit themselves to four of these sessions; every week two drop off and two new ones join for four weeks. At the moment we have only 7 parishioners signed up for the exercise. Ideally, we would like to have all parishioners take a stab at this: you only commit yourself to four of these sessions. If it becomes a more permanent group, then the purpose of the sessions and the way we handle them have to change.

Are you game? Please contact the parish office or contact Joyel Singfield (819 684-2532 or [joyel@rogc.com](mailto:joyel@rogc.com)), if you are interested. Thank you. It can be a real help to the preacher, and it may benefit the parish community.

### **A Prayer for the Awakening Hour**

**Dawn, Most Gracious Gift...** *The words of Kahlil Gibran are sitting at the gate of my heart this morning: 'to wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving.' Words from Psalm 5 are also trying to get my attention: 'In the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.' I don't always rise at dawn and watch for God, nor do I consistently awaken with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving. There are times when the wings of my heart remain folded; yet prayer still happens in me. There are mornings when I simply sit in silence trying to remember some of the things that need to rise in me:*

- *a tolerance for those who don't agree with me,*
- *a refusal to judge others,*
- *a willingness to forgive,*
- *greater effort to live with a non-violent heart,*
- *loving thoughts toward those who don't exactly dote on me,*
- *a calm and hopeful spirit in the midst of my anxieties,*
- *discipline in my daily personal prayer,*
- *attention and faithfulness in my daily work,*
- *a holy anger for injustice in our world.*

*As I remember these necessary risings in my life, the wings of my heart slowly begin to unfold. All Praise to You, Giver of the Morning!*

Macrina Wiederkehr, in **Seven Sacred Pauses**



## MEETINGS:

**Confirmation:** Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> in hall at 7:00 p.m.  
**First Communion:** (parents only) Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
**Preacher's Aid:** Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> (Marvee) at 7:30 p.m.  
**Baptism Preparation:** Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
**Liturgy:** Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, February 14 at the Ottawa Diocese: A full day, in two parts**

A topic of interest is being handled at the Ottawa Diocese on Saturday, February 14. It starts at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. In the morning Fr. Bill Burke will speak about *Liturgy and Life*. That is a more general topic, challenging in itself. And in the afternoon, Fr. Mark Slatter is planning to apply that to the area of suffering under the title *Bring the Pain of our Lives to the Liturgy*, that is even more challenging.

**Saturday, February 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Ottawa Diocesan Centre, 1247 Kilborn Place**

**Cost: \$15 (bring lunch). Register by February 9: [abrown@ecclesia-ottawa.org](mailto:abrown@ecclesia-ottawa.org).**



### **YOUTH OF ST. MARK'S**

- ❖ **Youth Group:** Young Men and Women (grades 7 and up) retreats are taking place every two weeks at the Church. To know more about this contact Mitch @ 819 684-4882 or by email [mitch899@hotmail.com](mailto:mitch899@hotmail.com) or Jessica @ 819 682-8397 or by email [j\\_rosesmith@hotmail.com](mailto:j_rosesmith@hotmail.com)
- ❖ We're always looking for **New Youth Leaders**. If your 18 years or older and are interested in helping organize and/or lead youth group and other youth events contact us!
- ❖ We're always looking for **New Choir Members**. If you love to sing to the Lord, come out and join us on Sundays and/or come to choir practice (Times may vary for practices, so contact us).

### **February Ministry of the Month – Women Alive – “Impacting all Canadian women for Christ”**

Women Alive is a national network that inspires and equips Canadian women to fulfill their God-given potential in their personal, professional, and spiritual lives. Women Alive is dedicated to nurturing the next generation through a dynamic mentoring program for teen girls. They are passionate about equipping young women to conquer the lies of society with Biblical Truth and to impact the culture of Canada for Christ! For more information on Women Alive go to [www.chri.ca](http://www.chri.ca) or check Bulletin Boards.

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:** *It's that time of year again* – If you would like a receipt for your 2008 contributions to St. Mark's parish, please drop a stamped self-addressed envelope in the collection basket and one will be forwarded to you. For those of you who do not use church envelopes, perhaps 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 Bernie Cain and his family in your prayers.

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY:** Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Labonte & Maxsom families on the loss of Barbara, also the Lance family on the loss of Leonard.

*I cannot cause light. The most I can do is to put myself in the path of its beam. (Annie Dillard)*

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

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