

# FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

## NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Matthew 5:2--12

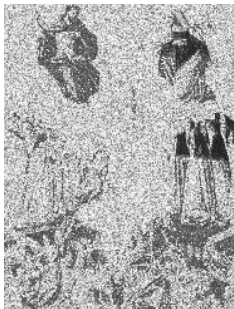
- The beatitudes offer a glimpse of Jesus' interior landscape, of the sources of his happiness. They are not legislation, but an interior vision, fired by a hunger for justice in this world and by confidence in a future when the mourners will be comforted, the poor will be enriched, and the meek will inherit the earth.
- We know that the love of riches can lead to neglect of God and of the poor. The Christian Community has always tried to make the care of the poor its priority, as it is God's priority. Is it mine?



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Marian Devotion
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
First Friday	9:00 a.m.	Michel Lagueux by Elizabeth Johnston First Friday Adoration & Benediction
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Gordon McFadden by Marie Elva Bowers by Carl & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Olga Tessier by Armand & Murielle Tessier Lucien Ranger by the Ranger Family

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:**     \$ 2,323.36     Thank You!



### **All Souls Day – November 2<sup>nd</sup> (this Monday)**

Each year, the Church observes *Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed* (or as it used to be called *All Souls Day*) on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. That is this Monday. It is a day, in the Church's calendar, on which we want to remember the dead, but remember them in the light of our Christian faith which holds that the dead are called to share in Christ's victory over death.

We'll observe that day with a celebration of the Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. During that Mass, we will call forth the names of the persons who have been buried from St. Mark's since last year's *All Souls Day*. For each of them we light a small candle to be lit from the

Easter Candle as an expression of our Easter faith.

There may be parishioners who experienced the death of a close relative (father/mother, daughter/son, brother/sister) this past year. The burial may have taken place elsewhere. If you want to have your close relative's name called forth here as well, please, let us know. Then we can include their name too.

One might say that calling forth the name of the deceased and lighting a candle is done in other places as well, even in a purely secular context. Are we just following a fad? Not really. In our faith context these two gestures are very special. When the priest calls forth the names of the deceased, he lends God his voice, as it were. It is really God who calls them by name. And it is an echo of the first time our names were called as part of the baptism ceremony. When God calls forth our name, he calls to life as only God can. Needless to say, that has special significance when death has claimed us. Then God's counter-claim calls us to life. As for the lighting of a small candle from the Easter Candle, it evokes for us the Christian conviction that the deceased are called by God to share in the victory of life over death that the dead and risen Jesus won for us. It too calls to mind a

baptismal ritual: at that time a candle was lit from the Easter Candle. All this shows how much the Church's way of remembering the dead is based on our baptism, and how much of our faith is at stake for us in what we celebrate on Monday evening!

### **The month of November: we remember the deceased**

Our remembering the dead is not limited to November 2. The entire 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, again another baptism feature. During the month of November, we will have it displayed in the center of the church next to the Paschal Candle.



### **This Week busy on preparation for...**

**This Sunday evening, Confirmation Candidates** meet to continue their journey to Confirmation.

**Tuesday evening,** the parents of the **First Communion Candidates** meet.

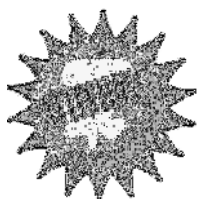
**Wednesday evening,** the parents of the **children to be baptized** on **November 22** meet.

At meetings of this sort we come face to face with unique and huge challenges, typical of our time. Ideally, the celebration of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist would be significant moments in the ongoing faith journey of those baptized, confirmed, and making their First Communion. These are not meant to be isolated incidents (although they have become that for most!) in the sense of *having been there, done that*. Nor does the celebration of these sacraments pertain only to the candidates themselves; their families are very much part of it too, so we try to involve them the best we can. The same applies to the parish community; we like to have it involved too in some way. After all, these candidates are our parishioners, and we would like to see the journey of the candidates borne by and supported by the parish. An additional element is to broaden the approach in our journey to the particular sacrament. As part of the preparation, we try to give the candidates for Confirmation and First Communion a little taste for what church life is all about in the form of exposing them a bit to the four poles of church life: liturgy, faith formation, fellowship, service/outreach. That latter aspect is especially an attempt to respond to our Bishop's challenge: *"try to move from a narrow preparation for the sacraments to forming into the Christian life."*

The entire "enterprise" is a tall order with many challenges, but well worth the effort! We count on everyone's interest and cooperation; we could think of that interest and cooperation as part of our own ongoing journey of faith. No one of us has arrived yet.

### **Some thoughts on the above subject from another perspective**

Thomas Groome has some helpful thoughts on the above: *"If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the whole parish to raise a Catholic. The main task of handing on the faith is the whole community's task. If passing on the faith amounted to no more than teaching students what Christians believe – the cognitive content – then catechetical education could be done by some sort of schooling alone. But because being Christian pertains to a person's whole identity, and requires active membership in a community of disciples, a schooling model can help out but will not be sufficient. Though good instruction 'in the faith' is imperative, it takes something more to form the Christian being of people. When we think of 'handing on the faith' we simply must stop equating this with a school/programme project and instead reclaim the notion that all Christians are responsible for sharing their faith, and that catechetical education must be a communal effort that intentionally engages every Christian community – family, parish and bonded group – there is no one programme for doing catechetical education; there is no sure or easy procedure for 'handing on the faith'.*



### **We would like to have some more members on our Liturgy Committee...**

The membership on our Liturgy Committee has become pretty thin; we need new blood. What do we do at our meetings? Really it is about more than **at what time we have this or that service** or **who sings at what service**. Yes, occasionally that may be part of it. Ideally, we try to monitor the worship life of St. Mark's parish. Are there any criteria for that

or is it all a matter of my subjective opinion? The following quotation serves as a guideline: ***It is the beauty of all the symbols from which the celebration is woven, including the worship space itself, that bears an unspoken invitation to the faithful to enter into God's presence and embrace.*** Are our liturgical celebrations such that we get a sense of being in God's space? Of course, that is impossible to measure, but we could all, (not only the priest) be attentive to promoting it and making sure that we avoid doing things that may get in the way of it. Any parishioners willing to help us with keeping an eye on that? Please, let us know.

### **When it comes to the difficult question of Euthanasia...**

**The Ottawa Citizen** of Friday October 23 carried an article from the ethicist Margaret Somerville who teaches at McGill University. Her reflections go beyond taking a stand *against* or *in favour* of euthanasia. The author explains why and how it has become a question typically in our time. In the process she says things that we may not like to hear because they are some critical reflections on our contemporary culture that we all breathe in; we have it in our bones. All the more reason to give her writing an attentive read! Wrestling with her reflections is the sort of adult faith formation that we so urgently need in our church today. That is why it serves as an insert in this Sunday's church bulletin. Enjoy the read, and – better still – have a good discussion on it.

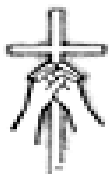
**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Boxes and pamphlets are at the exits for anyone interested. **This project involves filling a shoe box with toys and other presents, which are sent to hurting children around the world for Christmas.** This year the boxes will be distributed in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, El Salvador, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uruguay, and Venezuela. **Please bring the boxes back the weekend of November 7-8<sup>th</sup>.** For information, please call Shirley at 819 685-0576.



**CWG BAZAAR:** Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In order to have a successful bazaar, we welcome donations of crafts, toys, books, baked goods and other items (no clothing). **PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS IN UNTIL NOV 9<sup>TH</sup> to NOV 13<sup>TH</sup>** as there is no place to store them. The church basement will be open in the morning. Thanks!

**CWG MEETING:** Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (after the Marian Devotions) - discussion for the Christmas bazaar on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**GOGO GRANNIES AYLMEYER: "Tea Party"** - November 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. Price: Adults \$12.00 Children under 8 years: \$6.00. The Stephen Lewis Foundation is supporting the grandmothers in Africa. For information call 819 682-1452



**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Kindly remember Magdalena Mueller, Hilda Preslawski, and their families in your prayers.

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY:** Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Gauvreau & Morrison families on the loss of Diane.

**Visit our Website: [www.stmarkparish.ca](http://www.stmarkparish.ca)**

Bulletin design & Website content/design by: *Catherine LeGuerrier*  
Need a website or flyer? Visit [www.catleg.ca](http://www.catleg.ca) or e-mail: [catleg@catleg.ca](mailto:catleg@catleg.ca)