

# THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## NOVEMBER 15, 2009

Mark 13:28-32

- Lord, I do not know about the end of the world, but there have been times when I felt I was facing the end of my world: when I lost a job, or faced the death of someone dear to me. Yet I lived on and found unsuspected resources.
- In all the losses and catastrophes that threaten, I know that you are with me.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Jimmy Mulvey 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. by Elaine Sloan
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Gilles Benoit by Anne & Family Ray Labonte by Ethleen Narlock
	11:00 a.m.	Stephen Ranger by the Ranger Family Al McCaffrey by Gloria & family

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:**      \$ 2,030.29      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. That makes all the difference for us. We try to express that in ***The Book of Life*** that you see displayed in the center of the church next to the Paschal Candle during the month of November. Parishioners are invited to write the name of their deceased relatives in the book. In and through Jesus Christ we entrust them to the life-giving God.

### **A Reflection on Armistice Day from *Sacred Space 2008...***

A note of caution: the following reflection is in no way meant as a slight on those who have lost their life in wars and in various areas of conflict. It may help us look at it from another angle and what we as the living do to honour those who have lost their life.

*Armistice Day on 11<sup>th</sup> of 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.*

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

The Bible is our Book. As (Jews and) Christians we cannot do without it. It is the principal source for our faith. The celebration of every sacrament contains a ***Liturgy of the Word*** where the dominant element is some reading from the Scriptures. Look at the make-up of the Sunday Eucharist: during the first half of the Mass, we *huddle around the Word of God*. Because the Bible is so important to us as Christians, our Confirmation candidates are given the Bible at this Sunday's 11:00 a.m. Mass. It is good to have that resource readily available, even if it takes some effort to familiarize ourselves with it.

But the rest of us as St. Mark's parish community might also benefit from a reminder of how central the Bible is to what we do at Sunday Mass. That is why we handle the first part of the Mass, the ***Liturgy of the Word***, somewhat differently this Sunday. It can so easily become something routine that we take for granted. It is

hoped that breaking that routine a bit may contribute to a greater appreciation of what the Bible is all about for us.

**The Election of members on the *Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)*  
and on the *Fabrique (or the Wardens)* is part of Parish Life too...**

A parish is not run by a priest alone. We all have an opportunity and are called upon to contribute to its life. That contribution of us all must be coordinated and channelled. Two important bodies make up the forum in which that coordination and guidance take place. The members of these bodies are elected by the parishioners, normally for a once-renewable 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 **Wardens**. Naturally, these different aspects intertwine and are very much dependent on each other. That may be the reason that, at times, there seems to be lack of clarity or even confusion about what the responsibilities of these two bodies are. Both are equally important and serve a shared goal. The insert in this Sunday's parish bulletin entitled ***Co-responsibility in a Parish*** may shed some light on their respective rolls. Reading it may help us make an informed choice as we prepare for the election of members on the ***Parish Pastoral Council*** and the ***Wardens***.

This year, **The Parish Pastoral Council** has three vacancies by January 1<sup>st</sup> because the three-year term of these members is completed. **The Wardens**, on the other hand, have one vacancy for the same reason.

The plan is to have nominations begin this Sunday, November 15 and close them Sunday November 29. If we need an election (which would be the case, if the nominees outnumber the vacant positions), that will be held on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you are willing and interested or if you know of someone capable and willing to serve our parish in one of these capacities, **please contact the chair of the nominating committee (Skip Brooks) at 819 827-2943**.

**Next Saturday, November 21 - 9 AM until 12 noon  
the Leadership of the English Parishes in our Diocese meets**

The English parishes in our Diocese have an English Zone Pastoral Council. The practice has been for representatives of our parishes to meet twice a year to support each other and to take a closer look at the challenges we face today. For the last few years we have worked on trying to implement the vision of the 2004 Diocesan document ***Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom***. Some successes, some failures, but much work still to be done. The above mentioned council has worked with an executive Jack Jolicoeur, Gale Pearson, and the Episcopal Vicar (yours truly). While we have worked well together for a number of years, Jack and Gale have resigned from their positions. That may be an opportune time to assess whether we want a Zone Council; if so, what we want it to do etc. This is one of the items on the agenda. The other two are a suggestion/proposal from Michel Nolin, the diocesan pastoral coordinator, and a report from the Diocesan Colloque on ***Discovering Jesus Christ*** held in August.

For the above to work, we need the active presence of the leadership of the parishes (that is to say, **Parish Council members** and **Wardens**). The meeting will be held at Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish (189 Rue Archambault) in the Hull sector. It is a very welcoming place!

**Saturday, November 28, 4:00 p.m.: *The Advent Event***

A good number of years ago a few very dedicated Sunday School teachers were busy in November to get ready for the staging of a Christmas Pageant sometime in December. But then the question was raised, why in such a hurry to celebrate Christmas? Why do all the "Christmassy stuff" before Christmas? What is the rush? Why skip Advent? Indeed, Advent is the Church's season to get ready for Christmas. Observing the Advent Season is the best way to avoid jumping the gun on Christmas as society all around us tends to do.

So the creative Sunday School teachers came up with the idea to give some more prominence to the Advent Season. That is the origin of what at St. Mark's has come to be known as ***The Advent Event***. This year it will be held Saturday, November 28, starting at 4:00 p.m.

The point of **The Advent Event** is getting our church, our homes, and ourselves in shape for the Advent Season. A number of activities are being planned that adults, youth, and children can take part in. In other words, this is not something for children only. We would like it to be (what they call) intergenerational. We can all benefit from it, and it could serve as a good example for ongoing faith formation, again not “just for kids”, but for all of us.

The plan is to begin the various activities at a number of spots in the church at 4:00 p.m. These activities include getting the Advent wreath for the church ready, making advent wreaths for our homes, putting up the Advent banners in the church, making the symbols for the Jesse Tree, working through the Bible to see what is behind the symbols for the Jesse Tree, getting familiar with the Advent musical repertoire, having an Advent Bingo. It works best when young and adults take part. In fact, the last time adults said afterwards that they had learned a lot.

Shortly after 6:00 p.m. we plan to have a Chili Supper together somewhere in the Rectory and, we hope to have everything in place for the 7:00 p.m. “**First Sunday of Advent Mass**”. All this to help us get into the Advent mood, and this, in turn, can help us maintain and bear witness to the specifically Christian significance of Christmas.

### “Good Help is hard to find”

We have not been successful in recruiting some new members on our baptism team. That makes it hard for the ones that are very committed to it. Some might say, “What is the problem? Is it so difficult to get the baptisms done?” Of course, much depends on what one means with “*getting it done*”. The welcoming of the request, the journeying with the parents who make the request, the actual celebration of the baptism, and a bit of a follow-up, all this makes up the pastoral care surrounding the baptism of children. And look at who these parents are. Most of them have not had much contact with the church. As a result, the shape our welcome takes is very important. And depending on the way it is done, it can also be very exciting.

If you wonder what we do in the preparation and in the actual celebration, **Come and See**. If we have a few more members, or some families that would want to take care of the baptisms, then we could share it and it does not all come on the shoulders of a few. We hope to hear from you.

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:** The Ottawa Area Christian Community and St. Mark’s Meditation Group presents “**COMING HOME**” a 30 minute video introducing **Meditation The Christian Tradition** – introduction by Ron Dicks. Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 p.m. in the Marvee Room. This is an opportunity to learn about Christian Meditation / Contemplative Prayer for those interested. For information call 819-684-5988.

**MEETING:** Wardens - Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.



**Our Lady of the Annunciation 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Variety Concert** will be held Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Church Centre, 189 Archambault Street, Gatineau (Hull Sector) at 7 p.m. The concert will feature Alexander’s Old Time Band, Paddy Kelly and Paddy Maher and various other local artists. There will be door prizes and a reception following the concert at no extra charge. Tickets: \$15. Call 819 778-2827.

**MEN’S CURSILLO:** There are only 12 participants as of today. They have room for another 18. This will take place Thursday November 19 at 7:00 p.m. Applications on this website: <http://www.ottawacursillo.ca>



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

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

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

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