

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 17, 2010

John 2:1--12

- With a mother's instinct, Mary felt Jesus was ready. Like other young men, Jesus was reluctant to go public so he protests: "My hour has not yet come." But Mary knew it had come.
- Thank you, Lord, for the mothering that brings me to the point of taking my life in my own hands and gives me the push I need.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Mickie O'Heare by Robert & Judy Kirk Ossie Foran by Donald & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Ian McIntyre by Lydia Richard Harold Blackman by Des & Liz Bolton
	11:00 a.m.	Stephen Ranger by the Ranger Family

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$3,661.55 Thank You!**

### **Getting our church in shape for *Ordinary Time***

Many thanks to those who spent some more time with us last Sunday after the last Mass to take the Christmas decorations down. There were no heavenly angels doing it for us; our kind of angels were generous parishioners, and they had lots of work to do. But it was all done in good spirits. Thank you!

Our church looks quite different now; we'll soon be used to it. The most noticeable difference is the green vestments that the priest will be wearing during what in Church language is called ***Ordinary Time***. In addition, we are fortunate to have a nice set of eight banners made some years ago by fellow parishioners. All eight of them depict scenes of the Gospel of Luke. That is the Gospel from which, in this year C, all Gospel readings on Sunday are taken.

Our church will have this look until February 17 when the Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, and we will be back again in ***Ordinary Time*** on May 24. That is after we have gone through the 90-day Lent-Easter Season.

### **An Interesting Take on what we call *Ordinary Time***

Leave it to Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to give us an insightful and challenging way of looking at ***Ordinary Time***:

*"Many Christian churches now refer to those periods of the liturgical year when no great festivals or fasts are unfolding as Ordinary Time. It is a telling phrase; inevitably most of the time in the year is "ordinary" – yet all of it is the time won for us by Jesus Christ, all of it is gift, and in that sense extraordinary. It can never be strictly ordinary time, since it is the time in which day by day we are brought into the story, the drama, of God's action in Jesus. And the secret of living through the liturgical year lies in remembering the extraordinariness of the time that simply unfolds day after day, because it is the time in which we are constantly called and enabled to move and grow, in whatever circumstances face us. Here we are daily, not necessarily attractive and saintly people, along with other not very attractive and saintly people, managing the plain prose of our everyday service, deciding daily to recognize the prose of ourselves and each other as material for something unimaginably greater – the*

*Kingdom of God, the glory of the saints, reconciliation and wonder. And we embody our decisions in both prayer and relation, inseparably, giving to both the attention they claim, so that together we begin to know ourselves found by God."*

### **When our younger members celebrate *The Liturgy of the Word...***

A beautiful event unfolds, out of view of most parishioners, every Sunday during the 11 a.m. Mass in the children's liturgy. Children gather in their own room to open the Word of God together, to let that word echo in their hearts, and to pray together. Children bring to the Liturgy of the Word their entire beings, engage with that Word with an honesty that is truly inspiring. In the prayers of intercessions, small arms stretch to their fullest in raising prayer to God – prayers where they lift to God the beauty and the brokenness of the world. They are fully present to that moment. They have much to teach us. (*Julie Cool*)

A delightful incident happened during last Sunday's 11 a.m. Mass. As we got ready to welcome the Book of Readings, **the Lectionary**, some eager beavers assembled in the center of the church. They figured that it was time to assemble to be led to their own room to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word. But last Sunday we had cancelled it to give our younger members the opportunity to be part of the baptism of Elizabeth, which took place during the 11 a.m. Mass. We'll go back to our regular proceedings this Sunday.

The following may interest some families with younger children. We are presently looking into the possibility of having *the Liturgy of the Word with Children* also during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. The increasing number of families with younger children at the 9:00 a.m. Mass seems to call for it. But it takes volunteers to lead this Liturgy with the Children. What we do at this Liturgy is not the same as what may be done at Sunday School; nor is it some crafts activity. It is still a Liturgy of the Word (in other words, what we do in the church itself), but then in a more child-friendly manner. We are not left to our own devices in it. In fact, we follow a helpful guide that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) put out a few years ago: ***Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with Children. Guidelines for Practice.*** We would welcome parishioners who are willing to provide this service. Any takers?

### **Christians are supposed to be together...**

In the Creed on Sundays we say "*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church*". And in the prayer the evening before he was put to death Jesus prayed "*That they may be one*", referring to us as his followers. What a scandal it is that as Christ's Church we are not one; instead, we are divided! Will we ever overcome this scandal? What will it take to get there? If the now divided churches would be more deeply rooted in Christ Jesus..., perhaps we would discover that we cannot allow the issues on which we differ to be such that they undo the unity we find in Christ Jesus. A good way to start is to insist more on the one we have in common – of all things, Jesus Christ! – instead of staring at the things on which we differ. Or are we as Christian Churches hesitant to see ourselves more deeply rooted in Jesus Christ?

As far as the Churches in Aylmer doing something together to mark **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, it will be in the form of an ***Ecumenical Candlelight Service*** which will be held **next Sunday evening, January 24, at Christ Church (101 rue Symmes)**. All are invited to gather together at 7:00 p.m. See the flyer that is inserted into this Sunday's church bulletin.

### **Preparing for Confirmation and for First Communion: a Challenge!**

Preparing for sacraments in isolation does not accomplish much. "*Been there, done that*" does not work. Ideally, the celebration of sacraments is part of a larger mosaic; it is only in

the context of that larger mosaic, the Christian life, that sacraments make sense. Apart from that larger mosaic they do not amount to much. And that is unfortunately the situation we find ourselves in today in many cases.

It is in light of that reality that our bishop encourages us *“to have the humble courage to journey from the practice of preparing for the sacraments to the practice of forming into the Christian life.”* It is quite a challenge to make that shift! That may explain the fact that different parishes go about it quite differently. In our case, we are trying to do it by exposing our candidates for Confirmation and for First Communion to some important aspects of parish life. The best example for us is what we asked from our candidates in the Advent Season. We asked them to participate in the Advent Event, in the Guignolée organized by St. Vincent de Paul Society, in the parish’s Advent Penitential Service. We asked them to do that as part of the preparation for Confirmation and First Communion. In this case, we hoped that they would get a bit of a taste of parish life or of the Christian life as we are trying to live it in our parish. Naturally, that also means that the parish must make sure that these other parish activities are in decent shape and that its leaders welcome warmly those who may not be so familiar with them.

In other words, we do not stop preparing for sacraments, but the preparation itself is being situated in a larger context. We are trying. It is a work in progress. Hopefully, the Spirit will guide us.

### **Still lots of Sunday Missals (two versions) available**

Perhaps we ordered too many? We would love to see every household have a Sunday Missal in their home. It is a good way to take a second look at the Scripture readings we heard on the previous Sunday and/or to go over the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday as a way to prepare for the Sunday Eucharist, always a good practice. Moreover, the Missals contain a good collection of contemporary and more traditional prayers that we may want to use at home either as a family or for more personal reflection.

There are indeed two versions of the Sunday Missal. There is the regular ***Living with Christ Sunday Missal*** which has all the Mass texts for every Sunday of the Year. But there is, in addition, the ***2001 Sunday Missal for Young Catholics***. Do not let the title mislead you. This version is helpful to any Catholic. A special and very helpful feature of this version is that it has a good explanation of many words found in the Scripture readings.

For those who have difficulty hearing the Readings and prayers these Sunday Missals may come in handy when they participate in Sunday Mass. It is, however, more preferable to use the Missals at home. It is a readily available means to nourish and strengthen the faith we cherish.

**Next Sunday, January 24:** Our Confirmation candidates meet again at 7:00 p.m.

**MEETINGS:** Wardens – Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY:** Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Lavigne/Sarazin family on the loss of Denise, the Morrison family on the loss of Audrey, Dorli McCrank on the loss of Magdalena and Michael & Carmen on the loss of Mary.

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)