

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 31, 2010

Luke 4:21--30

- When they heard Jesus speak, their reaction was not to what he said but to what they knew of Jesus' foster-father Joseph. What did they know? Only that he was a village carpenter and a quiet man; they judged Jesus by association.
- Forgive me, Lord, for the times I have not listened to people with unwelcome messages and instead have judged them by association, by their families or hometown or trade or whatever.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1ST

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
First Friday	9:00 a.m.	Exposition & Benediction
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Mickie & Harry O'Heare by the Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Olga Tessier by Willy Wilberg
		Margaret Daly by Maurice & Mildred Kennedy
	11:00 a.m.	Lucien Ranger by the Ranger Family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,680.90 Thank you!

For the Haitian Relief effort by way of ***Development and Peace***: **\$6,081.19**. On behalf of the Haitian people, thank you very much for this generous contribution!

New Parishioners: Welcome!

Welcome to those who want to make their « faith home » here. You may have come from other places. You may have been “away for a while”. You may be “checking us out”. Perhaps you may wonder what “we do here on Sunday morning” or at other times. Be assured that we love to have you among us. We would appreciate it very much if you identified yourself at Mass, so that we may get to know you. It would also help if you would take the time to fill out a registration form. The next time you are with us, you may leave it in the collection basket or give it to one of the ushers or to the priest. Our “Coffee Sunday” every first and third Sunday of the month in the church hall may be an excellent opportunity to let us know about your presence and interests. That is also a challenge to our regular parishioners: they are there to welcome you! Perhaps you may have suggestions on how we could be more hospitable. Sometimes we overlook the obvious.

Now that *The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is behind us:

In what does that unity exist?

“I believe it is a unity that fundamentally exists in the shared gaze toward Christ, and through Christ to the Father. If we believe that our unity comes from that looking together into a mystery and occasionally nudging one another and saying, ‘Look at that!’ it can help us to feel how the unity we enjoy is not primarily about institutional uniformity, saying the same words all the time. The unity is found in the common direction we are looking. (...) If not enough people are looking into the mystery, unity comes to be seen in merely functionalist terms. We meet for events. We discharge our obligations. We sign up and do our duties. But we miss the vital and living element of unity.”

~ Rowan Williams, in ***Where God Happens***

What was the point in doing the first part of the Mass differently?

Yes, we have taken some liberty in doing the first part of the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses differently this Sunday. It is not done lightly; a fair bit of thought has gone into it. While the more immediate reason for it is to highlight the more formal enrolment of our candidates for Confirmation and for First Communion, what we bring into focus is some basic elements of the Christian faith that applies to all of us, especially when we come together for Sunday Mass:

The origin of our being Christian is God's gracious calling us. Hence, the reading of Samuel 3:1-11, followed by calling the candidates by name as an expression that it is our gracious God who calls them. We underline that with singing "*Blessed be God! O blessed be God! Who calls you by name! Holy and chosen ones!*" (CBW III 618)

That being called by God is accepted by us in faith which in turn is sealed in our being baptized. So we have our being baptized renewed by having the baptismal water come over us, as we sing "*With joy you shall draw water from the springs of endless life; with joy you shall draw water from the living well of God.*" (CBW III 237)

We express our praise and thanks to God for claiming us as his own by singing the "*Glory to God in the highest...*" (CBW III 238)

In the meantime, the candidates for Confirmation and for First Communion have gathered at the center of the church around the Easter Candle. In baptism we come to share in the life of the Risen Christ which is expressed by the Baptismal Candle which we receive at our Baptism. The candidates for Confirmation light their Baptismal Candle from the Easter Candle. The parents of the First Communion candidates light the Baptismal Candle of their daughter/son from the Easter Candle and then pass it on to their son/daughter.

Once all Baptismal Candles are lit, the candidates return to their respective places in the church and with their lit Baptismal Candles they, in turn, light the tapers of all assembled parishioners. We all take pride in knowing Christ as the God-given Light on our human journey; and so we sing "*The Light of Christ...*" (CBW III 394). And that shared Easter- Light and Easter-Life of Christ makes us into the one Body of Christ, the Church.

With our Baptismal Candles and tapers lit we listen to the proclamation of the Gospel of this Sunday, and we profess our faith anew. And we are equipped to celebrate together our Sunday Eucharist.

In these simple ritual gestures and in what we sing we bring into focus some basic elements of the Christian faith we cherish and in which we support each other.

Replacing Plastic Bags with Cloth Bags

Every week, many parishioners bring non-perishables to our parish, which then become part of our weekly offerings during the Eucharistic celebration. This is a beautiful gesture. It means that that when we come to be nourished by the self-gift of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine we share we want to include in our Mass those who lack food at their tables at home. The poor are part of our world, especially when we come for Mass. After all, we come to Mass not just for ourselves, but with 'our world'.

Most of the time these non-perishables are brought in plastic bags. In an effort to eliminate as much as possible the use of plastic bags we are making cloth bags available for parishioners to bring their offerings to church. All you need to do is deposit the articles in the baskets left at the entrance of the church, take the cloth bag home again, and keep the bag with you for your next food donation. It is a project worth trying. If we run out of the cloth bags, we'll go back to the Dollar Store and get some more.

We got this suggestion from the churches in Buckingham and Mayo. Moreover, the nicely decorated bags, with the picture of our church on the front, will serve as a reminder to parishioners to share their food with the less fortunate. Every week we pass the food on to St. Vincent de Paul Society and to the Aylmer Food Bank. They are both very appreciative of our weekly donations.

Income Tax Receipts

It is that time of year again – If you would like a receipt for your 2009 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.

A Noon-day Prayer

In this the hour of the noonday sun,
We raise our hands to the peaceful one.
And now is the hour to pray for peace,
For kindness, compassion to increase

So let us be the change we wish to see,
Let us bow to each other and say
That we will be the peace for which we long.
This is our promise. This is our song.

Before we share the noon-day meal,
Our deepest hungers let us feel.
May all be fed. May all be well.
May all of God's children in the garden dwell.

So let us be the change we wish to see.
Let us bow to each and say
That we will be the peace for which we long.
This is our promise. This is our song.

Now is the hour for peace to flower.

May all be fed – for peace to flower.
May all be well – for peace to flower.
May all of God's children – for peace to flower,
In the garden dwell – for peace to flower.

Now is the hour!

~ Macrina Widerkehr, Velma Frye in ***Sevensacredpauses***

AMITIE RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

We invite you to come and visit us if you wish to purchase souvenirs for First Communion, Confirmation or Baptism. We have rosaries, plaques, medals, books, statues, crosses etc. We are giving 10% off and we absorb the taxes. For seniors, we can come to you. Please call us at 819 682-2269. Thank you! ~ Carmen and Gerry Proulx

NOTE-READING BOOT CAMP: Have you ever wondered what those little black dots on your hymn book mean? The Sacred Music Society is offering a 12-week sight-reading course every Friday night, starting February 19 @7:30 p.m. Dominican College, 96 Empress St. (off Somerset), Info: (1-877-MY-Choir) or André Sirois @ 819 685-1478.

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

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