

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2010

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$8,726.33	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,451.64	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$4,798.13
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$2,767.46
St. Vincent de Paul to date:	\$5321.71

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY No Mass
INN FROM THE COLD

TUESDAY Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM (Maureen B.)
Mass: 9:00 AM
CWL Meeting: 7:00 PM
BOOK CLUB: 7:30 PM
Holy Hour: 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY Mass: 9:00 AM
Christian Meditation: 1:30 PM
Ecumenical Bible Study: 10:00 AM (Shepherd King Church)
Little Rock Scripture Study: 7:30 PM (Gospel of Luke)
St. Vincent de Paul Meeting: 7:30 PM

THURSDAY Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM (Maureen B.)
Mass: 9:00 AM
Hall Booked: 7:00 — 9:00 PM
Choir Practice: 7:30 PM

FRIDAY Mass: 9:00 AM
Grief Group: 9:45 AM
Hall Booked: 11:00 AM — 4:00 PM
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: 1:00 PM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EVENING PRAYER: 7:00 PM

SATURDAY Hall Booked: 11:00 AM — 4:00 PM
Reconciliation: 4:00 PM
Mass: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Coffee after both Masses
RCIA—3rd Scrutiny

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Sunday, March 14 at 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM!

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Here's to the one we love the most...

Come explore and discover the hidden crosses and clues on our Faithful Friend Adventure Quest!

CWL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 PM

Please note our meeting has moved one week because of the Lenten Mission. To honor St. Patrick please wear green to the meeting. Anyone who is interested in attending Dr. Miller's talk about '125 Years of Catholic Education' on Wednesday, March 17th at St. Peter's church. Contact Shauna Bedard, (403) 281-4718 before March 10th.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

A small **Christian Meditation Group** meets **each Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 in the Jubilee Room**. A typical session begins with a few minutes of quiet, appropriate conversation, followed by a recorded reflection on meditation, then 20 to 25 minutes of sitting silently in God's presence. Our meditation ends with intercessory prayer. If you are interested in learning more about Christian meditation or in trying this form of prayer, please call, Anna at 403 238 3114.

SECOND SCRUTINY

This weekend we hear and reflect upon John's story of the blind man who was healed by Jesus. What does that story mean in our own lives?

Because they are asking for the three sacraments of initiation, the elect must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge of Christ and his Church, and they are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.

In order to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ, three scrutinies are celebrated. By this means, first of all, the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered and thus saved from its present and future consequences. Second, their spirit is filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water (gospel of the Samaritan woman in the first scrutiny), the light of the world (gospel of the man born blind in the second scrutiny), the resurrection and the life (gospel of Lazarus in the third scrutiny). From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation.

At the same time, the scrutinies should encourage the baptized to examine their own lives, and to re-align themselves as disciples of Jesus. Lent is our time to reflect on our baptismal call and our response to that call.

A NEED

A group of people are needed to host the reception following Easter Vigil. This feast is the highlight of our liturgical year, and it is the time to celebrate and rejoice. We will be welcoming 4 new members into our parish faith family. If you are interested in hosting this reception, please contact Doreen, 253-2251, or doreen@stgerards.ca.

MOVIE/DISCUSSION MORNING

As a continuation of our Aging to Saging ministry, we will be viewing the movie **THE BUCKET LIST**, on Friday, March 26th, following morning mass. And the sound system will be working!! Everyone is welcome. Bring friends.

PHOTOS & MEMENTOS NEEDED

St. Gerard's Parish turns 50 years old this spring, and to mark the event, we want to create a 50th Anniversary Memory Book. We will need old **photos** from our congregation plus whatever memorabilia might be appropriate to include either in the Memory Book or as a visual for a

display on site. Please start digging out your photo albums now and contact either **Pat Campbell at 255-0756** or **Terry Smith at 255-8227** [abterry@telus.net] to arrange delivery of whatever photos or items you can loan to us.

SAY CHEESE!

Our own **Bandi Szakony** will be taking family photographs to include in the 50th Anniversary Memory Book mentioned above. There is absolutely no sitting fee, no obligation to buy photos, no need to return for a "viewing" (i.e. digital photography allows you to see all the poses taken immediately afterwards). We want to include as many families as possible, so please drop into the Jubilee Room within an hour of mass on one of the following five weekends: **March 20/21; March 27/28; April 10/11; April 17/18; April 24/25.**

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Our parish tradition for the Fridays of Lent is to set aside one hour for prayer in the church, from 7:00-8:00 PM. We begin with **Evening Prayer**, and follow that with the **Stations of the Cross**.

CALLING ALL TALENT

Our Celebration Weekend is normally held in June, but this year we have set our big event for **Sunday May 16, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.** We would love to include a Talent Show, profiling the many talented parishioners among us. Start thinking now about what you can offer (song? dance? juggling? magic?) and check future bulletins for more information.

STAMPEDE IS COMING SUNDAY JULY 11TH, 2010

Thank you to **Maureen Bramwell** for stepping up to be our new Stampede Breakfast Coordinator. She will need volunteers in June to help promote & plan the event, as well as grocery shoppers, cooks, runners, set-up & clean-up crews. Please don't wait for Maureen to come to you: if you can assist with any of these tasks, please let her know by e-mail: mjtbramwell@gmail.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Peter's Anglican Parish has again invited us to co-host the 2010 Vacation Bible School. The dates for this year: August 16-20th. We are hoping that we have one or more people who would like to be involved with this ministry. Do you love interacting with children? Do you have lots of ideas for fun activities? Do you see the great value in nurturing the spiritual formation of our children? For further information and a contact number, please phone Doreen in the parish office, 253-2251, or email doreen@stgerards.ca

FOUND

Following the 9:00 AM Mass last Sunday, someone found a necklace (pendant) on a gold chain in the back pews of the church. Please call the parish office, (403) 253-2251.

AN UPDATE FROM THE ST. GERARD'S HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

One year ago, our parish committee organized a presentation in cooperation with the Calgary Homeless Foundation, NeighborLink Calgary, and the Diocesan Affordable Housing Committee. It offered an opportunity to learn about how we, as neighbouring Christian communities, could respond to the needs of the poor in our city through the "Adopt A Family" project. As a result of that presentation, volunteers within our community stepped forward and went to training sessions and since March of 2009, we have adopted 4 families. Three of these families have moved on and we are anticipating adopting our 5th family very shortly. St. Gerard's participation in the project has also instilled enthusiasm with other Catholic churches and faith communities!! We would like to THANK all the parishioners who have helped us with volunteer hours and their donations of furniture, household items, gift cards and monetary donations. THANKS must also be extended, as always, for the ongoing help provided by the St. Gerard Inn From the Cold and St. Vincent de Paul ministries. Our committee would not be able to continue helping our adopted families without everyone's support. We are asking for the parish's support in the form of gift cards (no larger than \$25 please) and/or monetary donations. These can be placed in the offertory baskets during mass and addressed to the St. Gerard's Homelessness Committee. Thanks so much to a community book club who decided to collect gift cards on our behalf this past Christmas – what a creative and fun way to help out! If you want to join our committee and/or want to know more about what we're doing, please feel free to contact Stephanie Casar at scasar1@shaw.ca.

OPPORTUNITIES LOST TO BLINDNESS

John's account of Jesus healing the blind man offers an opportunity to look at several cases of spiritual blindness.

- The disciples failed to see an opportunity for *service* because they were too busy speculating on the cause of the man's blindness.
- The man's neighbors didn't *see* the man at all, wasting time wondering whether the account was believable.
- The Pharisees couldn't see past their so-called mastery of the law and the prophets to *recognize* in this event the One of whom all law and all prophetic voices pointed.
- The Jews couldn't see the truth of the account.

How could so many different groups of people completely waste an opportunity to share in the joy that should accompany such an event as this healing?

Even today, there is a great danger of spiritual blindness robbing Christians of the ability to rise up and meet opportunities to minister. Is it easier for us to resemble the disbelieving groups, the undiscerning groups, the agenda-driven groups, than to emulate the simple man who at first *sight* of Jesus, worshiped at his feet with joy? In various ways over the years, the church also has had to battle against characteristics like some of those on display in the account of Jesus and the blind man in John chapter 9. The story of the healing of the blind man demonstrates that the only way for believers to see opportunities for service is to get past preconceptions and to focus on the needs of others.

THANK YOU, ST. GERARD PARISH

Our mission presenters, Dr. Nancy Reeves & Linnea Good [& husband, David Jonssen] expressed their sincere thanks to our parish for our welcoming, hospitable environment during their days with us.

Both women said that they have never experienced, at any other church, the spirit and the joy encountered here.

Those comments are a tribute to all our parishioners who were involved with the mission. To everyone who helped in any way, large or small, thank you.

To those who attended the mission, we pray that God's Word will touch your lives in positive ways in the weeks and months to come.

The purpose of a mission is to provide spiritual formation/nourishment. What was God offering to you at this mission? We would appreciate feedback on how the mission presentations nourished you/your family.

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Ministry of Service

Funeral Team – Wilma/Norm Hagel (403)253-2485

Emergency contacts: Doreen Yochim (403)252-4685 or Jan Gallant (403)281-4327

Pastoral Care of the Sick – Sheila Padley (403)259-2489 or Maureen Bramwell (403) 366-0704

Mayfair Nursing Home – Hedy Luijckx (403)252-2902

Grieving/Consolation Ministry – Lois Hagen, Rosemarie Walter, Pat McMahon, Sr. Evelyn Dechant

Knights of Columbus – 1st Wednesday – 7:30 PM; Gordon Skaluba (403) 255-5248

C.W.L. – 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM; Shauna Bedard, (403) 281-4718

Sunday coffee – Ann Bergen (403)252-5384

1st Friday Coffee Social – Rosemarie Baschenis (403) 281-9666

Outreach ministry

St. Vincent de Paul – 3rd Wednesdays – 7:30 PM

Inn From The Cold – 3rd Mondays contact: Jim Duncan (403)252-3163 or Elaine Warholm (403)252-3883

Sandwiches for the drop-in centre – 1st Fridays

Mission Mexico – Anna Schultz

Parish ministry

Parish Pastoral Council – Jill Negenman (403) 253-8586

Parish Finance Council – John Skelton (403)281-5421

Parish Website – Bandi Szakony

Evangelization and Catechetical ministries

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - Doreen Yochim coordinator

Christian Initiation of School Age Children – Sarah Morrison, (403) 281-4832

Infant Baptism – parish office, (403) 253-2251

Children's Sacraments – Eucharist, (Patti Dawes, 403-255-7161)

Reconciliation, (Margie Gallagher, 403- 697-5390)

Confirmation – Paul Negenman, 403-253-8586

Pre-Marriage Preparation – Pastoral Team

Marriage Team Leaders – Sponsor Couple Program –

John/Judy Broad (403)253-8697

Scripture Study – Doreen Yochim – coordinator

Little Rock: John Skelton, Jill Moroney

Adult Faith Enrichment – Pastoral Team

Parish Mission Team – Ron and Donna Scott (403) 271-6262

Stewardship Committee – Greg Joevenazzo

Faithful Friends – Denise Webber (403)253-5139

Liturgical Ministry

Liturgy Committee – Sheila Padley (Chairperson)

Sacristans – Bobi-Jean Varner – coordinator (403) 640-7770

Mass Servers – Laurance Daignault (403)281-3665

MUSIC: – parish office (403)253-2251

5:00 PM – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Funeral Choir

Lectors – Chris Simard (403) 730-4776

Hospitality (Ushers and Greeters) – John Hennessey (403)255-7913

Eucharistic ministers - Noreen Hess (403) 255-5183

Weekday Eucharistic Ministers – Yvette Nogue (403)253-1809

Weekday Lectors – Pat Campbell (403)255-0756

Environment and Art – Sue Dondlinger

Prayer Life

Liturgy of the Hours/Prayer of the Church – Sheila Padley (403)259-2489

Holy Hour – Tuesdays – 7:30 PM Melissa Emmelkamp (403)255-1889

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Lucie Just

Prayer Tree – Kay Power (403)255-6241 / Rosemary Fennell (403)281-5701

Christian Meditation – every Wednesday - Anna Tremblay

ST. GERARD'S PARISH

8944 Elbow Drive S.W.

Calgary, AB T2V 1L2

Telephone: (403) 253-2251

Fax: (403) 253-4608

Website: www.StGerards.ca

PASTORAL TEAM

Doreen Yochim

Bogdan Sianozecki (Pastor)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Jan Gallant

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 & 11:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 PM

Or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Closed for Lunch: 11:30 PM – 12:30 PM

MARRIAGES

By appointment.

Please contact the parish office six months before desired date.

BAPTISMS

Preparation and celebration every two months.

Please contact the parish office.