

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2010

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$8,335.76	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,955.39	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$8,950.13
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$4,470.47
St. Vincent de Paul to date:	\$7,838.71

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY	No Mass INN FROM THE COLD
TUESDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM (Maureen B.) Mass: 9:00 AM Card Party: 9:45 AM BOOK CLUB: 7:30 PM Holy Hour: 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM Prayer Group: 9:45 AM Christian Meditation: 1:30 PM Little Rock Scripture Study: 7:30 PM (Gospel of Luke) St. Vincent de Paul Mtg: 7:30 PM
THURSDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM (Maureen B.) Mass: 9:00 AM Gospel of John: 1:15 PM (Jean Vanier)
FRIDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM Ecumenical Tea Social following Mass
SATURDAY	GARAGE SALE: 9:30 AM—3:30 PM Reconciliation: 4:00 PM Mass: 5:00 PM
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Coffee after both Masses

THE EASTER SEASON

Begins on Easter Sunday and ends with Evening Prayer on the solemnity of Pentecost [this year – May 23rd]. The 7 weeks from Easter to Pentecost are celebrated as one great feast day. St. Athanasius called them “the great Sunday”. The Easter season is to the liturgical year what Sunday is to the week. Christians sing the “Alleluia” during these 7 weeks to signify their rejoicing. Christians are to live as if God’s kingdom has already come – because it has! We put aside our fasting for feasting and celebration. We bless ourselves with baptismal water to remind us of our share in Jesus’ passion/death/resurrection. “Alleluia” is our song because we delight to praise the Lord.

A suggested spiritual discipline during the Easter season is to read THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES [continues the story of Jesus into the early church], and THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN [tells the story of the new creation in Jesus]. Perhaps you might want to invite a few family members/friends, or the newly baptized, or those who came into the church through RCIA in past years, to read these scriptures and gather for coffee in your home to share & reflect on God’s message to us in today’s world.

SCRIPTURE STUDY & REFLECTION USING FILM

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES – a dramatic presentation of the birth of Christianity. This powerful & entertaining film is taken word for word from the text of the NIV translation. This visual bible presentation will be shown in 3 parts: Mondays – May 3rd, 10th, & 17th; 1:00 – 3:00 PM in the parish hall. Come & ‘see’ what we are ‘hearing’ in our scripture readings this Easter season.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN – vividly comes to life in a powerful dramatization, word for word, based on the Good News Bible translation. This visual bible presentation will be shown in 3 parts: Mondays – June 7th, 14th, & 21st; 1:00 – 3:00 PM in the parish hall. Come & ‘see’ what we are ‘hearing’ in our scripture readings this Easter season.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR :

- MOVIE MORNING** [continuing our ‘wisdom’ discernment for ‘sagers’] – Friday, April 30th; after morning mass, in the hall. **ABOUT SCHMIDT** Everyone is welcome to join the group to watch & discuss the *universal truths* portrayed in this film. Movie Morning in May: May 28th; in June: June 25th.
- THE GOSPEL OF JOHN** Reflecting on this gospel, guided by the meditations/reflections of Jean Vanier, with the goal of leading people slowly and prayerfully into the mystery of Jesus. Beginning on Thursday, April 22nd at 1:15 PM in the parish hall. All are welcome to come together to read, pray, and share the Spirit’s message as heard through this gospel. There is also a video segment of reflection from Jean Vanier. Bring your bible; there is also a book used, which is available in the parish office. Please contact Doreen, doreen@stgerards.ca or 253-2251, if you plan to participate in this group. If you have time, read Chapter 1 of John for this Thursday.
- RCIA TEAM SUPPER & ASSESSMENT:** for sponsors, dismissal leaders, catechesis leaders, and coordinators - Monday, May 10th at 6:00 PM
- CELEBRATING LIFE & THE WISDOM IN AGING** [formerly Seniors’ Day]: Friday, June 18th. Theme: **CIRCUS** [Keeping Happiness in our Lives] We invite you to come in ‘circus attire’. We will have a ‘clown’ and ‘circus food’. If you have any ideas to build on the ‘circus’ theme, please share them with Anna Schultz, Sheila Padley, or Doreen Yochim.
- ROSEBUD THEATRE TRIP:** September 22nd, 2010 **THE ROAD TO MECCA** There are 35 seats available on a Red Arrow bus. Cost for this event is \$100.00/person. **Full payment reserves your ticket.** [10 tickets have already been sold, so there are only 25 remaining -dinner/show tickets & bus must be paid]. List will be kept in the parish office. Monies to be paid to Jan, in the parish office, or to Anna Schultz. [cash or cheques made to payable to St. Gerard Parish]

SAY CHEESE & WIN A PRIZE PICTURES FOR THE PARISH MEMORY BOOK

For all those who have not yet had their pictures taken...IT IS TIME! We want all our parishioners in this 50th Anniversary Memory Book, and that means that you must get your picture taken in the next couple of weeks. For those parishioners who are shut-ins or unwell and unable to come to the church for pictures, please have someone bring in a picture and give it to Bandi. Put your name, address and phone number on the back of the picture so that it can be returned to you. Bandi will be set up in the Jubilee Room for the next 2 weekends.

Each individual/family that has their picture taken will be entered into a draw to win a gift pack of photos.

1 Prize draw for Families and Individuals:

- Ten 4x6 prints, or
- Five 5x7 prints, or
- Three 8x10 prints, or
- One 22x17 print.

No cost; no obligation to buy.

We want to include as many individuals/families as possible, so please drop into the Jubilee Room within an hour of mass on one of the following four weekends: **April 17/18; April 24/25.**

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

Meeting each Wednesday morning, after mass, in the Jubilee Room. Come & join us, whenever you can, as we pray for the needs of our parish community and the needs of the world. If you would like prayers for a special intention, please give those requests to Maureen Bramwell. Please include in your prayers: Father Joe Toole, Lena Cody (deceased); Charles Scott, Jeanne Thibeau (unwell).

St. Gerard’s Parish turns 50 years old this year! We need old photos and memorabilia as a visual for a display on site. 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. **Calling all Talent** – Our Anniversary Celebration is set for **Sunday May 16, 2010; 4:00—7:00 p.m.** We would like to feature the talent of our parish members. Would you like to contribute? Contact the parish office. Bishop Grandin Band is going to be one of our talent contributors.

ST. GERARD’S HUGE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

9:30 AM—3:30 PM

Accepting all goods from Thursday, April 22, from noon to 9:00 PM, and Friday, April 23, from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Books are welcome! Call Gordon Skaluba, 255-5248 for more information.

MISSING!

Have you inadvertently taken home a bell after Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday service? If so, we would be most appreciative to have those bells returned to the parish office. We have a collection of bells that we put out for the Triduum. Over the years, parishioners have added to our collection; we have bells made of ceramic, glass, and metal, and they each have a special ‘voice’. During the year, these bells are kept on a shelf in the parish office, and, often, our ‘little’ visitors like to ring the bells [to keep their voices practiced], and like to arrange the bells in various orders!

THE WILDERNESS OF GRIEF: FINDING YOUR WAY

Has someone significant in your life died? Are you experiencing grief? Do you need some support in your personal grief experience? McInnis & Holloway is offering a session with Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D., grief counselor & educator, at Mount Royal University, Ross Glen Hall, on Monday, April 26th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please register by calling 403-705-5033 or email wildernessrsvp@mhfh.com.

Polish Air Disaster

The masses at St. Gerard’s parish this coming week will be offered for those people who died in the Polish plane crash, and for their families and friends. Mass cards will be given to the 3 Polish priests who take such good care of our parish: Father Bogdan Sianozecki, Father Stefan Ganowicz, and Father Maciej Wos.

The Hope of “Eastering” Spiritual Reflections

I remember many spring times when I would awaken in the morning, look out the window, and zap, there this green grass would be. Robust, vibrant grass. It seemed like it was an overnight kind of thing, brown one day and green the next. This greening always came in the spring times when we had drenching rains. One year, however, we had very little rain and many more cold days than usual. Each day I looked with hope, expecting to find fresh green pushing its way through the drab wintered spears of dryness. But each day I saw, instead, the same dull color before me.

When I looked closely, however, I could perceive little hints of new life and a slight changing in the color of the lawn. I could almost feel the earth straining, trying to draw forth new life from within it. I knew the green would come again, that it would just be a matter of time before warmth and moisture provided the right conditions for change and growth. Eventually, the green did return but not until I had waited a long time for rain to come and drench the land.

This process of the earth’s greening after a long winter reminds me of our spiritual “eastering,” the inner transformation and rebirthing that comes after we’ve had a long winter spell of the spirit. The dead, brown grass is there for eons in our hearts, or so it seems. No amount of hurry, or push, or desire can make the green happen any sooner.

I think of people I know who are longing for an inner greening, and are yet in the throes of a painful spiritual winter: a widow whose husband recently died at a much too early age; a man who is struggling with a new career in midlife and fears his ability to cope with the challenges it requires; the friend whose husband has applied for work far from home and the painful questions it leaves her about what she will do with her own career and friends; a colleague who fell into deep, clinical depression and struggles to live each day with meager energy. Each one needs an “eastering,” a bright greening, and oh, how they long for it to come.

But it may be a painstakingly slow process, a tiny bit of life gradually weaving through the pain and questions. Eastering isn’t always a quick step out of the tomb. Sometimes rising from the dead takes a long, slowly-greening time. It can’t be hurried.

It is my hope for you this Easter season that you will trust the resurrection of your spirit, believe that joy and new life will come for you, even though it may not be there for you now. If you are one of the fortunate ones whose soul sings with happy alleluias this Easter, may you turn often to those who are still awaiting their greening and walk hopefully with them.

From *Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems and Reflections for Every Season* by Joyce Rupp

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
Noreen Young (403)255-9486

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

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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 AM—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.