

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2010

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$8,881.65	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,933.09	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$9,746.13
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$5,073.92
St. Vincent de Paul to date:	\$10,750.04

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY	FUNERAL MASS for John Heynen @ 10:30 AM Acts of the Apostles: 1:30—3:30 PM Camp Cadicasu: 7:00—9:00 PM	
TUESDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM (Geri S.) Mass: 9:00 AM Card Party: 9:45 AM CWL Exec Meeting: 7:00 PM Holy Hour: 7:30 PM	BOOK CLUB: 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM Prayer Group: 9:45 AM K of C Mtg: 7:30 PM	
THURSDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM (Geri S.) Mass: 9:00 AM Gospel of John: 1:15 PM (Jean Vanier) Choir Practice: 7:30 PM	
FRIDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM 1ST Friday Muffin Social: 9:30 AM Exposition: 10:00 AM—12:00 AM	
SATURDAY	Reconciliation: 4:00 PM Mass: 5:00 PM	
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST after both Masses	

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Come out to a special Faithful Friends celebrating Mary and our graduating Faithful Friends. **Sunday May 2 from 2:30 - 4:00.** At 3:30 we will be holding a celebration for our 9 year olds who will be continuing on to **Spirit Seekers** in the fall. We **require** that all Faithful Friends parents come at 3:30 to join in the graduation. If you have any questions, please call Denise 253-5139, Lorelei 686-1813 or Sheila 255-4314.



MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The **Knights of Columbus** are again cooking a **Mother's Day Breakfast** on **Sunday May 9**, to be served after the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses. Prices are:

- Under six years old** **FREE**
- Six years and older** **\$5.00 per person**
- Families of 4 or more** **\$20.00 per immediate family**

Please pray for: John Heynen [deceased]; Noel Young [ill]; Victor Gallant [ill]; Liam Atkin [ill]

SCRIPTURE:

Lectio Divina with the Gospel of John: using a video reflection by Jean Vanier and a gospel passage. Jean leads us into a deeper understanding of John's gospel as a call to imitate Jesus' love and concern for the poor, for the weak, for all those who are placed on the fringes of our society. People are welcome to come on a 'drop in' basis if they are unable to come every week. Thursdays; 1:15 PM parish hall.

Video Movie of the Acts of the Apostles: because of its length, we will watch this movie in 3 parts. This movie uses the entire scripture text. It is an opportunity to reflect on the early formation of 'church', and to identify contemporary struggles/issues in the church and how we might be called to handle current challenges. Mondays: 1:30-3:30 PM; May 3rd, May 10th, May 17th. Parish hall.

Video Movie of the Gospel of John: because of its length, we will watch this movie in 3 parts. This movie uses the entire scripture text. Mondays: 1:30-3:30 PM; June 7th, 14th, 21st.

PENTECOST IS COMING!

We would again like to have the Prayers of the Faithful read in both English and other mother-tongues of our parishioners. If you would like to translate a petition into your mother-tongue, and/or read a prayer in your mother-tongue, please speak with Doreen [in the parish office]. Pentecost would also be a great feast on which to have ethnic foods served after mass for our coffee socials. If some groups would like to volunteer for the Saturday evening coffee & the 2 Sunday morning coffees, please sign up on the poster board in the hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR :

- 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** [Seniors' Day]: Friday, June 18th. Theme: **CIRCUS** [Being Happy 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** Cost for this event is \$100.00/person. **Full payment reserves your ticket.** Tickets nearly all sold! List is 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]

Wanted – Smiles and Friendly Faces

Do you come to mass regularly at the same time each weekend? Could you come 10 minutes early and stay 5 minutes after **once a month**? Would you like to help new members of our parish feel welcome and informed? This is a great way for busy families or youth to support our parish community. We are in need of people to look after the Hospitality Table once monthly at the following times:
Saturday, 5: 00 Mass - 1st or 4th Saturday of the month
Sunday, 9:00 Mass - 1st Sunday of the Month
If you would like more information contact Pat (pjamnicz@yahoo.ca) or call the parish office.

ST. GERARD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MAY 16TH; 4:00 – 7:00 PM

ST. GERARD PARKING LOT & HALL

Hospitality of: Entertainment, Food, Beverages – - ample opportunity to meet/visit with - - clergy who served our parish; former staff; charter members of the CWL and the Knights of Columbus; original parish members; long-time parishioners; current parishioners.

Would you like to offer your help?

The 50th Anniversary celebration is a big undertaking and is being organized by the Parish Pastoral Council. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact one of the following people:

ADVERTIZING & ENVIRONMENT SETUP: Jill Negenman; 403-253-8586; JKobelak@shaw.ca

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ENVIRONMENT: Maureen Bramwell; 403-366-0704

ENTERTAINMENT TALENT SHOW: 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. If you have a talent to share, sign up on the sheet in the gathering area, or contact hanita@shaw.ca Hanita Simard; 403-730-4776

DECORATING: Lorelei Prosser; 403-686-1813; lfunkeprosser@hotmail.com

MEMORABILIA DISPLAYS: Terry Smith; 403-255-8227 Pat Campbell

MEMORY BOOK: Bandi Szakony

FOOD & BEVERAGES: Doreen Yochim; 403-253-2251; doreen@stgerards.ca [needs: team to handle coffee/tea; team to handle punch; people to make finger foods – particularly some ethnic foods... Philippino, Mexican, etc.; teams to set up food trays; teams to serve]

Three seniors from St. Gerard's have volunteered to participate in Calgary Pro Life's annual **"Hike for Life" on May 8th**. Their Pledge Sheets are on the back table near the Church Doors in the narthex. Calgary Pro Life relies on this event to raise much needed funds to carry on its continuing fight against abortion. Please be generous and support one or more of these volunteers. Thank you!"

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.

Garage Sale

The Renovo Social Committee and the Knights of Columbus thank you all for your generous donations that helped to make our Garage Sale a success. We would also like to thank all of the helpers for their long hours of work. We made in excess of \$4,200.

Measuring Ourselves in Love 2007-05-20 Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

When I was younger, I was pretty confident that I knew what love meant. After all, we all experience love in some way, being in love, loving someone, being loved by someone. Virtually everyone has known the love of somebody, a friend, a family member, an acquaintance.

But the older I get the more I wonder sometimes whether I, or most anyone else, has much sense of what that over-used word, love, really means? When we are honest, we sense our own distance from its full meaning. Why?

Because, the older we get, the more we also begin to know love's dark side. Too common are these experiences: We fall in love and think it will last forever, but then fall out of love, feel love go sour, feel love grow cold, see love betrayed, feel ourselves wounded by love, and wound others. Finally, even more upsetting, we all find that there are always people in our lives who are cold, bitter, and unforgiving towards us so that it is not always easy to feel love and be loving.

In the light of this reticence, I would like comment on Jesus' most important commandment: **Love one another as I have loved you!**

We too easily read that simplistically, romantically, and in a one-sided, over-confident manner. But this command contains the most important challenge of the whole gospel and, like the deepest part of the gospel to which it is linked, the crucifixion, it is very, very difficult to imitate. Why? It's easy to consider ourselves as loving if we only look at one side of things, namely, how we relate to those people who are loving, warm, respectful, and gracious towards us. If we rate ourselves on how we feel about ourselves in our best moments among like-minded friends, we can easily conclude both that we are loving persons and that we are measuring up to Jesus' command to love as he did.

But if we begin to look at the skeletons in our relational closets our naive confidence soon disappears: What about the people who hate us, whom we don't like? What about the people whom we avoid and who avoid us? What about those people towards whom we feel resentment? What about all those people with whom we are at odds, towards whom we feel suspicion, coldness, anger? What about those people whom we haven't been able to forgive?

It's one thing to love someone who adores you, it's quite another to love someone who wants you dead! But that's the real test. Jesus' command to love contains a critical subordinate clause, "as I have loved you!" What was unique in the way he loved us?

Where Jesus stretches us beyond our natural instincts and beyond all self-delusion is in his command to love our enemies, to be warm to those who are cold to us, to be kind to those who are cruel to us, to do good to those who hate us, to forgive those who hurt us, to forgive those who won't forgive us, and to ultimately love and forgive those who are trying to kill us. That command, love and forgive your enemies, more than any creedal formula or other moral issue, is the litmus-test for Christian discipleship. We can ardently believe in and defend every item in the creed and fight passionately for justice in all its dimensions, but the real test of whether or not we are followers of Jesus is the capacity or non-capacity to forgive an enemy, to remain warm and loving towards someone who is not warm and loving to us.

We shouldn't delude ourselves on this. It is easy to rationalize this away and, if we do, no doubt there will be more than enough false friends around who will furnish us with both theological and psychological arguments that will justify us in not loving our enemies. But the gospel is uncompromising: We are loving or non-loving not on the basis of how we respond to those who love us, but on the basis of how we respond to those who hate us, and are cold, hostile, and murderous toward us. That's the hard, non-negotiable truth underlying Jesus' command to love and, when we are honest, we have to admit that we are still a long ways from measuring up to that.

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



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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.