

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2010**

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$6,901.76	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,643.05	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$15,904.65
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$12,083.39
St. Vincent de Paul to date:	\$31,298.66 (as of Nov. 22)

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
MONDAY	No Mass
TUESDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM [Jean D.] MASS: 9:00 AM CARD PLAYING: 9:45 AM [euchre & bridge] MEMORIAL MASS: 7:00 PM reception to follow
WEDNESDAY	MASS: 9:00 AM Jean Vanier Videos: 9:30 AM Little Rock: 7:30 PM (Acts of the Apostles) Knights of Columbus Christmas Party: 7:30 PM
THURSDAY	Morning Prayer [Jean D.] MASS: 9:00 AM Choir Practice: 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM 1ST Friday COFFEE/MUFFIN Social: 9:30 AM Exposition: 10:00 AM—12:00 AM
SATURDAY	Reconciliation: 4:00 PM Mass: 5:00 PM RCIA: 6:00 PM
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Coffee after both Masses

Birth of the Holy: My Journey through Advent & Christmas

“What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God fourteen hundred years ago and I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and in my culture? We are all meant to be Mothers of God.” [Meister Eckhart (15th century German mystic)]

Each of us is called to participate in bringing God to birth in the world. We each hear our own annunciations and invitations to en flesh the sacred call of our hearts in service to others. The seasons of Advent and Christmas invite us into a profound reflection on this invitation and the movement toward birthing.

Do you long to make the seasons of Advent and Christmas a more meaningful time of prayer and reflection?

Do you want to make space to listen to your deepest call in this season of birthing?

During Advent & Christmas, this year, reflect on how you 'birth' Jesus into your daily life.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS NEEDED

For St. Vincent de Paul

Our Angel Tree is set up in the gathering area. On the tree are tags indicating an age and gender. Please take a tag, attach it to a small wrapped gift and return it to the church **on or before Sunday, December 12th.** Gifts will be directed to our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank-you for your support. For further information, call Geraldine, 281-3571.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
THE POWER OF A SIMPLE GIFT**

We encourage all the families and friends of St. Gerard's to pack a shoebox and discover the power of a simple gift. The boxes can be dropped off here at St. Gerard's in the Gathering Area during the National Collection week of **November 15-28.** **Shoeboxes will be picked up after the 11:00 AM Mass THIS Sunday.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 5:00 PM

The children and youth of the parish are invited to fully participate and host the Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm. We need children and youth, 18 and under, to fill the following ministries: readers, singer of the psalm, gift bearers, choir members, candle bearers, ushers, altar servers, actors/actresses, hospitality greeters.

Please only sign up for the choir, singer, reader or pageant roles if you can attend a practice.

Rehearsals for the choir will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 12 from 10:15 - 10:45 AM.

Rehearsals for the readers and pageant will be held on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1:30 - 2:30 (right before Faithful Friends and Spirit Seekers).

Sign up sheets are in the link after mass, and will be posted in the church. If you have grandchildren, nieces or nephews that will be coming, they can help with the mass without having previously signed up. If you have any questions, please call Denise, 253-5139, Lorelei, 686-1813 or Sheila O, 255-4314.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Mark Wednesday, January 19th on your calendar and plan to have lunch in our parish hall with members from our neighbourhood churches. It will be a 'soup & bread' lunch, with food contributions from each congregation. We are encouraged to bring the 'speciality' bread of our parish events...would that be egg salad sandwiches??? We need your input. Nearer to Pentecost [June], we are planning a 'church crawl' – visiting one another's places of worship.

In Lent, 2011, we are again going to have a Scripture Study with Shepherd King Lutheran Church [75th & Elbow]. Our combined study this past Lent was so successful that everyone wanted to have another. So plan to join this ecumenical Bible Study; we will reflect on the passion narratives & the resurrection narratives of each of the gospels. Wednesday mornings, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Lent, 2011; half the sessions at Shepherd King parish & half the sessions at St. Gerard's parish.

TURKEYS & HAMS; HAMS & TURKEYS

Once again we are providing our faith community with the opportunity to donate to the Christmas food gifts for the clients of the Latour Native Ministry. If you would like to donate a turkey or/and a ham, or monies, please bring your donation into St. Gerard's parish office during office hours from now until December 14th. This is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary; the director is Norline Johnson.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY for ST. GERARD'S PARISHIONERS

Coordinator of Pastoral Care: Sheila Padley

Help is very much needed for this ministry of visiting with and taking Eucharist to our sick, to our shut-ins & mobility-challenged, and to our dying members. Assess your time commitments. Is this a ministry in which you could serve once/month? Singles, friends, husbands & wives, families with children – please pray about this call to serve. If you would like more information, contact Sheila Padley.

MISSION MEXICO

Start saving your loonies & toonies. The weekend of December 12th is designated as Mission Mexico awareness weekend. We will be encouraging donations to this mission; we have invited our Latino community members to host a Friday breakfast, and coffee after all the weekend masses; our liturgy will include music & petitions inclusive of our Latino community. If you would like to be involved in any way with this endeavor, contact Anna Schultz [her name may not sound Latino, but she is truly one at heart].

JOY TO THE WORLD

St. Gerard's Church

Sunday, December 12, 7:30 PM

Come & enjoy the tradition! Once again, five churches of the SW are joining in an Ecumenical service of Scripture readings & hymns, with the choirs of St. Andrew's United Church, Southwood United Church, St. Gerard's Roman Catholic Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church & St. Peter's Anglican Church. Everyone welcome! St. Peter's Anglican Church is the host church this year. A reception will be held in the hall following the service. Come & enjoy this beautiful Advent celebration.

CWL Notice

Christmas Supper (December 14th) tickets @ \$20.00 each are available after all masses and in the office during the week. **The deadline for purchase is December 8th.** All the ladies of the parish and/or your sister, mother etc. are welcome.

Membership fees are payable (\$20) – if you aren't able to attend meetings please contact Joan Meyler at 403-251-5788 and she will make arrangements to have someone meet you at whichever mass you will be attending or you can put it in an envelope, **mark it CWL**, and put it in the collection basket.

LATIN CLUB

Do you have a craving to learn a dead language? Your prayers have been answered as Latin Club is starting up in January, and it is your opportunity to learn about how Ancient Romans lived and spoke, and how they are still impacting us today. This is a fun opportunity to learn about Latin, and is open to everyone in the parish, of all ages! See you Sunday, January 9th at 2:30 in the hall.

WHAT ARE WE LEAVING BEHIND?

In modern society, to leave a “legacy” ordinarily means to specify the distribution of property to heirs according to the terms described in a legal document. It’s a relatively rare event for most people to be mentioned in a will.

What we are inclined to forget is that each of us leaves a legacy, whether we mean to, whether we want to or not. Our legacies are the quality of the lives we leave behind.

What are we leaving behind? That is the question that marks the timbre of a lifetime.

We leave behind our attitude toward the world. We are remembered for whether or not we inspired in others a love for life and an openness to all of those who lived it with us. We will be remembered for our smiles and our frowns, for our laughter and for our complaints, for our kindness and for our selfishness.

We leave behind for all the world to see the value system that marks everything we do. People who never asked us directly what we valued in life never doubt for a moment what it was. They know if we cared for the Earth because they watched us as we seeded our flowerbeds—or left the debris from the garage spill over into what could have been a garden. They know what we thought of people of other colors or creeds by the language we used and the lives we connected with. They know the depth of our spiritual life by the way we treated those around us and what we thought of life and what we gave our lives to doing.

We leave behind the memory of the way we treated strangers, how we loved the individuals closest to us, how we cared for those who loved us, how we spoke to them in hard times, how we gave ourselves away to satisfy their needs.

We leave behind, in our very position on life and death, on purpose and meaning, a model of relationship with God. Our own spiritual life is both challenge and support to the spiritual struggles of those around us.

Our legacy is far more than our fiscal worth. Our legacy does not end the day we die. We have added to it every moment of our lives.

—from *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister (BlueBridge)

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

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 Geri Schmit
Inn From The Cold – 3rd Mondays contact: Noreen Young (403) 255-9486
Jim Duncan (403) 252-3163
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 – Jan, parish office, (403) 253-2251
Children’s Sacraments – Eucharist, (Bruce Halase, Dianne Bulbrook &
Daniel Bulbrook) [403] 238-1408
Reconciliation, Margie Gallagher [403] 697-5390
Confirmation – Paul Negenman [403]-253-8586
Special Activities: Judy Broad [403] 253-8697
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 (403) 281-5421
Adult Faith Enrichment – Pastoral Team
Parish Mission Team – Ron and Donna Scott (403) 271-6262
Stewardship Committee – Hanita Simard
Faithful Friends – Denise Webber (403) 253-5139
Spirit Seekers - Sheila Obrigewitsch, (403) 255-4314

Liturgical Ministry

Liturgy Committee – Sheila Padley (Chairperson) (403) 259-2489
Sacristans – Mary Sylven, (403) 252-5245
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
Collection Counting: Jan Gallant [403] 253-2251

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 – Anna Tremblay



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Fax (403) 253-4608
Website: www.stgerards.ca

PASTORAL TEAM

Doreen Yochim {doreen@stgerards.ca}
Bogdan Sianozecki (Pastor)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Jan Gallant {jan@stgerards.ca}

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 – 4:30 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM – 3:00 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 once/month. Please contact Jan in the parish office.