

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2010**

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$7,031.27	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,630.30	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	
Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$16,029.65	
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$12,263.86	
St. Vincent de Paul to date:	\$31,298.66	<small>(as of Nov. 22)</small>

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
MONDAY	No Mass
TUESDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM [Sheila P.] MASS: 9:00 AM CARD PLAYING: 9:45 AM [euchre & bridge] CWL Exec Mtg: 7:00 PM BOOK CLUB: 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	MASS: 9:00 AM Jean Vanier Videos: 9:30 AM Little Rock: 7:30 PM (Acts of the Apostles)
THURSDAY	Morning Prayer [Doreen Y.] MASS: 9:00 AM Choir Practice: 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM MISSION MEXICO BREAKFAST following Mass Liturgy Committee Mtg: 10:00 AM
SATURDAY	Reconciliation: 4:00 PM Mass: 5:00 PM RCIA: 6:00 PM MISSION MEXICO Hospitality
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM MISSION MEXICO Hospitality Coffee after both Masses JOY TO THE WORLD: 7:30 PM

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.

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].

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 in the carpeted side of the hall.

Rehearsals for the readers and pageant will be held on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1:00—2:15 PM. 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. **Faithful Friends and Spirit Seekers are cancelled on Sunday Dec. 19 due to practice for the Children's Mass.**

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.

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)

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.

Retreat with Fr. Max Oliva, S.J. – Dec. 3 – 5, 2010

Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre, Cochrane

Registration 5 – 7 p.m. – Supper 7:00 p.m.

Ends Sunday with lunch.

Theme: "Living our Faith in Difficult Times"

Register with David at 403-932-2012 or email: mtfrancis@shaw.ca

Greccio Christmas – December 14th, 2010

All are welcome to join us at Mount St. Francis Retreat centre for our annual Greccio Christmas celebration, an outdoor pageant of the Nativity, taking place on Tuesday, Dec. 14th at 7:30p.m. Please phone 403-932-2012 or email mtfrancis@shaw.ca for more information.

Giving Birth to God [Fr. Ron Rolheiser]

God never dynamites his way into to our lives with a force so powerful that we can't resist. The divine never takes us by storm. No. God always enters the world in the same way that Jesus did on the first Christmas. God is gestated in a womb and appears as a helpless infant that has to be picked up, nurtured, and coaxed into adulthood. The presence of God in our world, at least within the dynamics of the incarnation, depends upon a certain human consent and cooperation.

For God to take on real flesh and power in the world we must first do something. What? The answer to that lies in the way Jesus was born. Mary, Jesus' mother, shows us a certain blueprint, a pattern for how God is born into our world and how faith is born in our lives. What's the pattern?

When we look at how Mary gave birth to Jesus, we see that there are four moments in the process: Impregnation by the Holy Spirit; gestation of God within one's body and soul; the stretching and agony of giving birth; and the nurturing of an infant into adulthood. What's implied in each of these?

Impregnation by the Holy Spirit: Mary, we are told, became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. What an extraordinary notion! This doesn't just mean that Jesus didn't have a human father, but also that Mary so let the seed of God's spirit (charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, fidelity, mildness, faith, and chastity) take root in her that it began to grow into actual flesh.

Gestation of God within one's body: As we know, pregnancy is not followed immediately by childbirth. A long, slow process first occurs, gestation. In the silent recesses of her heart and body (and surely not without the normal morning-sickness that accompanies pregnancy) an umbilical cord began to grow between Mary and that new life. Her flesh began to give physical sustenance to the life of God and this steadily grew into a child which, at a point, as in all pregnancies, demanded to be born into the world.

The agony of giving birth: Only with much groaning and stretching of the flesh can a child emerge into this world. It is always excruciatingly painful to birth something to the outside world, to take what's precious inside and give it birth outside. Mary, despite all the over-pious treatises that would make Jesus' birth something unnatural, experienced the normal birth-pains common to all mothers. Nothing secretly gestated is born into the world without pain, Jesus included.

Nurturing an infant into adulthood: Annie Dillard once suggested that we always find God in our lives as Jesus was found in Bethlehem on Christmas, a helpless infant in the straw who must be picked up and nurtured into adulthood: "God's works are as good as we make them. That God is helpless, our baby to bear, self-abandoned on the doorstep of time, wondered at by cattle and oxen." Mary gave birth to the baby, Jesus, but what she ultimately gave the world was the adult, Christ. Like all mothers she had to spend years nursing, cajoling, teaching, and nurturing an infant into adulthood.

The incarnation...looking at how Mary gave birth to Christ, we are given a blueprint that invites imitation not admiration. Mary is the model of faith. What she did each of us too is called upon to do, namely, give birth to God in our lives. Christmas is for marvelling at what once took place, but it's also for imitation, for continuing to give God flesh in the world.

God has to be gestated into the world, through us, in the same way as Mary did all those years ago at the first Christmas.

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.