

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 12, 2010**

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$9,055.36	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,659.39	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$16,489.65
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$13,034.70
St. Vincent de Paul to date: (as of Dec. 7)	\$35,937.91

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
MONDAY	No Mass
TUESDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM [Geri S.] MASS: 9:00 AM Bishop Grandin High School: 1:00—3:00 PM in church CWL Christmas Party: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	MASS: 9:00 AM Jean Vanier Videos: 9:30 AM St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Party: 7:00 PM PENITENTIAL SERVICE: 7:30 PM
THURSDAY	Morning Prayer [Geri S.] MASS: 9:00 AM Bishop Grandin High School Masses: 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM Choir Practice: 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM Grief Group: 9:45 AM COOKIE PACKAGING & DELIVERY—Morning PACKING OF FOOD HAMPERS: 7:00 PM
SATURDAY	DELIVERIES OF FOOD HAMPERS: 9:00 AM Mass: 5:00 PM RCIA: 6:00 PM
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Coffee after both Masses PAGEANT & READERS PRACTICE: 1:00 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)]

In John's gospel, we are told that as Jesus was dying on the cross, he said to his mother and to the beloved disciple: *“Woman, behold your son”* and *“Behold your mother”*. By giving his mother as the mother of the beloved disciple, Jesus is calling her to give ‘life’ to the beloved disciple, to bring Jesus to birth within the beloved disciple. And the beloved disciple is being called to become ‘Jesus’, the child of his mother, Mary. [Jean Vanier] Each one of us is the **beloved disciple**. We are invited to recognize the presence of Jesus within us, and to ‘birth’ that presence to others. How do we do this?...by living our ordinary, daily lives with peace, and kindness, and gentleness, and love, and compassion, and justice.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Tonight at 7:30 PM in St. Gerard's Church. Come & enjoy the wonderful offerings of 5 choirs, including our parish choir and those from 4 of our neighbouring churches. A coffee social will be held in the hall after the concert. St. Peter's Anglican Church community is hosting this event this year; let's show our St. Gerard parish spirit by turning out in large numbers!

CHRISTMAS COOKIES/A GIFT FROM THE HEART

Next Friday is the Biiiiiiiiiiig day!! Under the leadership of our Pastoral Care Team, we provide gifts of fresh, homemade baking, parish greetings, and little gift items for the **shut-ins, the sick, those alone and the very elderly** of our parish family. This endeavor needs the help of many people. Want to give of your time to a ‘caring’ ministry?? Please consider yourself invited to help in any way you are able. Needs: people to bring in fresh baked cookies/candy, people to package the baking, people to write Christmas messages and address packages, people to deliver the packages [this is such an important help].
Friday, December 17th – please bring in your baking BEFORE 10:00 AM. Breakfast/lunch goodies provided throughout the morning. Delivery of the packages in early afternoon. This is a great opportunity to work in ‘2’s’ and to make a little Christmas visit with those to whom you deliver. Contact Sheila Padley, 403-259-2489 or the parish office, (403) 253-2251, with any names of shut-ins.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Christmas hampers will be packed at 7:00 PM on Friday, December 17. The hampers will be delivered, beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 18. If you are available to help, especially with deliveries on Saturday, will you please sign your name on the sheet taped to the church door or talk to a Vincentian. Thank you for your support. Monetary gifts are also greatly appreciated. God Bless.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 5:00 PM

Thanks to all the children, parents and fellow parishoners who have been so enthusiastic and helpful in organizing this special mass.
Parts: We are still in need of greeters, collection takers, angels, shepherds and animals.
Costumes: We have costumes for angels and shepherds. If you plan to be an animal, please wear your own costume. Your costume can be a full costume or just a pair of ears that represent your animal. You will have the honour of sitting with Bogdan during the Nativity Narration.
Children's Choir: Practice is this **Sunday, December 12 at 10:15 AM** in the hall.
Pageant Main Characters and Readers: Practice is **Sunday, December 19 at 1:00 PM** in the church.
Older children and teenagers! We need your help. We have lots of really big costumes to fill with bodies of your size and some of these jobs are just too big for small people. Please don't be shy! We have a better chance of having a beautiful celebration if we have some older and wiser people leading the young ones. **Faithful Friends and Spirit Seekers are cancelled on Sunday Dec. 19 due to practice for the Children's Mass. See you in January.** If you have any questions, please call Denise, 253-5139, Lorelei, 686-1813 or Sheila O, 255-4314.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Wednesday, December 15th at 7:30 PM

There will **not be** Reconciliation on Saturday, December 18th, December 25th, or January 1st.

TURKEYS & HAMS...TURKEYS & HAMS

If you are wanting to contribute to the collection of turkeys & hams for the Latour Native Centre Christmas hampers, you have until this **Wednesday, December 15th**, to bring in your contributions. We have freezers & fridges in which to keep the meat. Please bring into the parish office.

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.

Environment Decorating Day : Thursday, December 23rd. If you wish to ‘lend a hand’, speak with Sue Dondlinger.

PRAYER TREE: call Kay Power,(403) 255-6241 or Rosemary Fennell, (403) 281-5701.



HOLIDAY INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

DECEMBER 24TH: 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

DECEMBER 25TH: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

DECEMBER 26TH: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: 10:00 AM

No Morning Mass between Christmas and New Year's or Morning Prayer [December 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31].

OFFICE HOURS: December 24 - 8:30 AM—Noon, December 25—Closed, Monday, December 27th to Monday, January 3rd—OFFICE CLOSED.



CWL: A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped make our Bazaar another success.

Thanks to all the people who assisted in the selling of **Grey Cup Pool** tickets and the winners are: 1st quarter: Alan Boris; 2nd. Quarter: Loyce Clarke; 3rd quarter: Geoff Brand; final: Marg Shaul; reverse final: Corrine Feldhaus

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.

Each year as we enter the Advent season and start to anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, I am reminded of the wonder of the birth of a child and the potential of every child to change the world as Jesus did. Like Jesus, we are each born into a world that calls every generation to recognize the power they have to build a culture of love and peace and hope. There are great people in every generation who hear that call and respond to it by the choices they make, by the way they live their lives and do their work. Think about Jesus, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King. These were all people who accepted the responsibility that comes with the first breath of life, people who used their gifts to change the world.

There are others who are not so well known but who in the very same way have accepted personal responsibility for changing the world. Look around you. Look at the people in your own lives and in your workplaces who every day by the choices they make, by how they live their lives and do their work, spread a message of love and peace and hope. These are often people who go unrecognized, unappreciated. They are often people who will never be rich or famous in the traditional sense but in the eyes of God and in the eyes of those with whom they come into contact are angels, saints, heroes, and role models.

Sometimes people live their whole lives without realizing how important they are, how successful they are, how much of a difference they are making, how their kindness, their gentleness, their service, their nurturing, their caring, their devotion to others is what is really important in the world.

This year, in celebration of Jesus' birth, let us all renew our commitment to recognize our personal power and our personal responsibility to be light for the world. Let this be a time when we reconnect with each other and reach out to those who have no connections. May the blessings of this holy season fill your hearts with the inner peace that comes from being a child of God. May you see in everyone around you, the face of your brothers and sisters.

Lucy Miller, Ed.D.
Chief Superintendent

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 (403) 281-5421, Jill Moroney
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



St. Gerard's Parish

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Telephone (403) 253-2251
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 – 4:00 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.