

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2010**

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$7,083.14	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,647.86	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date:	\$16,798.78
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date:	\$15,177.44
St. Vincent de Paul to date: (as of Dec. 7)	\$35,937.91

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
MONDAY	No Mass INN FROM THE COLD
TUESDAY	Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM [Agnes B.] MASS: 9:00 AM
WEDNESDAY	MASS: 9:00 AM
THURSDAY	Morning Prayer [Agnes B.] MASS: 9:00 AM Set-up for Christmas: 9:45 AM Choir Practice: 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: 5:00 PM Children/Youth (Carols at 4:30PM) 7:00 PM (Carols at 6:40 PM) 9:00 PM (Christmas reflection in word and song at 8:40 PM)
SATURDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Coffee after both Masses (volunteers still needed)

How do we also give birth to Jesus as Mary did?

We tend to manage life more than just live it. We are all over-stimulated and drowning in options. We are trained to be managers, to organize life, to make things happen. That is what built our First World culture. It is not all bad, but if you transfer it to the spiritual life, it is pure heresy. It is wrong. It doesn't work. It is not **gospel**.

If Mary was trustfully carrying Jesus during this time, it is because she knew how to receive spiritual gifts, in fact *the* spiritual gift. She is the perfect example of how God and the fruitfulness of God break into this world...open to saying 'yes' to God; trusting; patient; doing what needed to be done in her time & place. What if Mary had said 'no'? Would there have been another who would have been willing to do what Mary had been asked to do? Might it be you, today?

Adapted from [Preparing for Christmas with Richard Rohr](#)

MISSION MEXICO THANKS YOU

Thank you to our Latino Community for the outstanding breakfast and to all who helped to make our Mission Mexico weekend so nice. The goodies were delicious and we collected \$2,142.74.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 5:00 PM

Thanks to all the children, parents and fellow parishioners 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.

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.



ENVIRONMENT/DECORATING TEAM

The parish staff will be providing hospitality/brunch for everyone on Thursday morning. Foods will be ready in the hall kitchen whenever you have time to take a break from the work of decorating our facility!

Bishop Grandin Marching Ghosts 25th Anniversary

You are all invited to come join us for an adult evening of fun & music on Saturday February 12, 2011 at Bishop Grandin High School.

Cocktails 5:30
Dinner 7.

Live and silent auctions.

Music will be provided by the Hee-bee jee-bees.

Contact Melissa McCaffrey for tickets at 403 281-8832 or tickets will also be available for sale after mass the weekend of January 8 & 9. Thank-you for all your support.

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.

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

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

LUNCHEON FOR COLLECTION COUNTERS & BULLETIN STUFFERS

Jan's Thank You for your help to her for the past year – **Tuesday, January 11th**, in the parish hall at noon.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRATION—Friday, January 14th; in the parish hall beginning at 6:30 PM. For all parents/guardians who wish to have a school-aged child celebrate a sacrament in 2011 at St. Gerard's, and who did not attend the registration in October. Please bring your child's baptismal certificate if your child was not baptized at St. Gerard's. This gathering will be approximately one hour. You will meet the sacramental coordinators, be given an overview of the sacramental prep, and will fill out registration forms.

ST. GERARD'S BOOK CLUB—The evening Book Club will resume on **Tuesday, January 18th** at 7:30 PM. We meet regularly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Our chosen book for the spring session is Jesus' Plan for a New World by Richard Rohr.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest who is known worldwide as a speaker and author. In this work, he collaborates with John Brookser Feister, to explore the Gospel of Matthew and to delve into the Sermon on the Mount, considered to be the blueprint for the Christian lifestyle. "The secret to understanding the Sermon on the Mount", says Rohr, "is to understand what Jesus was about when he preached it. This book is as much about getting ready to hear the Sermon as it is about the Sermon itself."

Everyone is welcome! For information and books, please call Jan in the parish office.

ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON—Wednesday, January 19th; in our parish hall at noon. Everyone is welcome. Each parish will bring soup and a quantity of their community's 'bread specialty' [what is ours?? Egg salad sandwiches?? We need feedback on this.] We will need people to make soup and our bread specialty – whatever you decide that may be. Each congregation will share why/how their bread choice is important in their community. The theme music for this gathering will be: SONG OF THE BODY OF CHRIST by David Haas. We are also looking for 13 people who would like to bake a loaf of bread as a table centerpiece [which will be shared at the table].

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Doreen Yochim, in the parish office. St. Peter's Anglican parish, St. Andrew's Presbyterian parish, Shepherd King Lutheran parish, St. Andrew's United parish, and St. Gerard's Catholic parish are co-hosting this luncheon as our 'prayer gathering' for the Week of Christian prayer.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION REFLECTION/DISCUSSION—Wednesday mornings – resuming on **January 26th** – after morning mass – in the carpeted hall. We have completed the Jean Vanier videos. Our next 'study' will be **ADULT CHRISTIANITY AND HOW TO GET THERE**; presenters: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI and Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM. Both of these master teachers speak to the need for Adult Christianity. Most of us tend to do the 'start up work' and never progress past that point; in fact, most of us 'start up' over and over again. Ron & Richard give us structures and directions which will aid us in true spiritual maturation. Everyone is welcome to join in these sessions; welcome on a drop-in basis also, if you are unable to come each week. Sessions consist of a cd presentation, followed by 10-15 minutes of sharing/reflection. No tangible homework involved!! 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM, approximately

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY—We will be studying the "Galatians and Romans" (Little Rock series) next. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, **February 2nd** at 7:30 PM. Newcomers are welcome.

The Poor and the Needy

By Joyce Rupp
December, 2010

Spiritual Reflections

What a joy it was to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Basilica in Mexico City. It is there that the cloak of Juan Diego, with its imprint of Mary, hangs for all to see. Pilgrims, many of them poor peasants, walk for miles to be able to view the cloak and pray beneath it. Their only wealth is their deep faith in God's abiding presence. Their joy is the bonding they feel with the Mother of God who revealed herself to one of their own.



He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.
—1 Samuel 2:8

People pray during a Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. I stood among these people on that feast and felt richly blessed by their presence. I felt God's goodness continuing to be revealed through them. I heard in my heart the words of Hannah's canticle: God lifts up the poor. I also felt a call to do my part to change the structures and systems that oppress the disenfranchised and impoverished people.

*Mary, source of hope for God's lowly ones,
may I be bonded in love with those who are in need.
May I also do my part to work for justice
so that the poor will be lifted from the ashes of oppression.*

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

DECEMBER 24TH: 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM
DECEMBER 25TH: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: 10:00 AM

No Morning Mass or Morning Prayer between Christmas and New Year's [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.

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 Odrigewitsch, (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



8944 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary, AB T2V 1L2

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.