



# THE GRRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 25

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 8, 2006

## MISSED IN THE RUSH! CALENDAR ADDITIONS

A few additions for the monthly parish calendar that came out last week:

Oct 3	6:30 pm	Religious Educ.
Oct 10	6:30 pm	Religious Educ.
Oct 12	7 pm	Workshop for Communion Ministers
Oct 13	9 am	School Mass
Oct 15	7 pm	Workshop for Religious Educ. Catechists in Parish Office
Oct 16	7 pm	Workshop for Lectors & Commentators
Oct 17	6:30 pm	Religious Educ.
Oct 18	7 pm	Infant Baptism Preparation in Parish Office
Oct 19	7 pm	Infant Baptism Preparation in Parish Office
Oct 23		NO RCIA
Oct 24		NO REL. ED.
Oct 31		NO REL. ED.

## THEO TIDBITS

We've started our second series of Theo-Tidbit sessions. This one is entitled: Planning a Funeral and Writing a Will, facilitated by Fr. Richard. Sessions are held on the following Tuesdays: October 3, 10, 17. And, because some find it harder to get out in the evening, we'll be offering two times: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon and a repeat in the evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Come and join us! See the bulletin boards for more info.

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

As we enter into the Thanksgiving long weekend, the liturgy focuses on God's hope for us. The first reading from Genesis reminds us that all that God made is good, and God made everything in order that we might



have peace and joy. That peace and joy come primarily from our relationships - with God, with all of creation and with one another. Even though the readings focus primarily on the marriage relationship in one aspect or another, the deeper message is that we are called into many relationships, and it is in these relationships that we experience the fullness of peace, life, joy.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect on the gift of these relationships into which we are called by virtue of the life that God has given us. First of all, do we recognize the various gifts that we have been given? How do we react to these gifts? Do we appreciate the gifts that we have received? Are we faithful to the proper use of these gifts?

As we delve deeper into the readings, we begin to recognize that we are made for relationships with one another - it is in forming communities and relationships that we find the fullness of being and life, and that we continue to grow and flourish. On a strictly natural, human level, we recognize that. I'm reminded to stories like Robinson Crusoe, where the shipwrecked person cannot survive alone (other than just physically). He needs another human being to make life what it should be. On a spiritual level we also cannot survive alone. We need God, we need one another in order to be fully human and alive.

As we gather this weekend, we give thanks for all the gifts that God gives us, and our thanksgiving is a commitment to use these gifts as God intends them to be used - that we might all have fullness of life.

## FREE PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

The parish photo directory is coming! We have 50 volunteers to do the phone scheduling. Thank you for your wonderfully generous response. We'll be contacting all you phoners in a few weeks and providing you with the information.



Remember, you get a FREE copy of the directory if you get your picture taken! If

you're curious as to what a photo directory looks like, we have copies of our last one (2000) posted on the bulletin boards. Take a look!

## CREATION HIKERS

Our last hike was Saturday October 7, from Fort George Park to the Cameron Street Bridge. It was a nice stroll through beautiful fall forests! It's also our last hike of the season. Keep your eyes open next spring (May) when we'll re-start the hikes.



## X-COUNTRY SKIERS??

Do you x-country ski? Want to join a group from the parish who will ski together during the winter? Call Erica at 564-1543.

## PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Richard: The year is off to a great start! It seems that there are not enough days in each week to get everything underway, but we are on a roll. This week saw the beginning of our second Theo-Tidbits, with about 18 participants. I'm glad that we are able to respond to some of the interests and needs expressed in the survey that we did in the late spring. We will continue to keep in touch to get your feedback and needs, so that we can better serve the community.

With the change of weather, I have been feeling a bit of internal pressure to get the gardening finished before the snow flies. Hopefully the pile of rocks in the front yard will be transformed into retaining wall for the flower beds and then be covered with snow! It is a great feeling getting the last of the veggies in for the winter.

Giselle: The last couple of weeks have been a whirlwind of activity! Religious Education classes began, along with Children's Liturgy of the Word. We're getting geared up for the Oblate Parish Mission later this month, and there's the Parish Photo Directory to get ready for in December. Not to mention Theo-Tidbits! Finally, we've been assembling all of the components for our parish-wide mail-out. It's taken a while, but this Monday we're going to send Jeannine down to the post office with 800 envelopes, one to every household in the parish. Keep an eye open for them and let us know what you think!

## YOUTH NEWS



What a Blast!!! Youth Group took on the 2006/2007 school year with a huge bang! And I was worried for nothing! And, I am always especially scared when my youth group begins another school year. I wake up with a tummy ache thinking, "what if no one shows up?" or... "what if the games I picked are boring?" or the famous, "will they like me?"

Running a youth group is such a blessing - I cannot imagine St. Mary's Parish without a spirited bunch of teens! For 5 years now, St. Mary's has been the leader of Catholic Youth Ministry in Prince George. It took many gatherings, phone calls and e-mails to get the base that I needed to bring up-to-date activities/prayers/resources to my kids. Every time I think of all the teens that started St. Mary's Youth Group in grade 8 (and stayed with me until graduating from high school!), it brings a tear to my eye. Since I have such a large 'older' group, I have been brainstorming on a way to ripen youth ministry and cater to my young adults. So, at the end of every youth group, anyone grades 12 and older are invited to stay and do something as a group. Whether it's just sitting around a table with a cup of coffee talking about the news or praying about the obstacles of life. We are also looking into adult volunteer groups around town.

So, bring it on 2007! We are ready! Youth Group runs on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sunday of each month until June. We begin at 7pm until 8:30 (for grades 7 thru 12) then young adults from 8:30 on. Keep an eye on the bulletin for updates!

## LISTENING CENTRES

Several of the Listening Centres that began with the OMI Mission in November 2005 are still meeting on a regular basis. They would welcome interested participants! Listed below are the active Listening Centres for St. Mary's Parish:

Suzanne Lefebvre	964-9580	College Hts.
Terry Bopp	564-2635	Westwood
Janice Haddock	563-0159	Ospika & Massey
Tom Makowsky	564-3838	Spruceland
Paul Laliberte	563-8465	Tabor & 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave
Angie Hoksbergen	562-9844	10 <sup>th</sup> & Freeman
Dorothy Reimer	562-3749	Central
Tony Cue	962-8680	Hart Hwy.

## WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNION MINISTERS

All Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (new & old) are encouraged to attend a workshop on Thursday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

## WORKSHOP FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISTS

All Religious Education teachers are invited to attend a workshop with Sr. Mary-Ann Bates on Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the Parish Office building (1088 Gillett Street).

## WORKSHOP FOR LECTORS & COMMENTATORS

All lectors and commentators (new & old) are asked to attend a workshop on Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

## FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Fair Trade coffee is available after the morning masses on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Come and support farmers in the Third World receive a living wage.



## RENOVATIONS

More renovations! We're creating another meeting room in the basement of the parish office. The dining/living room is being repainted and will have chairs and tables available for parish groups.



## WEBSITE

Our website is a great place to find information on what's happening in the parish.

[www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg](http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg)

## BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR INFANTS

Our next baptism preparation session for parents who wish their infants or young children (under 5 years old) to be baptized, will be held on October 18 & 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office (1088 Gillett Street).

Parents are expected to attend both sessions.

Please phone the parish office ahead of time so we have an idea how many couples to expect.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please remember the sick and suffering in our community and families, especially:



Marvin Lane  
Joseph & Frances Glosser  
(Kathy Labonte's parents)  
Beverly Teegee  
Gracie George  
Judy Nelson  
Eugene Bachand  
Sr. Margaret Quinn  
Josephine Nykoluk  
Anne White

## REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following member in the sacrament of Baptism:

Kaden Mick/Patrick Finn  
Audrey Cirko  
Jessie Ann Duncan

*It's time to rekindle the flame!!*



## Oblate Parish Mission Returns

You are invited to enjoy again the music, preaching, drama, and the ritual of the Great Assemblies led by the Oblate Parish Mission Team: Father Al, Father Mark, Brother Louis and Ed and Natalie Schrader.

### SUNDAY, October 22



2:30 p.m. - Listening Centre "open house" at St. Mary's Conference room. Come and experience a Listening Centre.



7:00 p.m. - The first Great Assemblies at St. Mary's Church. Everyone welcome!

### MONDAY, October 23



12:10 p.m. - Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral including anointing of the sick.



3:30 to 4:30 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's Church with opportunity to celebrate reconciliation.



7:00 p.m. - The second Great Assembly at St. Mary's. Bring the whole family.

### TUESDAY, October 24



12:10 p.m. - Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral.



3:30 to 4:30 p.m. - Adoration and reconciliation at St. Mary's Church.



7:00 p.m. - The third Great Assembly at St. Mary's. The last chance this year to experience the joy and excitement of these celebrations!

During the days, the Oblate Parish Mission Team will be visiting sick and shut-ins at home, in hospital and care homes. If you know someone who is ill please let your Parish staff know so that the person's name can be included on the visiting list.

Mark your calendars now!!

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday,

October 22, 23 and 24,

7:00 PM each evening at

St. Mary's Church (1088 Gillett Street)

Blessings on each one from the local Mission Planning Team

## MINISTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Bishop Gerry, often reminds us that "all members of the Church are called to ministry in virtue of our baptism". Each member of the community, then is called to ministry. In this sense, we recognize that the ministry to which we are called is the proclamation of the Good News and the building up of the Kingdom. Within that broad call, are many different calls to ministry. St. Paul teaches that different gifts are given to different people, by the one Spirit, all for the same purpose; the building up of the body. This means that, called to different ministries, we all share in the ministry of the Church. We cannot think of ministry as only pertaining to the ordained or those living the consecrated life but as a call for all of us to be involved.

In the coming issues, we will reflect on various ministries. Remembering that ministry is service, we will look at how individuals are called to serve the local community. However, we also need to remember that ministry calls us to reach out to the broader community and serve the needs of our sisters and brothers around us. So, we will look at liturgical ministries, ministries of service within the community as well as ministry to the larger community.

Our hope is that as we reflect on this vital topic, we will recognize ways in which each of us is called to use the gifts God has given us to serve the needs of our sisters and brothers.

## FUNERAL TIDBITS

Everything you wanted to know, but couldn't ask! At this week's session of Theo Tidbits, we took time to reflect on many questions about funerals, practices, etc. Here is a short summary of some of the discussion.

### WHY FUNERALS?

Funerals fulfill many needs: to bid farewell in a public and tangible way, to honour the person who has died, to remember, to give thanks for the gift of this person's life, to celebrate God's gift of life, to allow grieving to happen, to put closure to the loss of a loved one, to strengthen the hope and faith of the bereaved, to offer the support, strength and prayers of the community.

### CREMATION

Cremation is an acceptable option. If possible, cremation should follow the funeral. For practical reasons, cremation may precede the funeral, in which case the cremated remains are present for the funeral liturgy. Due care and respect are to be given to the cremated remains, and they should be interred (this can be in a special section of the cemetery, in an existing grave or a columbarium).

### EULOGY

Eulogies are suggested at the Vigil Service, the night before the funeral. If there is no Vigil, or the family prefers, the eulogy can be at the funeral, right at the beginning, after the procession into the Church. The eulogy should be brief, and should be a sharing of memories about the deceased, without unduly 'canonizing'.

## DAILY PROPHET: MICAH THE JUST



Micah is a more mysterious figure than Amos or Hosea. We know very little about him, other than the fact that he was an inhabitant of Moresheth-gath, a tiny, insignificant village in southwestern Judah. Micah definitely did not hob-nob with the rich and famous, unlike his contemporary, Isaiah, who lived in Jerusalem.

Micah began his ministry around the year 725 BC, three years before the fall of the northern kingdom. His message, as you would expect is similar to that of Amos and Hosea, but has its own distinctive tone. As we know from the earlier columns on Amos and Hosea, the moment of truth is coming for the northern kingdom, Israel. The injustices that they have waged against the poor, the widows and the orphans are going to come to roost, for soon they will be led into exile. Micah is a Judean prophet, and although the day of reckoning is coming for the southern kingdom of Judah as well, it won't happen for almost 150 years. Still, his message has relevance both for Israel, whose doom is imminent, and for Judah, who could learn a lesson or two if they were to pay attention.

Living as he does in the Judean foothills, Micah's language is coloured more by the countryside than by the machinations of the urban city-dwellers. He knows firsthand the results of political intrigue and greed on the part of the rich and the powerful. He cries out against the landlords who take advantage of the poor. People are forced from their homes and family farms because of the greed of civic officials, priests and even other prophets. Micah foresees a time when Jerusalem and the Temple will be utterly destroyed.

As with the other prophets we have already looked at, Micah's message is not solely doom and gloom. He also foresees a time when Zion and Judah will be restored. There will come a time of peace and prosperity, such as has never been seen before. Micah also foresees a time when a just ruler shall arise in Bethlehem (5:2-5), a passage that has even been incorporated into the nativity account in the Gospel of Matthew (2:6).

Concerned as he is with justice, Micah uses some of the language of the courthouse, in which God speaks as though he were both prosecutor and judge. God has shown himself to be a compassionate and caring God since the days of the Exodus. In return, all he asks is that the people respond in love. The people, however, far from coming to their worship with hearts full of love, come with hands full of animal sacrifices, but sacrifices that have no meaning behind them, for they are simply empty shells that mean nothing. One of the most famous passages from Micah is this:

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good:  
And what does the Lord require of you  
But to do justice,  
And to love kindness,  
And to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

These are words to live by, even in our own day and age, seemingly so far removed from the time of Micah. To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.

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### WHO'S ON FIRST...

Just a little tracking system so you have an idea of who's where doing what!

Oct 3, 10, 17	Theo-Tidbits—Richard	Oct 27-29	Giselle at Lay Formation
Oct 14 & 15	Giselle preaching	Oct 28-Nov 6	Fr. Larry McLennan here
Oct 15	Vespers-Richard presides	Nov 11 & 12	Giselle preaching
Oct 22-Nov 10	Richard on holidays	Nov 19	Vespers—Giselle presides