



THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 26

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 22, 2006

REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER



Traditionally, November is the month the church dedicates to the Holy Souls, when we remember our

deceased relatives and friends.



As in past years, a BOOK OF LIFE will be left in front of the tabernacle for the month of November.

You are invited to take some time and add the names of your relatives or friends to the pages in the book.

THEO TIDBITS



Our second series has concluded but our third series is eagerly waiting in the wings!

On November 8 & 15, Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin will speak on The End... of Time.

If you've ever wondered about the Rapture, Armageddon or whether or not only 144,000 will be saved, then this is the session for you!!!

Mary-Anne will walk us through some of these end-time images from the Book of Revelation and help us to understand them more fully and hopefully more clearly!

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!!

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!

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

On December 9 & 10, Fr. Ken Forster, OMI, will be a guest speaker here at St. Mary's. Fr. Ken spent almost ten years ministering in Kenya, where the Oblates had been asked to take on a new mission. One of the main concerns of the people in that area is the need for a ready supply of potable water. Over the years, the Oblates and their supporters helped the communities in Kenya build and install a water system. Fr. Ken will speak about the project and the need for water. He will also be soliciting donations to help in the work in Kenya. More details in the next issue.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: By the time this is in your hands, I will have begun my two weeks holiday. During this time I will visit the seminarians in the Philippines and do a bit of sight-seeing. On the way home, I will stop in Regina for a week-long meeting and be back on November 10.

This weekend also marks the beginning of the first follow-up to the Oblate Mission which we celebrated last fall. I pray that these days and gatherings will be a time of blessing for all the members of the parish and of the city. While the mission is being celebrated at St. Mary's it is for the entire city and so we extend the hand of hospitality to our sisters and brothers.

Giselle: Alas, I have nowhere fun to go for the next few weeks, so will be hanging around the parish. The next few days, we have the Oblate Parish Mission. I will be away the weekend of October 27-29, teaching Introduction to Scripture for the Lay Formation group at Camp Emile. After that it's the usual routine of RCIA, Religious Education classes and keeping on top of the website.

I'm also looking ahead to the post-Christmas season and beginning to schedule our second semester of Theo Tidbits. Lots to keep me busy!

And... apparently, while Fr. Richard is away, I'm also in charge of keeping all of his baby geraniums and African violets alive until his return. Talk about pressure!!

FUNERAL TIDBITS

A few more of the questions that were raised at the first session on planning funerals:

PREPLANNING

Preplanning one's funeral can relieve the burden on individuals and families at the time of one's death. Funeral homes have a preplanning service, and one can make all the arrangements with the funeral home, including choosing the casket, arranging for a plot in the cemetery and detailing the services. Funerals can be prepaid as well. As far as the liturgical celebrations go, it is very helpful for the bereaved to have a well planned funeral prepared for them. Be sure that the family members have a copy of the plans.



For those sessions offered at St. Mary's, please contact the parish office to register. For the Engaged Encounter weekends, please call 964-2805 to register.

SUICIDE

Can someone who has committed suicide have a Catholic funeral? We cannot judge a person who has committed suicide, and the guidelines state that a funeral is to be celebrated in the normal way, including burial. This is especially important for the peace of mind of the bereaved, allowing them to grieve with the support of the community and to have a sense of closure.

DELAYED FUNERAL

What if no funeral was celebrated at the time of death, but we want to do something at a later time? Again, the funeral is an opportunity for the bereaved to grieve and to have closure, to bid farewell in a formal way and to have an opportunity to pray for the deceased in the midst of the community of faith. A funeral service or memorial service can be celebrated at a later time, even if it is quite a bit later. The important issue is the peace of mind of those who mourn the death of a loved one.

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 st Ave
Angie Hoksbergen	562-9844	10 th & Freeman
Dorothy Reimer	562-3749	Central
Tony Cue	962-8680	Hart Hwy.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

There are several different options for marriage preparation:



For those sessions offered at St. Mary's, please contact the parish office to register. For the Engaged Encounter weekends, please call 964-2805 to register.

Nov 24 & 25

Friday evening & Saturday until about 8:30 p.m. (with meals) at St. Mary's

Jan 24 to Mar 7

Six Wednesday evening sessions at St. Mary's

Mar 23-26

Engaged Encounter Weekend

May 11-13

Engaged Encounter Weekend

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 January 17 & 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. 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.

A PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

A few months ago we had a note indicating that a group of people were interested in studying *A Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. Are you interested in joining them?? They plan to start sometime in January. If you are interested, you can call Nives Pastro at 562-1735 or contact the parish office. Give her or us a call!!!

WEBSITE

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

www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg

RENOVATIONS

We're finally done!!!
For the moment...
The upstairs and downstairs meeting rooms in the parish office building are ready for use!
The Conference Room should be completely painted some time in November.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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



Marvin Lane
Joseph Glosser
(Kathy Labonte's father)
Beverly Teegee
Judy Nelson
Eugene Bachand
Sr. Margaret Quinn
Josephine Nykoluk
Anne White
Nick Palfy
Don Binnie
Sheila Livingstone

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following members in the sacrament of Baptism:



Liam James Kennedy Rea
Kara Kathleen Kukko

In the hope of the resurrection, we bid farewell to:



Gracie George
Frances Glosser
Geraldine Srochenski

MINISTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

ALTAR SERVERS

For many, the very first ministry in which we become involved in our parish community is the ministry of serving - altar servers. It is often our first ministry because we can start at a relatively young age. At St. Mary's, and in most places, Grade 4 is about the age requirement for this ministry. Asked the function of altar servers, most would respond that they serve the priest. This, however, is not the main focus of the servers' ministry. The main focus is the community gathered to celebrate.



Altar servers are called to serve the whole community that is gathered. Through their ministry they assist each member of the community to celebrate well. They do the often mundane tasks that are necessary for the smooth movement of the liturgy - holding the sacramentary, lighting candles, setting the altar, leading the procession, taking messages to other groups gathered as part of our community celebration, serving at the altar, assisting all the ministers when necessary. Their ministry frees the members of the congregation to give themselves totally to prayer and celebration, without having to worry about so many of the practical details.

Altar servers minister to us in another way as well. Through their service, they give witness to the rest of the community that we are all called to serve. Jesus reminds us that he came to serve, rather than to be served, and that we are to imitate him in this attitude to discipleship. Servers remind us of our call to serve our sisters and brothers, not just when we gather in church, but in the world as well.

Serving as an altar server is wonderful preparation for our lives as disciples of Jesus. As the community is served at our weekly gatherings, those who minister in this way develop a servant's heart and attitude, recognizing that in serving, we are following the example and command of Jesus himself. While serving may be viewed as something only for children and for the benefit of the priest, we need to be reminded of the importance of this ministry in the life of the church, we need to encourage our young people to become involved in this ministry and we need to remember that the witness of these young people in our community is for the good of the whole church.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the September financial statement.

Bank Balance:	122.50
DDF Balance:	173075.64
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>-383.21</u>
Total Assets	172814.93

INCOME

Donations	11469.35
Fees	500.00
Programs	0.00
Other	550.00
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total Income	12539.35

EXPENSES

Administration	16352.24
Programs	294.87
Operation/Maint.	3665.71
<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>726.79</u>
Total Expense	21039.61

Net Income -8500.26

The bottom line (net income) looks bad, but what is important is the bank balance - and we still had some money in the bank at the end of the month. Our monthly statement for September did not include the rental income for that month, as it had been posted to the previous month in error, so in fact our net income would look better if that were included. We have come pretty much to the end of the repairs for this year, so our budgeting should be on track again for the remainder of the year. Thank you for your continuing generosity in supporting your parish!!



UNLIKELY HEROES & HEROINES OF THE BIBLE

Tobit, Jonah and Judith... Heard of any of them? They're definitely not as well known as Superman, Spiderman, X-Men and the Bat Girl. You've probably heard of Jonah and can remember that he ran away from God and was swallowed by a big fish (some hero!). You might remember that Judith was a feisty Jewish woman who is renowned for cutting off the head of the Assyrian General Holofernes (in the midst of his encamped army no less). And then there's Tobit, who is blinded by bird droppings, his son Tobias, who hangs out with angels and Tobais' future wife, Sarah, who gets married seven times, only to have a demon kill every one of her husbands. Talk about bad luck! But things do work out in the end and everybody lives happily ever after (except for Holofernes of course... and maybe Jonah, if he never got over his snit-fit with God).

Interested in learning more about these heros and heroines of our Catholic tradition? We don't hear a lot about them in the Sunday readings, or even the week-day readings, but all 3 books pack very powerful messages that impact us even today.

A group of us are planning to dive a bit deeper into the books of Tobit, Judith and Jonah, *probably* starting in November. We'll *probably* meet once a week (haven't picked a time yet), for *probably* 1.5 hours. If that sounds good & interesting, then you'll *probably* come!

DAILY PROPHET: ISAIAH THE FIRST



Isaiah the First?? You mean there was more than one Isaiah? Well... yes and no. The book of I saiah is the longest of the prophetic books in the bible. As with most of the prophetic books, it was composed and edited over a number of centuries, and resembles a patch-work quilt more than a comforter! The book can be divided into three main sections: chapters 1-39, 40-55, 56-66. The first part was written before the exile of Judah, the second part was written during the Exile, and the third part was written after the Exile. Although only the first part was written by the prophet we know as I saiah, the other two are included within the book as well, for they continue the thinking and prophetic tradition of I saiah of Jerusalem.

Today, we're just going to take a quick look at I saiah the First, or I saiah of Jerusalem as he is sometimes know. We know a little bit more about I saiah then we do about some of the other prophets we've been looking at. I saiah was the son of Amoz and lived in Jerusalem in the southern kingdom of Judah. He started his ministry sometime after the year 740 BC and continued up until about 700 BC. Unlike Amos and Micah, I saiah is a city boy and was very involved in the political events of his day. He even seems to have had direct access to the king and moved with ease in the royal Judean courts.

Although I saiah is part of the ruling class, he echoes his contemporaries (Hosea, Amos and Micah) by condemning the social injustices of his day. He condemns the upper classes for their greed and materialism which directly suppress the rights of the weak and the defenseless. I saiah also condemns the worship of false gods and their empty ritual sacrifices. Retribution is coming...

I saiah's career and viewpoint were strongly influenced by a number of political and national crises. There was the Syro-Ephraimite war, where Syria and the northern kingdom of I srael tried to convince Judah to join them in fighting off the Assyrians. Judah refused, so Syria and I srael turned on her. The king of Judah, Ahaz, asked Assyria for help, and in return for this assistance, Judah becomes a subject of Assyria. In 722, the northern kingdom of I srael fell to Assyria. And finally in 701, the king of Judah, Hezekiah, rebelled against the Assyrian king and drew the wrath of the Assyrians upon his head. And yet, Jerusalem is not destroyed... yet...

All of these political events shape and colour I saiah's prophetic ministry. He can foresee the disaster that is coming to Judah, and laments that political alliances with Assyria are only delaying the inevitable. Judah is trying to rely on human power, when really, it should be relying on God, the Holy One of I srael. I saiah tells Ahaz that he needs to have faith and trust in God. This is very hard for Judah to swallow when the Assyrians are sitting on their doorstep! And yet, I saiah encourages them to assume a pacifist attitude, to trust in God, and to believe that although things might get rough for a while, God will prevail. I saiah predicts that both kingdoms will fall, but also foresees a time when God would rebuild the kingdom with a faithful remnant who will be holy and righteous before God. They will be ruled by a future king who will sprout from the stump of Jesse (I s 11:1-2). For Christians, this king is Jesus the Messiah.

WHO'S ON FIRST...

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

Oct 22-Nov 5	Richard on holidays	Nov 11 & 12	Giselle preaching
Oct 27-29	Giselle at Lay Formation	Nov 19	Vespers—Giselle presides
Oct 28-Nov 6	Fr. Larry McLennan here	Nov 22-25	Giselle away
Nov 5-10	Richard in Regina	Dec 6	Advent Vespers-Richard