

FINANCES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER PRACTICAL STUFF

Below is the synopsis of the October financial statement. The detailed financial statement is posted on the bulletin boards for your information.



Bank Balance:	280.45
DDF balance	168,747.89
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>2,684.70</u>
Total Assets	171,713.04

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	18,070.26	Administration	19,810.02
Fees	375.00	Programs	856.75
Programs	255.00	Operation/Maint.	1,592.83
Other	795.00	<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>2,868.05</u>
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3,225.00</u>	Total Expense	25,127.65
Total Income	22,720.26	Net Income	-2,407.39

Once again our income is up over the previous month, mainly due to the fact that there was an extra weekend in October. However, in comparing this year to last, our income is up significantly – about \$6000 in collections and varying from \$175 to \$1500 in the Fees, Programs and Other categories. At month end, we had very little in the current account, but we had paid our bills except for the cathedraticum, and the rental income went into the bank at the beginning of November, so we have money to operate.

One of the apartments was vacated in mid-October, so we had the cost of preparing it for a new tenant – painting and carpet cleaning. That was not budgeted for, and so it did change our cash flow for October. We do not have any major extraordinary expenses planned in November, and hopefully we will have our Mission expenses refunded soon after the Mission is over, which will put us right on track to continue paying all our operating expenses in a timely fashion.

In keeping with the spirit of stewardship, we endeavor to share a portion of our blessings with others. There was a note earlier in the bulletin about our participation in a program to help educate seminarians for the Northern dioceses of our country. Those dioceses cover huge territories, are sparsely populated, and rely heavily on Catholic Missions in Canada and other benefactors for their financial needs. In contributing to the education of seminarians, we are participating in the mission of the Church in these Canadian dioceses and so living out our mission to proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. Thank you to all for your generosity in contributing to the needs of our parish.

The G...R...R... "Home" Page

Number 3

November 6, 2005

INTRODUCTORY INFO

Welcome to our "Home Page"; you may have noticed a name change! That is to reflect the three members of the pastoral team – Giselle, Roberta and Richard. The contents of this publication, along with a lot of other information can be found on the Internet at <http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/> for those who are computer savvy and connected! And we've added a BLOG link on the page, for your discussion, comments, and suggestions!!

WELCOME ADVENT - VESPERS

This year we will begin the season with a solemn celebration of Vespers on Sunday, November 27 at 4:30 p.m. in the Church. Vespers is one of the "hours" of the liturgy of Hours, which is the official prayer of the Church. The Liturgy of Hours is prayed by priests and religious as well as many parish communities on a daily basis. It is modeled to a great extent on the synagogue service, consisting of hymns, psalms, readings and intercessory prayers. At St. Mary's we pray Morning Prayer each weekday from the Liturgy of Hours. There are seven "hours", Matins (Office of Readings), Lauds (Morning Prayer), Mid-morning, Mid-day and Mid-Afternoon Prayer, Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer). In monastic communities, such as the Benedictines or Trappists, the community gathers for each of the seven hours, and generally the psalms are chanted. In parish communities, the choice is often to celebrate Morning and/or Evening Prayer, and it is prayed in a more simple fashion.

With the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the Liturgy of Hours was simplified, and all members of the Church were invited to join in praying this universal prayer of the Church. In celebrating Vespers, it is our hope to introduce the Liturgy of Hours to more people in the parish, and perhaps to work toward celebrating Vespers on a more regular basis. At present, the Liturgy Committee plans to have a celebration of Vespers at least at the beginning of each new liturgical season.

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN

We're going to hold another series of sessions after Christmas, hosted here at St. Mary's. If your child would like to be baptized, please phone Giselle at the parish office.

PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Last week (Oct 24-28), Giselle was in Charlottetown for the Canadian Association of Ministries Programmes Conference. This was an excellent time to network with other coordinators of Lay Formation programmes in Canada. This weekend (Nov 4-6) Giselle is in Terrace for Lay Formation. The following weekend, she is attending the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators in Kelowna (along with Joe Glaab, Sr. Mary-Ann Bates and others from our Diocese).

Richard has returned from his travels to the North, East and West ends of the diocese. Other than a quick trip to Fraser Lake on November 6 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the renaming of the parish and opening of the new Church, he will be in Prince George until the end of November. Along with involvement in the Oblate Mission, there will also be meetings of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Catholic Independent Schools Board of Directors.



IT'S HERE!!! CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Finally!!! This Sunday, November 6, we are beginning the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All children, between the ages of 4 and 8 are invited to come out with us after the Opening Prayer to hear the Word proclaimed and explained in a language they can understand. Any parents or others, who are willing to assist are invited to contact Giselle at the parish office.

SUNDAY BULLETINS FOR CHILDREN

These are proving to be wildly popular with our younger members! We've started printing out more of the black and white versions for the younger children. And we've ordered more of the coloured ones as well, for the older children. Parents... remind your children to pick up their very own bulletin as they leave the church each Sunday! We have different ones for each Sunday of the Liturgical Year.



WANTED: USED CHILDREN'S ARCH BOOKS

Does anyone have any Arch Books lying around the house, or stored away in boxes? Have your children long outgrown them? We could use some for our Children's Liturgy of the Word! Please call the parish office or drop them off if you wish. Thanks!



BLESSING OF GRAVES

Quite a few people who participated in the Mass at Sacred Heart on Saturday morning and in the blessing of graves at the cemetery have commented on what a great celebration it was. Hopefully this will become an annual event around All Souls' Day.



REMEMBERING CHURCH

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the Catholic Church? This fall, after the OMI Parish Mission in November, St. Mary's Parish and Sacred Heart Cathedral will be hosting a series of gatherings to Welcome Home all inactive Catholics. Please phone Giselle at the parish office for more information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

In case you've been wondering... yes we are participating in the RCIA process this fall, together with Sacred Heart Cathedral and Immaculate Conception Parish. At this point in time however, St. Mary's has no active catechumens or candidates. We're always open to interested parties!! Also, please note the schedule for the next few Mondays:

- Nov 7 The RCIA group will be attending Bishop Gerry's presentation on the Eucharistic Synod at the Domano Renewal Centre - 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Nov 14 All are invited to participate in the OMI Mission Listening Centres in their home parishes
- Nov 21 All are invited to attend the OMI Mission Great Assemblies at Sacred Heart.
- Nov 28 RCIA is back on track and meeting at 7 pm in the Conference Room!!!

PREPARING FOR THE END

There are only three Sundays left in Ordinary Time and in this liturgical Year. On November 27 we begin the season of Advent and a new year. The liturgies during these final weeks of the year focus on the end times - the return of Jesus. We are invited by the Word of God to reflect on the meaning of life and death, of discipleship and mission, of relationship with God and with others. We begin the month of November celebrating those who have gone before us in faith, and we spend the month reflecting on what it means to live in faith. Jesus, in the Gospels, uses parables to challenge us to make faith our way of life, to trust in God's love, to seek to live as true disciples. As the earth moves from summer through autumn to the death of winter, so we too are challenged to reflect on the progression of our own lives and on the way in which we live our lives. With Advent, we begin again the cycle of living, remembering and celebrating the mystery of redemption - of God's unfailing love revealed in Jesus Christ.