



# THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 36

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of LENT

March 4, 2007

## PARISH LENTEN MISSION



Why is Bishop Gerry here this weekend? Because our Parish Mission is this weekend!!!

He is our guest presenter on the theme of Eucharist. The parish mission isn't just this weekend either. It continues for the next few days:

- Sunday Mar 4—7 pm
- Monday Mar 5—7 pm
- Tuesday Mar 6—7 pm

And on Wednesday, March 7, we will celebrate our Lenten Reconciliation Service in the context of Vespers.

We hope that you can attend at least part of the mission!!!

## THEO-TIDBITS



Our new season of Theo-Tidbits has started!

Our next series is entitled: Sin and Grace and will take place on three successive Tuesdays in March (13/20/27).

In April, Susan Campbell will tackle the Paschal Mystery and in May, Sr. Hazel will look at annulments & divorce.

Check out the schedule on the bulletin boards for times and dates and places. We have business cards in a pocket on the posters...

## BROWN BAG IT!!



During the season of Lent, we are all encouraged to practice almsgiving, i.e. giving to the less fortunate in our community. The St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks to respond to the needs of the poor in our community, but they rely on our help to do so.

This Lent, we thought we would try something a little different. You're probably wondering what the paper bag is for... Well... the idea would be... during the next few weeks, whenever you go shopping, you are encouraged to pick up a few things from the items listed below. Stuff your brown bag as full as it will go (without breaking). Then, on Solidarity Sunday, March 25, we are all encouraged to bring our full brown bags to Mass. After the collection has been taken up, we will be invited to bring our bags up in procession and deposit them in the sanctuary area.

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|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Pasta          | Pasta Sauce      | Rice          |
| Dry Stew       | Canned Beans     | Canned Peas   |
| Flour          | Dry Beans/Peas   | Dry Soup      |
| Canned Fish    | Canned Veggies   | Canned Fruit  |
| Canned Meat    | Canned Soup      | Peanut Butter |
| Canned Milk    | Powdered Milk    | Canned Stew   |
| Crackers       | 100% Fruit Juice | Cereal bars   |
| Tea            | Hot Chocolate    | Baby Food     |
| Infant Formula | Breakfast cereal |               |

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

After last week's survey (see bulletin board for results), we have chosen



a date for our first Wedding Anniversary Mass: Saturday, March 24 @ 7 pm. We will invite all couples who have a wedding anniversary in January, February or March to attend. After that, we'll celebrate the Masses more or less monthly.

## OUR 3<sup>rd</sup> TABLE FOR TWO

Our third Table for Two is coming up on Friday, March 16. If you are one of the lucky folks to receive an invitation, please say yes!!! We're not yet sure what culinary delights Fr. Richard is going to create, but it will be yummy!



## SPRING IS COMING!!!

Have you started planting your seedlings or your cuttings? Have you started your baby African Violets? Or replanted some spider plant babies? Now is the time to get them going!!!



Our Second Annual Plant Sale in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is coming up in May. We will accept any contributions of greenery—house plants, perennials, bedding plants, vegetable seedlings, etc. Anything you can contribute will add to the success of the sale. We plan to make it more of a fair atmosphere this year, with some lawn chairs, coffee and perhaps a doughnut or two and lots of opportunity to browse, schmooze and get some plant material for your summer enjoyment.

## PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The past couple of weeks have been parish time for the most part. There have been a few funerals and memorial services, and lots of office work getting ready for different things and catching up on others. Marriage preparation has been ongoing, and most enjoyable, with thirteen couples participating this time around. I'm off to Los Angeles for the Religious Education Conference, which is a total shift from the Federal and Provincial Employment Law conference that I attended last week! There is always something interesting in my schedule. There are lots of seedlings up and many cuttings rooting as I work at getting some material for the spring plant sale. That is relaxation time for me.

Giselle: Life is still pretty busy! The Sacramental Preparation sessions for children preparing for Confirmation and 1st Communion have started. Last Sunday we celebrated the Rite of Election for the RCIA at the Cathedral. This weekend is the Parish Mission. Next week we start our Bible study on Tobit. The Chrism Mass is just around the corner and Easter isn't far behind!

Having said that, I still had time to attend the Religious Education Congress in Los Angeles this past week and weekend. This is a massive event with 20,000 participants and over 200 workshops to choose from. No time for Disneyland!

Starting some spider plant babies for the plant sale!!!

## MINISTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY: LITURGY COMMITTEE



In the past, there was no such thing as a liturgy committee, as the celebrations were set in the Roman Missal and clerics filled all the liturgical roles. Today, with the renewal of the liturgy

called for by Vatican II, we recognize that the whole community celebrates the liturgy and that we all exercise our baptismal priesthood in various ways when we gather to celebrate. Hence the need for a committee to prepare, co-ordinate and direct our celebrations as well as to invite ministers and train them.

Our parish liturgy committee meets on a regular basis to do various things. We generally review the celebrations and season which have just concluded and make notes on things that need work or some special attention. We also review the art and environment and the various other ministries, again to note where attention needs to be given. We also look ahead to the coming season and make plans for the celebrations, the focus of the season and for any special ministries that are needed. The various members of the committee co-ordinate specific ministries, scheduling ministers, recruiting new ministers and training them. One of the more important functions of the committee is the training of new ministers.

There is an educational component to the liturgy committee as well. The committee itself seeks to continually learn about liturgy and the life of the church, but is also concerned about helping the community to learn too. We discuss various kinds of initiatives to share knowledge with the community and seek to provide opportunities for learning and growing, whether it be the bulletin inserts for Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter or workshops for ministries or other issues around parish life. While the mandate for the liturgy committee focuses on liturgy, we need to remember that liturgy touches many aspects of our lives, and so the mandate of the committee is fairly broad.

Like any group in the parish, the liturgy committee is happy to welcome new people who are interested in being part of the committee, learning more about liturgy and assisting to direct the liturgical life of the parish.

## MUSICAL JAMMIN' COFFEE HOUSE

Love to sing?  
Play an instrument?  
Thinking of singing with  
the choir?



Nervous about doing it in front of a bunch of people? Here's good news for you!!! Come and join the Saturday evening music ministry for an hour or two of jammin'. Bring your instrument or your voice to the Conference Room after Mass on March 17. Coffee and tea will be available for those who need to lubricate their voices! No strings attached! No pressure! Just come and have a good time singing and jamming—using the gifts that God gave you!!

## UNLIKELY HEROES & HEROINES OF THE BIBLE

Our study of Judith is finished, but in a few weeks, we'll take a look at Tobit.

Book of Tobit  
Mar 14/21/28

@ 7:30 pm (after Vespers)  
We'll continue to meet in the Parish Office Meeting Room. This will be our last bible study of the spring. Next fall... it's Parables of Jesus!

## CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION

Our date for celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation & First Communion with the Grade 2's is Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. The preparation sessions will take place on the following Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school gym: Mar 13, 20 & 27, Apr 17 & 24.

## STEWARDSHIP ON A GLOBAL LEVEL

During Lent the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace reminds us of the great wealth we have as Canadians and of our call to be good stewards of this wealth. As Pope Paul VI wrote 40 years ago in the encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples):

"God intends the earth and its goods for everyone....The superfluous wealth of rich countries should be placed at the service of poor nations.... Private property is not an absolute and unconditional right, it must be exercised for the common good."



We may ask, "What wealth?" as we may sometimes struggle to meet our own family's expenses. We must remember that we live in a country without war; a country where almost everyone has access to clean water, food, education and healthcare; a country where we are not tortured or killed for standing up for our beliefs. Many of the world's people go without these basic human rights.

If God is calling us to be good stewards of our wealth, the question then is "How can we be good global stewards?" Development and Peace (D&P) gives us two excellent tools to help us live this call.

The first is that D&P provides us with educational materials that help to inform us on world issues of poverty and injustice. Educating ourselves about some of these issues is the first step. Once we become educated our eyes and hearts will become open to our brothers and sisters who are suffering. Throughout Lent there will be educational inserts in the Sunday bulletin.

The second tool that D&P gives us is the opportunity to give financially to projects that are centered on the gospel values of peace, democracy building, defense of human rights and the equitable distribution of resources to name a few. As Pope Paul VI wrote:

"Development can not be limited to economic growth but looks to total human potential"

This is the principle that Development and Peace is founded on. March 25<sup>th</sup> is Solidarity Sunday, which marks the annual Share Lent collection. This lent we should take some time to reflect on how much we are able to give to this worthy cause. Development and Peace also provides us with the opportunity to make a monthly contribution to their projects. This invitation will be included in one of Sunday bulletins.

Being a good global steward is not only about giving, it is about lifestyle changes. Making small day to day changes to reduce our use of resources. For example: trying to avoid the use of disposable products; cycling, walking or taking the bus instead of driving; being conscious of the amount of water we use. Another activity we can do is to take the time to write letters to our elected officials asking them to look to the total human potential rather than solely economic growth in their decisions.

Below is a prayer that we can use to help us live this call to stewardship.

*(Guest Author: Nadine Hale)*

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### PRAYER: UNEARTH JUSTICE

Creator God, in your hands  
you hold the depths of the earth  
and the heights of the mountains,  
for all creation belongs to you.

Grant us grace to cherish your world  
and wisdom to nurture its resources.  
Save us from the desire  
to control what is not ours and  
the impulse to possess what is there to share.

Give us insight to see where power is abused  
and courage to speak out  
where truth is negated.  
Guard us against complacency  
in the face of arrogant destruction

and ignite us with holy rage  
where fires of conflict are fanned by greed.

Forge in us hearts of gold to meet suffering  
with compassion and wills of iron  
to challenge injustice with purpose.

Inspire us ever to search your ways and  
find new paths that we may join hands  
with friend and stranger  
to unearth justice and find lasting treasure.

Amen

Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD

## CALLING ALTAR SERVERS

There have been some inquiries from children about the possibility of serving at Mass, so we would like to respond and invite anyone, Grade 3/4 and up, who is interested in becoming an altar server to come to an orientation/practice/sign-up session on Saturday, March 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Church.



## OUR WEBSITE

Check out our website for information on 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 Tues, March 13 & Wed, March 14 at 7 pm Please phone the parish office at 564-4097 to pre-register



## LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Reconciliation services in the city will take place on the following dates and at the following places, all at 7:00 p.m.

Wed March 7	STM
Thurs Mar 22	COS
Wed Mar 28	IC
Tues Apr 3	SHC

## DAILY PROPHET: OBADIAH

Obadiah's chief claim to fame is that it is the shortest book in the Old Testament, a grand total of 21 verses. Having said that, it is not a book that reads easily. Obadiah, which means "servant of God" has a rather angry tone to it and contrasts with some of the other prophetic books we have been looking at, in that it promises political power rather than right worship in Jerusalem.



In order to understand Obadiah, one needs to look way back into Genesis, and the story of Isaac and his two sons, Jacob and Esau. If you remember, Jacob and Esau were twins, with Esau being the eldest and therefore set to inherit everything from Isaac. Jacob and his mother tricked Isaac when he was old and blind into giving Jacob the inheritance and the paternal blessing. Naturally, Esau was none too pleased and relations between the two brothers weren't the greatest after that.

According to the biblical history of peoples, Jacob was the forefather of the Israelites and Esau was the forefather of the Edomites. In the same way that relations between the two brothers were less than cordial, so too, the relationship between the kingdoms of Israel and Edom were less than cordial. Talk about long memories!!!

In addition to the general ill will between the two kingdoms, the Edomites earned the undying hatred of the Jews for their part in the sack of Jerusalem. When the Jews were trying to unite forces against Babylon, the Edomites actually sided with the Babylonians, and may even have participated in the destruction of Jerusalem. To make matters worse, after the Jews were hauled away to Babylon, the Edomites moved into parts of Judah and made themselves at home.

Around the year 400 BCE, the Edomites experienced pressure from the Arab tribes to the south and east and eventually moved full-force into the Negev, the southern part of Judah, later know as Idumea. Later, around the time of Jesus, an Idumean by the name of Herod would rule Judah under the Romans.

So, back to Obadiah. The book was probably written sometime after the Exile and is primarily a book about revenge and judgement. Edom will be brought low and the Jews will triumph over them. If we cut through the vengeful language, we find that the core of the book expresses a deep trust in God and rescue for the oppressed.

## 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.

Mar 23-26: Engaged Encounter Weekend

May 11-13: Engaged Encounter Weekend

## PARCHED LENTEN DESERT

Have you wondered why there's no water in the baptismal font?? Have you even noticed that there's no water in the baptismal font? It's not accidental! It reminds us that we are journeying through the Lenten desert, with echoes of the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert, as well as Jesus' own 40 days in the desert. Lent is also a time of penitential preparation for those preparing for baptism at Easter, as well as for us. Removing water from the baptismal font is a stark reminder that we, along with the catechumens, thirst for the waters of Easter! When we dip our fingers into the waters of the baptismal font, we are reminding ourselves of our own baptism. This action should be a conscious one, not a habit. Removing the water from the font can help us reflect on the meaning of the symbols that we use.