



THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 38

PASSION SUNDAY

April 1, 2007

EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

The Easter Triduum (Three Days) is the high point of the church's liturgical year. The Triduum spans three liturgical days (evening to evening = 1 day) with the high point being the Easter Vigil. We encourage you to experience liturgy at its finest!



- Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday 3:00 p.m.
- Easter Saturday—Morning Prayer & Blessing of Easter Food 10:00 a.m.
- Easter Vigil 9:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

CREATION HIKERS

Spring is here!!! Our first hike will take place on Saturday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. We'll start off easy with a stroll through Cottonwood Park. We'll meet at the Cameron Street Bridge. Take the partially blocked off access ramp to the Cameron Street Bridge, and you'll see the parking lot just below the River Road overpass.



HOLY THURSDAY: CHAPEL OF REPOSE

In order to facilitate our gathering at the end of the celebration of Holy Thursday, this year the Chapel of Repose will be set up in the gym. We will process from the church, down the hallway and into the gym by the stage door. The tabernacle will be set up at the kitchen end of the gym. This will allow all of us to process into the chapel and remain there for a time of prayer together, eliminating the congestion we normally experience in the Freeman foyer.



The Chapel of Repose will be open until midnight. Those wishing to come for adoration are asked to park in the Gillett parking lot and enter through the main gym doors.

157 Bags!!!

That's how many brown grocery bags were donated to St. Vincent de Paul on Sunday March 25. It took the entire Grade 7 class, 4 minutes to load two pick-up trucks full. If you forgot your bag at home... you can still bring it!

Congratulations & Thank you!!! We'll do it again... maybe in the Fall!



SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP—TRUST

The spirituality of Stewardship challenges us in our everyday life. You have been practicing an "attitude of gratitude" and being generous givers and receivers. The next virtue to be examined is Trust. The source of trust is often buried beneath layers of mistrust learned as children. Reflect on your level of trust this week. Who and what do you trust?

Trust is so basic it affects our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. How we live our life, how our relationships are shaped depends on our level of trust. Are you a trustful person? Do you trust in God's goodness and generosity to you? Trust motivates our actions. This week be aware of the times that you are trusting of yourself and others.

Trust is hard to recapture if it has been betrayed. With God's grace and help trust can be restored. Recall a time you overcame mistrust and became trustful once more. Did you feel relief? Was there joy in your heart because something broken was mended? When are you most trustful?

In the parish, trust is key to community. There must be trust between the pastoral team and the people. Being people of the Word means that your word is sacred, is honest, is trustworthy; what you say is what you mean. When you are grateful and generous, trust comes easy. Be conscious of the relationships of trust in your life this week.

Spirituality of Stewardship is practiced by having an "attitude of gratitude", an open generous spirit, and a fundamental trust in God, self and others. As our parish community continues to strive for these virtues, new life and enthusiasm will permeate every dimension of the parish.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Since returning from the Religious Education Congress, March has been a whirlwind! The mission with Bishop Gerry was a wonderful time of learning, praying and growing. Participation in our Reconciliation Service was exceptional this year. There have been the other Reconciliation Services in the other city parishes, as well as a number of funerals, including one in Mackenzie.

The plants for the sale in May are progressing well, and increasing in number, with more germinating all the time. It should be a great sale. I look forward to having a bit more room to do other things soon. Wedding season is starting too, with the first wedding this weekend.

I was delighted with the response to the brown bags as well as the gathering at our first wedding anniversary celebration. Great things are happening at St. Mary's!

Giselle: Easter is just around the corner and things are still pretty busy, although the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. Our series on Tobit is finished, but we'll reconvene in the Fall to study more scripture. Religious Education classes are almost done, just two more classes after Spring Break.

As some of you know, my sister and her husband have been expecting their first child. Well, she finally arrived, 5 days late, but good and healthy. I am an Auntie! I think I'll need to make more trips to Vancouver in the future...

THE POWER OF WORDS

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth,... so the word that goes forth from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Words have power. References to this power in words and in Word appear throughout Scripture in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

With words God calls creation into being. With word, form appears from chaos: light and darkness, plant and animal life, intelligence, choice and responsibility. And language.

The age-old children's chant: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!" is only partially true. "Sticks and stones" can indeed hurt me physically, but those wounds usually heal with time. Words, too, may hurt, not physically, but their wounds may go deep. They can destroy trust; cause fear, loneliness and loss of self-esteem; poison innocence, and bring despair. Such wounds take a long time to heal, if they ever do.

Besides the power to hurt, words have the power to heal. Words of love, compassion, hope, and praise can help to repair the damage done to innocence and can restore shattered self-esteem. Although words used for evil---for spreading fear, for lying, for slander---may seem to abound, if we listen carefully we find that words of wisdom and beauty are far more prevalent. Consider those qualities in story, poetry, and song, in hymn, in praise and prayer.

Words, then, have power to hurt and to heal. Can we counteract the evil and bring about good? We have the example of Gandhi who would not participate in oppression, would not abandon hope, would continue to work for justice. Similarly, Bishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela suffered the effects of hatred and racism. They felt the pain of cruel words, but refused to retaliate. Christ-like, they absorbed the words and transformed them into words of understanding, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Languages are made of words. What happens when a language disappears? There are about 6,000 living languages in the world-and at least half of those are under serious threat. UNESCO claims that the rate of language extinction has now reached ten every year. When a language is lost the unique beauty, wisdom, perspectives, attitudes and culture carried in the stories of that language are lost as well. True, the vocabulary of English is growing rapidly, but the new words seem to be limited to commerce and technology. As our language grows, as more people work in isolation, as the rich and diverse English words fall out of use, will we lose story and literature, the art of conversation, the thrust and parry of wit and humour? Could poverty of language lead to poverty of spirit? Indeed, students are now dehumanized as "marketable," as "products" of a "learning" system that must be financially profitable. As we lose respect for language do we also lose respect for people?

Where do our words go after we speak them? The following may be an urban legend:

Some years ago a radio station in London, England picked up the signal of a radio station in Texas. On enquiring about it, the staff learned that the Texas station had stopped broadcasting some 25 years earlier. Where had that sound been? Had it been ricocheting among the stars and planets all that time?

Is that where our words are? If that is so, wouldn't it be better if instead of words of anger, complaint, fear and self-pity we populate space with words of kindness, praise, hope, compassion and gratitude?

GROWING TOGETHER is a series of five Sunday bulletin inserts for the ecumenical education of Christ's faithful. Prairie Centre for Ecumenism 600 - 45th Street West Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9 CANADA © 2007

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following members in the sacrament of Baptism:

Ethan Gilbert
Tyler Charlie



We witnessed the marriage of:

Curtis MacLeod
& Amanda Prefontaine



SPRING IS HERE!

Fr. Richard has planted over 300 geraniums and has 70 baby African violets on the go (some are flowering). He has also seeded 207 tomato plants (mostly the yummy cherry tomatoes). How are your plants & seedlings coming along!!!

We're getting geared up for our 2nd Annual Plant Sale in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Mark this date on your calendars!!!
Saturday
May 19



THEO-TIDBITS

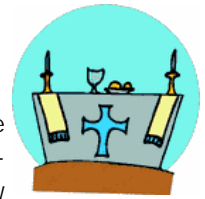


Our next series is entitled: **Pascal Mystery: Our Salvation**

in Jesus' Death & Resurrection. Susan Campbell will be our guest presenter. Sessions will be held in the Parish Office Meeting Room on Tuesdays in April (11/18/25).

In May, Sr. Hazel will look at annulments & divorce.

MINISTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY: ART & ENVIRONMENT



Each Sunday, as we gather to celebrate Eucharist, we come into the church, our parish home. The church is not just a building or a meeting hall, it is the place where we come to pray, to celebrate, to grow in our faith and to grow as a community. It needs to be a place that is warm and welcoming, that helps us to enter into the spirit of what we are celebrating, that helps us be mindful of the seasons and directs our thoughts, prayers and actions toward God. The church should be a place that is familiar, on the one hand, but that also opens up new vistas and consciousness of prayer and of what we are celebrating.

In the Eastern Rites of the Church, they describe the church, and especially the sanctuary, as God's heavenly dwelling here on earth. When we enter the church, we enter into heaven in some way. What a wonderful way to experience coming into the church - to enter into God's mysteries through material creation. The environment in the church should draw us into full, conscious and active participation in the celebration. The environment invites us in and draws us out of our individuality into the collective action which is taking place.

The ministry of art and environment is a key ministry in our parish, because its focus is all of the above. Those who are involved in this ministry need, first of all, to have a sense of the seasons of the Church and a good sense of the liturgy itself. They must also have an appreciation for the beauty of creation and a sense that all of creation is part of our celebration. Obviously, some artistic talent is also a great asset in this ministry, although not everyone involved in the ministry needs to be an artist. Besides the people who develop the environment plan, we also need people to help put it into effect.

The community too, is involved in this effort. As we gather, we need to be aware of the environment around us, to appreciate the beauty in our surroundings and allow that beauty, that environment to draw us more deeply into the celebration. Being called to full, active, conscious participation, we need to be open to being drawn into that participation by who and what surrounds us.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

St. Mary's Youth Group was very busy starting off 2007. We skied in Smithers in late February. Over 30 youth and chaperones hopped on the big yellow bus and headed to the very hospitable St. Joseph's Parish. This was a perfect opportunity for the 3 Catholic youth groups from Prince George to bond and get to know each other as big youth events are approaching.

Last weekend, the 3 groups gathered again for THINK-fast 2007. IC parish hosted a 25 hour fast to raise awareness on Canadian mining. During the weekend, the youth were inspired on how to make a difference in their community and the world. There was a lot of community games, prayer, skits and discussions on the effects of mining in our world.

The next big event is DYC 2007 - and it's quickly approaching. April 27 to 29. More information on the 'Youth' bulletin board (Freemen Street side) or the parish bulletin!

ANNIVERSARY MASS

Our next Anniversary Mass will take place on Saturday,

April 21 at the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Goodies will be served in the Conference Room afterwards.

This celebration will be for all those couples who celebrate anniversaries in April & May. We actually have a couple who will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in April!!!



CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION

Confirmation & First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. The preparation sessions are on the following Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school gym: Apr 17 & 24.

DO YOU KNOW...?

Have you seen the posters on the bulletin boards? The ones that introduce a family? People stop and read them, and we'd like to encourage you, when you're asked, to make up 2 posters and post them on the boards. Include a photo and some information, such as:



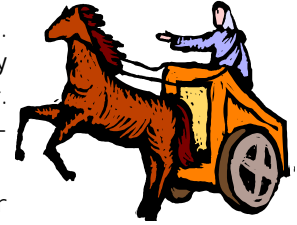
- How long you've been in the parish
- Year you got married
- Years of children's birth
- Kind of work you do
- Where you were born and grew up
- What you like about the parish

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Please call 964-2805 to register for the following Engaged Encounter weekend.
May 11-13

DAILY PROPHET: MALACHI

We don't know a lot about the prophet Malachi (surprise!). The name itself means "my messenger", so it is quite likely that "Malachi" is a pseudonym for an anonymous author. Malachi was written after the Jews had returned from Exile but dating it more precisely is a bit tricky.



Clues in the text suggest that the book was written after the Temple had been rebuilt and after the walls around Jerusalem had been rebuilt. It is probably written around the same time as Ezra and Nehemiah.

One would think that things would be looking pretty good for the Jews. They have returned to their Promised Land from Exile, the Temple is rebuilt and no enemy seems to be threatening them. Unfortunately, as with most people, a tiny bit of skepticism has set in. The earlier prophets such as Haggai and Third Isaiah had promised rosy times if only the Temple would be rebuilt. After much effort, the Temple is rebuilt, but the rosy times don't materialize. Gold doesn't fall from the sky, and the Jews continue to be a relatively poor nation surrounded by richer pagan nations. The people slowly drift away from their faithfulness to Yahweh, expressed in a number of ways. The people begin to divorce their Jewish wives and take pagan wives. Even the priests are becoming bored with the Temple ritual and don't put any heart into it.

This, then, is the situation that Malachi is addressing. He urges the people to remain faithful to Yahweh. He urges them to refrain from divorce and views the pagan wives with alarm, rightly thinking that such marriages would dilute the faith of Israel. Malachi also foresees a time when Yahweh will send a messenger to Israel (3:1-3). The Jews expected this messenger to be the prophet Elijah, who was taken up by a chariot, and who will come back in the same way. As Christians, we read this passage and see foreshadowing of John the Baptist. Similarly, we read Malachi's reference to the "sun of righteousness" (4:2) and see a foreshadowing of Jesus.

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 Wed, April 25 & Thur, April 26 at 7 pm.



Please phone the parish office at 564-4097 to pre-register

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The last Reconciliation service of Lent is on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Mon Apr 2	Tues Apr 3	Wed Apr 4	Thurs Apr 5	Fri Apr 6	Sat Apr 7	Sun Apr 8
7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass 7 pm—RCIA	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass 7 pm—CWL	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass 7 pm—Vespers	Holy Thursday 7:30 pm—Mass of the Lord's Supper	Good Friday 3:00 pm—Celebration of the Lord's Passion	10 am—Morning Prayer & Blessing of Easter Food 9:30 pm—Easter Vigil	Easter Sunday 9 am—Mass 11 am—Mass