



THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 42

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

May 20, 2007

ANOINTING MASS

In his letter, the Apostle James writes: “Are there any who are sick among you. Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them and anoint them in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Bishop Wiesner will preside at a Mass of Anointing on Thursday, May 24 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. All members of the parish are invited to join in this celebration to pray for healing for the sick and elderly members of our community. Those who are sick, preparing for surgery or are suffering will be invited to come forward for the Anointing of the Sick during the celebration. Many of the residents of the various lodges throughout the city come for this celebration; it is another opportunity for them to be part of the larger community.

After the celebration, all are invited to gather in the Conference Room for refreshments and fellowship. If you are able to bring any goodies to share, please drop them off in the conference room before Mass begins.

NEW TO THE PARISH??

Are you new to the parish? We'd love to hear from you!! Please introduce yourself after Mass, or fill out a registration form on the bulletin boards.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

In the first reading for this feast, we hear the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles. The Ascension of Jesus, where Christ is taken up from the sight of the disciples, is recounted. Then comes the key moment of Luke's account: As the disciples are gazing up slack-jawed, two men in dazzling white (recall Luke's account of the Resurrection) appear among them. One can envision them standing there, looking up toward where the disciples are gaping, perhaps shielding their own eyes from the midday sun, and, without wavering their eyes, pose their question from the corner of their mouth: “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?” Of course, we know the proper response: there is work to be done! Jesus said he would return! Get to work!

After the Resurrection, Jesus spent time instructing his disciples, preparing them to take up his mission of proclaiming the Good News to all the world. With the Ascension, the disciples assume full responsibility for the mission of Jesus. They are to go out to all the world—they have no time for standing around gazing at the sky.

We share in the mission of Jesus, and like the first disciples, we have been sent to bring and be good news to the whole world. Are we going out, or are we standing around looking up to the sky?

PARISH CAMP-OUT



Did you know that the Diocese has a piece of property out at West Lake? Yup, it's true. As a parish, we haven't made use of it recently, but we thought it was high time we did something out there. So, on the Sunday/Monday of the July long weekend (July 1 & 2), we have booked the property for a St. Mary's Parish camp-out. After Mass on Sunday, we're all invited to come out to the property and pitch our tent or trailer or RV on the meadow and stay awhile. More details as the date comes closer. Mark it on your calendars NOW!!!

CREATION HIKERS

Our second hike will be on Saturday, May 26. Meet in St. Mary's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. We will hike in Forests for the World. There will be more hikes scheduled throughout the summer. Keep an eye on the Grrapevine and they will be announced. If you have a favourite hike that you would like to share with us, call the parish office and let Giselle know. Check the bulletin boards for posters of our hikes..



ANNIVERSARY MASS



Our next Anniversary Mass will take place on Saturday, July 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 June and July.

When we did the parish survey about these celebrations, we asked for the month you were married. If you did not fill out one of the surveys, please come and join us for this wonderful celebration. We want to celebrate your commitment with you.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Last week was spent in Toronto at an executive meeting for the National Federation of Presbyterian Councils. Since I have some holiday time coming up at the end of May, I did not spend any extra time in Toronto. The weather was much warmer there than here—it was a bit of a shock getting off the plane Friday evening. I've had a week at home now to get caught up again, prepare for the ordination and start getting ready for my trip to the Philippines with Fr. Rectorino and Fr. Venerando. I will be away from May 28 to June 18. Fr. Larry MacLennan, OMI will be replacing me during those weeks.

As we start moving into the summer lull, I look back on the year and marvel at all that has been happening. It has been quite a year, with many new initiatives and lots of activity. I am particularly delighted with all the community building that has been happening in so many different ways.

Giselle: The latest emails from Giselle report that the time spent in Germany was great, although the weather was a bit tough at times, with temperatures in the 30's. They have moved on to Budapest for a few days, then will spend some time in the rural areas of Hungary (getting some gardening tips for this summer?!) With all the walking Giselle has been doing around Europe this spring, she should be in fine form to lead more expeditions for the Creation hikers. We look forward to her return.

ORDINARY TIME—SUMMER

A Sense of the Season

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, "The words 'Ordinary Time' in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is ordinary." She was right. The Ordinary in "Ordinary Time" refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Roman document, *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, says: "Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character [Advent, Christmastime, Lent, Triduum and Eastertime], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects."

How do we celebrate "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects"? We gather every Sunday. Sunday is our original feast day. Christians have gathered every Sunday—the day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week—ever since there were Christians.

When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. The church reads straight through "the gospel of the year," either Matthew, Mark or Luke, each week often picking up where we left off last week. (We read John during Lent and Easter, and on feasts.) The first readings, from the first testament of the Bible, have been chosen for their relationship to the gospel passages. Many voices are heard throughout summer Ordinary Time. We also read through some of the letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ "in all its aspects" unfolds.

What is the heart of our Sunday celebration? We do our eucharist; that is, we do our thanksgiving. We praise and thank God for all creation; we pray for the whole world, as we remember Christ's life, death and resurrection. We share the bread and wine, the body and blood. We are sent forth to be the body and blood of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

"What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living." (Saint Andrew Bible Missal [Brooklyn: William J. Hirten Co., 1982.]

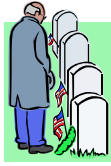
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REJOICING & REMEMBERING

In faith and in the sure hope of the resurrection we bid farewell to:

Sharon Balkcom
Paul Kenway



LAY FORMATION

The current session of the Lay Formation Program in Prince George is coming to an end, and a new session will be starting in September.

The Lay Formation Program is a two year program, held one weekend a month for ten months each year. The focus is on learning more about our faith, the teaching of the Church, Scripture, Theology, ministry, liturgy, etc. It is a rich and exciting journey discovering in a deeper way what it means to be a member of the Church and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The object of the program is to help participants grow in their faith as well as in understanding of their faith. For some, this means a greater involvement in the ministry of the parish. For others, it means involvement in other areas of our broader community. In any case, ministry is not the main focus of the program; growth in faith is the main focus.

Is your curiosity piqued? There are brochures available at the main entrance of the church in the brochure holders. You can also contact Susan Campbell at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre if you would like to get more information from the director of the program. There are application forms available—just ask Fr. Richard for one (he has them in the sacristy). It is our hope that we can fill the upcoming session again—there is room for up to 20 participants in each program. So, if interested, register early.

PENTECOST VIGIL

The celebration of Pentecost brings the Easter Season to a close. During these fifty days, we have been celebrating the Lord's Resurrection and our belonging to the Body of Christ. We have listened to various accounts of Jesus' encounters with the disciples after the Resurrection, to the story of the early Church and to Jesus' teaching as he prepared the disciples to assume his mission in the world.

We began our celebration of Easter with the Easter Vigil, when we gathered and listened to the story of God's relationship with the human race from the beginning of creation, blessed the new fire and lit the Easter Candle, the symbol of Jesus risen from the dead and shining in the darkness of our world, renewed our baptismal commitment and celebrated Eucharist. As we come to the end of the season, when we celebrate the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us and show us the way to life, we will again gather for a Vigil. The celebration of the Pentecost Vigil is not quite as long as the Easter Vigil, but there are seven readings at the beginning of the celebration. In those readings, we hear how God has spoken and acted through the Spirit from the very beginning until the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. As we do each time we gather for Eucharist, we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection and we are nourished and strengthened by the Word of God and the Eucharist that we may continue our journey of faith. In a particular way, we are reminded that this journey includes the mission of Jesus to proclaim the Good News of God's love to the whole world. In a sense, the Easter Season has been an interlude in which we have been strengthened and encouraged in order that we may take up the mission with renewed enthusiasm and vigour.

The Vigil of Pentecost will be celebrated on Saturday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. While that is the regular Mass time, remember that the celebration will be longer than usual.



FRUITS OF THE HARVEST



Do you have fruit trees or bushes in your backyard? Do you have time to pick all of the fruit? If you're already dreading the harvest season, because you have too much fruit and don't know what to do with it... Well, we have a solution that might benefit everybody!!!

There are some people in the parish who love to pick fruit or berries. And there are others who love to make jams, jellies or pies from the aforementioned fruit and berries. If we put all three of these groups together (provider/picker/preserver) we could have some fun and use our gifts to harvest God's gifts to us!

We thought that maybe those of you who have fruit trees or bushes that are too much for you to handle, could phone the parish office and leave your name and number and the type of fruit that is overwhelming you. We could then post this information on the bulletin boards or here in the Grapevine and then the pickers and preservers could contact you and arrange to harvest your crop.

In return, the pickers/preservers could give a portion of their product to the provider and a portion could go to St. Vincent de Paul. Let us know what you think!!! This is a bit early, but we thought we'd plant the seed now and watch it grow by the fall!!!



WEBSITE

Our website has lots of cool information on past and future parish events. Why not take look! And if you have a bright idea... let us know!
www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR INFANTS



When parents ask to have their children baptized, they are accepting the responsibility of training their children in the faith, of helping them to know God and to live as disciples of Jesus Christ within the community of the Church.

The Church places such importance on the sacrament of Baptism, the first sacrament of initiation, that parents are required to take a preparation program before their children are baptized.

At St. Mary's our program consists of two evenings of about 1 1/2 hours, where we explore the meaning of baptism and the responsibilities of the parents, godparents and community. Our next preparation will be on July 9 & 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office meeting room. Please call ahead if attending.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

If asked to name their favorite story from the Bible, most Christians would probably choose something from the Gospel of Luke. These stories are indeed unforgettable, and the Christian tradition is graced by this gospel from Luke's hand. It is the only one of the four gospels to describe the angel's annunciation of the coming birth of Jesus to Mary, and the visit of the shepherds at his birth; it is the only one to tell the parables of the Good Samaritan, of the prodigal son, and of the rich man and Lazarus; it is the only gospel to relate the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection. In addition to that, Luke's Christmas story is proclaimed by Linus on the Charlie Brown Christmas special!

Archeologists and textual experts usually date the writing of the Gospel of Luke to around 80 CE. One piece of evidence that helps with the dating is that the gospel contains nearly all of Mark, and from this we know that it was composed after 70 CE (about when Mark was written). In addition to having Mark as a source, the Gospel of Luke shares a large chunk of material with Matthew, material that appears neither in Mark nor in John. From this we assume that there was another source for Luke, one that he and the writer of Matthew used together. Luke also had a source of information that only he used.

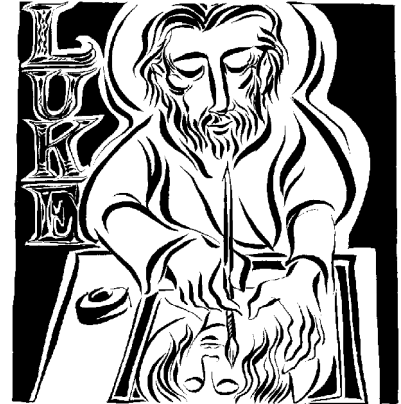
The evangelist Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles, which is, in a sense, the second part to the gospel. This is evident from the very polished Greek of these two books, but more specifically, from the fact that both books are addressed to Theophilus, a fellow believer. (See Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1.) Luke's contribution, therefore, makes up more than one-quarter of the second testament.

The portrait of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke is of an itinerant prophet who is attracted to the poor and the outcast. He explains that his ministry is to them, and he envisions the heavenly banquet as filled with the poor and disenfranchised. The evangelist draws powerful portraits of despised members of the society, and much of the wonder of this compelling gospel is in its address to sinners.

The Gospel of Luke is proclaimed in Year C, the years 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007 and so on.

In art, the evangelist Luke is portrayed with a bull by his side. The feast of Saint Luke is October 18.

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun May 20	Mon May 21	Tues May 22	Wed May 23	Thurs May 24	Fri May 25	Sat May 26
9 am—Mass 11 am—Mass 4:30 pm—Vespers	10 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass 7 pm—School Council.	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass 7 pm—Vespers	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass 2 pm—Anointing Mass 7 pm—Pr. Group	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	8:32 am—Creation Hikers 7:00 pm—Mass