



# THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 44

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

June 24, 2007

## PARI SH PHOTO DIRECTORIES!



The Parish Photo Directories are here!! And they are available for pick-up in the back hallway of the Church.

Only those parishioners who submitted their own photograph or had their photograph taken by the company photographer will receive a complimentary copy of the photo directory. We do have a few extras available for sale. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board form.

## FREE PARI SH HI STORY BOOKS!

In the year 2000, on the occasion of our 40th anniversary as a parish, a history of the parish was published in book format. We still have several dozen copies of this book and are offering it to you free of charge!

If you didn't get a copy back in 2000 or have lost yours... pick up another one! They are on the table at the back of the church.

## NEW TO THE PARI SH??

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.

## PARI SH CAMP-OUT



Next weekend is out camp-out at West Lake!! Are you ready?? Summer is here and this is a great chance for us to gather as a parish family and have some fun together.

Bring your tent, camper or trailer and come and join us!! You also need to bring drinking water as the well out there is not potable. There are some fire pits and a BBQ that takes briquettes.

We invite everybody to come out there after the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, July 1. If you only want to come for the afternoon, that's fine too!! There are directions posted on the bulletin board for those who are unfamiliar with the West Lake area. Basically head west along Highway 16 and look for signs to West Lake Provincial Park. Follow the signs and once you reach the park, keep heading out on that same road along the shore of West Lake. Eventually you'll see signs for the St. Mary's camp-out. It's just before the pavement quits and the gravel starts. Come & join us!!!

## LAY FORMATION GRADUATES

Several weeks ago, we celebrated the graduation of 16 participants in the Lay Formation programme of the Diocese of Prince George. The group included participants from Prince George, Valemount and Vanderhoof. We'd like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to four of our very own parishioners who completed the programme:

- Kathy Labonte
- Muriel Cue
- Helena Wilcox
- Kevin Lebel



As many of you know, Lay Formation is a two year programme requiring a commitment of one week-end a month for 10 months out of the year. It requires a good degree of self-discipline to stick with it, but is immensely rewarding. The next season of Lay Formation begins this fall. Brochures are available at the back of the church for any interested parties!

## CREATION HIKERS



Our last hike was this past Saturday (June 23) and took us to Es-kers Provincial Park.

Our next hike will be next weekend, in conjunction with the parish campout at West Lake. Since we're right in the neighbourhood, we'll do a hike down to Fort George Canyon on Monday morning, leaving from the Diocesan property at West Lake, probably around 8:30 or 9:00 a.m.

## PARI SH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It is that time again! Two years ago, all the members of the council were new, so we had no need of elections last year. In the meantime, a couple of members resigned in mid-term and were replaced by appointed members.

Three members of council have come to the end of their first term, and so we need to have elections this year.

There will be nomination forms in the church over the next six weeks or so and we invite all members of the parish to prayerfully consider who might serve on our council.

Before nominating someone, please be sure that you have that person's consent. Our elections will be held in mid-September.

## PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Sure is cold here! After three weeks of 37 + temperatures, 5 and 15 seem like the dead of winter. However it is good to be home and back into the routine of parish and diocesan life. Unfortunately, my first two days home were fully occupied with meetings at the chancery, so I have only had a couple of days to catch up on parish events and life. I will be leaving for Fort Ware right after Mass on Sunday, and will return on Thursday evening. After that I should be around for a while!

Rector and Vener had wonderful thanksgiving celebrations in their home parishes and are enjoying their holiday time visiting family and friends before they return to Canada on July 3 to take up their ministry at Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception.

Giselle: It's good to be back home and I'm rather enjoying the cooler temperatures after the heat of Europe! Things have slowed down quite a bit since April, and now is the time to start looking ahead to the Fall and planning and preparing for different programs that we hope to offer (Bible Studies, Book Discussions, etc).

It's also hiking season!!! And almost berry season... the Saskatoon bushes are looking pretty heavy and full!!! And the first mushrooms of the season were picked a couple of days ago. I personally don't eat mushrooms (ick!) but know people who do, so everybody's happy!

## LAY FORMATION WANTS YOU!!

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.

As well... you might get a tap on the shoulder from a member of the pastoral team or perhaps from previous participants in the Lay Formation programme, inviting you to consider this grow experience. Give it some thought!



## HOSPITALITY: SHARING YOUR GIFTS

You might have noticed that during the past year we have been having more and more celebrations and events that involve a gathering and some kind of refreshment/meal. This is the outgrowth of the Pastoral Council's choice to make community building a priority in our parish.

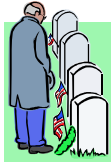
In order to have a gathering with refreshments or a meal, someone needs to prepare or procure the needed ingredients and someone needs to set up and serve and then clean up after the gathering. The Parish Pastoral Council would like to set up a Hospitality Group within the parish. This group would be made up of people who wish to share various gifts and talents to help build community in our parish. Our vision is that this group would have someone who would be the co-ordinator. This co-ordinator would be contacted whenever an event was planned and the co-ordinator would then contact members of the group to organize and host the event. We have found that for most of our gatherings, it is cost-effective to purchase ready-made trays (cheese/meat, fruit, etc.) and we try to organize people to do some baking.

So, if you enjoy setting up and serving refreshments, or if you like to clean up after a gathering, if you enjoy baking or are good at organizing, we invite you to share your talents with the parish community. If you would like to be part of this Hospitality Group, please contact the parish office and leave your name and phone number, along with whatever gift you would like to share with the community – organizing, setting up, serving, clean-up, baking, etc. We look forward to hearing from you, and we know that this group could fulfill an essential ministry within our parish.



## REJOICING & REMEMBERING

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



Pasquale Deni  
Etela Strasky (Fr. Tom Magnussin's sister)

## FRUITS OF THE HARVEST

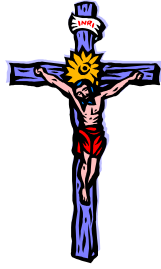
Do you have fruit trees or bushes in your backyard? Do you have time to pick all of the fruit? If you're already dreading the harvest season, because you have too much fruit and don't know what to do with it... Well, we have a solution that might benefit everybody!!!

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. At the same time, any pickers could phone the parish office and learn of potential harvesting. Cherry and strawberry season is almost upon us!!



## SACRAMENTALS: WHAT ARE THEY?



Look around your house... Do you have a crucifix on the wall? Perhaps a picture of Mary or one of the saints? Or an icon? Do you have a blessed palm in your home? Do you wear wedding rings? Then you, like many Catholics, are expressing your faith with sacramentals. Sacramentals are defined by the church as "sacred signs by which spiritual effects are signified and are obtained by the intercession of the Church". That's a complex way of saying that sacramentals are an object or a prayer that provides an occasion for a personal and gracing encounter with Christ. They are the little things in our lives (images, actions & blessings) that are part and parcel of our catholicity.

Sacraments and sacramentals differ in several ways: (a) sacraments are instituted by Christ whereas sacramentals are instituted by the Church, (b) sacraments are limited in number (7) whereas sacramentals are potentially unlimited, (c) sacraments attain their effect through Christ, whereas sacramentals attain their effect through the intercession of the Church. Sacramentals generally flow out of the sacraments and lead us back to the sacraments. The sign of the cross flows out of our baptism and reminds us of our initiation into Christ's death and resurrection.

One can certainly be Catholic and just attend Eucharist on Sundays, receive the sacraments and try to give a good life. But for many people, living out their Catholic faith is more "colourful". Last month, I was traveling through Europe and visited a couple of my ancestral villages. Naturally, I went into the local parish church to take pictures and have a look around. And it seemed appropriate to offer a prayer in that place where my great great grandparents had been baptized and married and probably buried. And what better way to give concrete expression to that prayer than by lighting a votive candle. It's not something I do on a regular basis, but our Catholic heritage has a way of coming through at odd times. We are a tactile people, we like to touch things, see things, hear things, smell things, do things. The sacraments, those sacred mixtures of matter and the Holy Spirit, fulfill that need. And so, in a lesser way, do sacramentals.

Sacramentals run the spectrum from the blessing of articles such as rosaries, to blessing oneself with holy water, to devotion to a particular saint. Often, different cultures have different sacramentals. For example, many people from the Mediterranean countries of Portugal, Spain and Italy will make the sign of the cross three times after having received communion.

Sacramentals are not superstitious holdovers from pre-Christian days, although sometimes there is a temptation to ascribe almost magical powers to sacramentals. The superstitious person will say, "If I sprinkle holy water here, say these prayers and cross myself, I will make God do this for me." But the person using a sacramental properly will say, "I want to be closer to God—to be constantly reminded of God's love and forgiveness. I will do these things (sacramentals), not because I can make God do my will, but because I need to remind myself of God's presence in my life." So we hang crucifixes and holy images in our homes to remind ourselves of God and His works. We light candles to express our prayer in a concrete way. We bless our children to remind ourselves that God is always watching over them and cares for them even more than we do.

## ANNIVERSARY MASS

Our next Anniversary Mass for those couples who celebrate anniversaries in June & July, will take place on Saturday, July 21 at the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Goodies will be served in the Conference Room afterwards.

GOD'S VOICE

This weekend, the bulletin contains the latest edition of our Diocesan Newspaper, the Northern Catholic News. On the back page, you will find a very interesting article by Ron Rolheiser omi, entitled "How does God speak in our World". Fr. Ron's article should give us all some food for thought on how we perceive God at work in our lives and in the lives of others. Take some time to read it!

RCIA WORKSHOP

This fall, the Diocese is sponsoring a workshop entitled "The Vision of Initiation Ministry" facilitated by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. This is a great opportunity for those involved in the RCIA process or the initiation of children and teenagers to learn a bit more about the process. More information in this week's edition of the Northern Catholic News. Contact the parish office if you're interested!!

WEBSITE

Our website has lots of cool information on past and future parish events.

[www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg](http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg)

OUR WORSHIP SPACE: THE ALTAR (PART 2)

Have you ever noticed the priest kiss the altar at the beginning and end of Mass? This graceful act highlights the significance of the altar as a central symbol of our worship life.

Apart from the introduction of the use of the vernacular at Mass, the change in the location of the altar—away from the back wall of the church and into the midst of the assembly—is probably the most obvious effect of the Second Vatican Council. This change allowed people to gather more easily around the altar. Two related changes were also mandated by the Council. In the pre-Vatican II liturgy, because the priest alone performed most of the liturgical functions, a long altar was needed so that the two readings could be proclaimed from opposite ends of the altar while remaining separate from the eucharistic action, which took place in the center of the altar. Such an elongated table is no longer necessary. Secondly, because communion should be given from the sacrifice just enacted on the altar, the tabernacle was removed from the main altar. This maintains the integrity of both altar and tabernacle as sites of Christ's presence in the church. We have grown in our awareness of Christ's presence in the gathered assembly, in the proclamation of the word, in the person of the priest and in the eucharistic elements. We have been less attentive to the symbolic significance of the altar itself.

The Rite of Dedication of an Altar (which most often takes place during the dedication of the church in which the altar is located) gives us a glimpse of the significance of this symbol. In that rite, the altar is sprinkled with water, anointed with chrism and incensed by the bishop in a pattern much like our initiation rituals. It is then clothed with an altar cloth and adorned with lighted candles. These rituals leave no doubt that the altar is "the midpoint between heaven and earth." With the ancient images of Abraham's altar of sacrifice and the table of the Last Supper firmly rooted in our tradition, we encircle our parish altar, confident that God is present in our midst.



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THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun June 24	Mon June 25	Tues June 26	Wed June 27	Thurs June 28	Fri June 29	Sat June 30
9 am—Mass 11 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	
				7 pm—Pr. Group		7:00 pm—Mass