

FINANCES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER PRACTICAL STUFF

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



Bank Balance:	13,059.25
DDF balance	168,747.89
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>-5,356.62</u>
Total Assets	176,450.52

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	25,811.40	Administration	14,233.11
Fees	420.00	Programs	3,424.82
Programs	105.00	Operation/Maint.	6,437.35
Other	868.00	<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>1,956.64</u>
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3,585.00</u>	Total Expense	26,051.92
Total Income	30,789.40	Net Income	4,737.48

We appear to have a sizeable surplus at the month end, but we need to remember that the statement includes the collection from the Mission - \$13,957.35. The collection did not meet the expenses for the mission, so the other three parishes will be invoiced for the shortfall. We have not received the invoice from the Oblate Mission Team, but it should be arriving fairly soon. Once we are billed and the other parishes pay their portion of the expenses, we should have a refund of about \$3500 from the Mission. We also received a bequest for \$6000, which caught us up on our bills while we are waiting for the mission expenses to be cleared from our books.

There were some small expenses incurred in getting the Children's Liturgy of the Word underway; these were mainly for resources.

Comparing the period from July 1 (the beginning of our fiscal year) to last year's statement, our contributions remain higher than last year. Thank you to all for your generosity in sharing the material blessings you have been given.

A great thanks goes out to all members of St. Mary's who contributed so generously to the Mission collection. Your participation in the mission and response to the appeal was wonderful.

Over the next few months, there will be some new projects underway, and there will also be the ongoing maintenance and financial obligations of the parish - we continue to rely on your generosity in order for the parish to fulfill its mandate of proclaiming the Gospel.

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

Number 5

December 4, 2005

GREETINGS & WELCOME

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!!

VESPERS

The response to our celebration of Vespers last Sunday was "When are you doing this again?" The Liturgy Committee reflected on the experience, and it has been decided to celebrate Vespers once a month. The next celebration will be on Sunday, December 18 at 4:30 p.m.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

We have a free taxi service to get you to Church and back home on Sundays! Actually, it's sponsored by the Knight's of Columbus. All you need to do is phone PG Taxi (564-4444) and give them the account number and that's it.



Just phone Jeannine at the parish office (564-4097) and you're set!! Now that we're moving into winter, it becomes a little tricky & dangerous to walk, so why not catch a ride instead!

PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Giselle: This weekend (Dec 2-4), I'm in Terrace (again!) for Lay Formation. Too bad you can't get Air Miles with your car!!!

Richard: I'm in McBride this weekend celebrating Eucharist with the members of St. Patrick's Parish. I normally go to McBride for the first Sunday of the month. On Tuesday, I will fly to Fort Ware for a couple of days there. The community of Fort Ware has Eucharist only 5 or 6 times per year. Bishop Gerry usually goes up in January, and I go up every eight or ten weeks for a pastoral visit. I will return to Prince George on December 8. On December 8 the Oblates will gather, along with Bishop Gerry, to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - their patronal feast day.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Last Sunday, all the children received a mini-Advent Wreath. Many thanks to Fr. Richard for his skill with chainsaw and drillpress. It looked like they were a great hit, both with the children and the parents!

BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN (AGES 4-9)

We will be holding a series of 5 baptism preparation sessions for older children (ages 5 to 9). The sessions will begin on Monday January 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at St. Mary's (Freeman Street entrance). Please phone Giselle at the parish office if you plan to attend (so we have enough refreshments & resources).

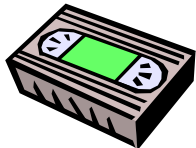
COLOURING CONTEST

Did your child remember to get a Sunday bulleting last weekend (Nov 26/27)? There was an Advent Calendar inside with a Nativity scene on the back, custom made for colouring! Do we have any budding Picassos in the parish? Or DaVinci's? We'd like to know!! We invite your little ones to colour the Nativity scene and then to submit it on the weekend of Dec 17/18. We'll have an envelope on the bulletin boards ready to receive any artistic masterpieces.



VIDEO LENDING LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN

Have you ever noticed that other parishes have a lending library of religious videos for children? Do you think it would be popular here? We have a little seed started collection of videos donated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Do you have any videos that your children have outgrown and might be suitable (Veggie Tales comes to mind!). Let us know what you think! Either give Giselle a call at the parish office, or if you're a techno wizard, leave a note in our guestbook on the main page of our website.



CONFIRMATION FOR TEENS

Do you know a teen or a pre-teen (10-12) who's received Baptism and First Communion but hasn't been confirmed yet? If so, now's the time to step forward! We're going to have confirmation preparation starting soon. Phone Giselle at the office for more information.



REMEMBERING CHURCH

We were going to offer a series of sessions after the mission to Welcome Home any inactive Catholics. Unfortunately, so far, we haven't had any expression of interest! So, we're going to wait until after Christmas. Do you know of anyone who's been away from the Church for a while, and needs to be eased back in gently? Give us a call and let us know!!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA is back on track after taking what basically amounted to a 4 week hiatus (no session on Halloween, we did a field trip to listen the Bishop speak on the Eucharistic Synod on November 7 and on Nov 14 & 21, people were invited to participate in the mission). During the months of December and January, the group from Immaculate Conception will be in charge of facilitating the sessions and providing hospitality. We still meet in the Conference Room here at St. Mary's on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m.

Have you been thinking about learning more about the Catholic faith? Maybe the Visiting Oblate Mission Team members touched your heart. We're always ready to accept new people at any point during the year! Why not come and check it out??

HOSPITALITY

In the last bulletin, we looked at hospitality as an attitude that each member of the assembly is called to live as we gather. Hospitality is the ministry of each and every member of the parish, not just of the priest, or the council members or the official greeters. We are all responsible for the atmosphere of hospitality, of welcome, that our community is called to foster and portray. If each member of the community remembers the call to extend hospitality to others, then visitors and new members of our parish would feel truly welcomed and part of our celebration.

To help understand what extending hospitality could mean for you, take time to think of a time when you were in a new situation, a new place. How did you feel? Did you feel like you belonged, that people were happy that you were there? Did you feel welcomed and a part of the gathering? What were some of the elements that contributed to your feeling of being part of the gathering, the group, the situation? How can you translate that into your actions and attitudes on a weekend at Mass?

As we move through the season of Advent, and perhaps even more importantly, as we celebrate Christmas, when there will be many visitors to our community, the challenge for us will be to extend hospitality to others, to truly minister to all who come to celebrate with us.