



THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 6

December 18, 2005

HABEMUS NOMEN!!! **see answer key*

There were a good many responses to our quest for a new name for the publication. As you can see from the banner, *we have a name! You hear things over the grapevine, and the grapevine is a great way to get the word out about so many things. As you read this, you can imagine the music, and hum along (if you are so inclined). We've kept the extra R in grapevine to continue to reflect the three members of the pastoral staff.

Thank you to all who submitted ideas. We appreciate the input, and the input tells us that you were reading the publication or the web page. Thank you also to those who have added comments and questions on the website.

In the Pastoral Planning process, communication was identified as a major focus for our parish community. We want to keep building on this simple beginning, but it can only happen if you the parishioners participate, as communication is a two way effort. We will continue to explore ways of facilitating communication, and if you have any ideas, please send them along. We are always open to new ideas.

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 several links for you to give your comments and suggestions!! The latest addition to the website is a form where you can change your address with us! If you are new to the parish or have recently moved (even though you've been part of the parish forever) please fill in one of the forms and submit it so we can keep our records up to date. We discovered during the mission that there were quite a few addresses that are no longer valid. Sometimes we met new parishioners, but more often we simply missed regular parishioners.

*In case you missed the answer key above in the body of the text, the title is in Latin, and translates We Have a Name! When the Cardinal announces the election of a new pope, he proclaims "Habemus Papem". While our announcement is not as momentous, we thought it was a neat way of introducing the new name.

VESPERS

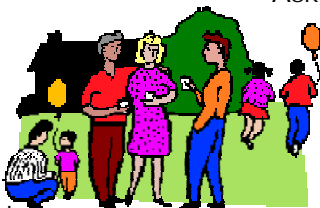
You are invited to join in the celebration of Vespers (Evening Prayer) Sunday at 4:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to take a half hour out of our busy lives and join with the universal Church in praying the official prayer of the Church. The format is relaxing and reflective as well as solemn. If you have not experienced sung Vespers, we invite you to come and join us in this time of prayer. For those who celebrate morning prayer during the week, this is much the same format, with more singing, so it will be very familiar to you.

We will be having Vespers on the third Sunday of each month, in response to the requests from those who participated in the celebration on the First Sunday of Advent.

HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Here's one way in which we can build community. This list is put out by the Syracuse Cultural Workers. How could we modify this list so that it would suggest ways in which we could build parish community?? Some will be the same, others won't. BLOG ideas to us!

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Turn off your TV | Put up a swing |
| Leave your house | Help carry something heavy |
| Know your neighbours | Barter for your goods |
| Greet people | Start a tradition |
| Look up when you're walking | Ask a question |
| Sit on your stoop | Hire young people for odd jobs |
| Plant flowers | Organize a block party |
| Use your library | Bake extra and share |
| Play together | Ask for help when you need it |
| Buy from local merchants | Open your shades |
| Share what you have | Sing together |
| Help a lost dog | Share your skills |
| Take children to the park | Take back the night |
| Honour elders | Turn up the music |
| Support neighbourhood schools | Turn down the music |
| Fix it even if you didn't break it | Listen before you react to anger |
| Have potlucks | Mediate a conflict |
| Garden together | Seek to understand |
| Pick up litter | Learn from new and uncomfortable angles |
| Read stories aloud | Know that no one is silent |
| Dance in the street | though many are not heard |
| Talk to the mail carrier | Work to change this |
| Listen to the birds | |



**May the wonder and joy of
Christ's birth bring peace to your heart,
your home, your life and to all people**

To all, we wish a happy and holy Christmas season
Giselle Jakobs Roberta Chartrand Richard Beaudette, OMI

COLOURING CONTEST

Did your child get an Advent Calendar in their bulletin a few weeks ago? On the back was a Nativity scene, custom made for colouring! We invite your little ones to colour it and submit it by Dec 25 in the envelopes on the bulletin boards.

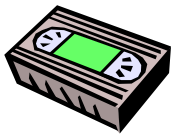


BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN (AGES 4-9)

We will be holding a series of 5 baptism preparation sessions for older children (ages 5 to 9), beginning Monday, January 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

VIDEOS FOR KIDS

Do you think a video lending library for kids would be popular here? Do you have any videos that your children have outgrown and might be suitable? Let us know what you think! Phone, email, BLOG, Guestbook...



REMEMBERING CHURCH

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!! We'll be hosting a series of gatherings after Christmas (if there's interest!).

RCIA

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?? We meet on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Are you elderly or physically challenged? We have a free taxi service (sponsored by the Knights) to get you to Church and back home on Sundays! Just phone PG Taxi and give them the account number (which you can get from Jeannine at 564-4097).



PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Giselle: I'm actually going to be around PG for Christmas and don't have to go anywhere until mid-January. Hallelujah!!!

Richard: I'll be here for Christmas too! On December 26, I will go to Fort Babine for several days for a pastoral visit. The folks there have not had Mass in the village for several months. I will return to St. Mary's for the New Year's Eve celebrations, then it is off to McBride on January 1 - the first Sunday of the month. I plan to continue on from McBride on Sunday to the farm in Vegreville to spend a few days with my parents (and celebrate Ukrainian Christmas), but will return for Sunday, January 8.

Roberta: I'm still working hard with the Youth Group, but we will be taking a break from Youth Group over the Christmas season. You are invited to check out the Youth Section on the bulletin board at the Freeman Street entrance for news, events and more.

From all of us: may your Christmas season be filled with many joys and blessings - enjoy family and friends as we celebrate Christ's presence among us. May peace be your constant blessing as we begin another year.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Picking up from one of the suggestions on building community, we would like to invite members of the community to contribute small entries in the GRRAPEVINE. We come from many countries and many cultural backgrounds. Each of us has particular customs and traditions that we celebrate as part of our family life each year. As we share these customs and traditions with others, it helps others to know us. As we get to know something about each other, it helps us to grow in appreciation of the wonderful gifts the members of the parish community bring to the community, and this helps us grow in relationship with one another. Members of the parish are invited to submit (by email, BLOG or in written form) short descriptions of Christmas customs and traditions they celebrate at home. Please include the country or culture of origin of these customs and traditions. If you wish to remain anonymous, that is fine, but we certainly invite you to identify yourself in the article. We will not publish until early in January, so the Christmas season will be almost over, but it would be great to read a couple of articles about Christmas customs and traditions as we prepare to move into Ordinary Time. We will do this around the major celebrations of our year, so if you feel too rushed to write about the Christmas season, think about Lent and Easter and submit articles for then.