



# THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 61

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

March 9, 2008

## TIME TALENT TREASURE

Giving of our time, talent and treasure is not about giving until it hurts. Rather, it is about giving until you feel good about what you have given.

How much you have has nothing to do with generosity to God. If you don't give of your time, talent and treasure with what you have, you most likely won't do it if you have more.

"Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones." (Luke 16:10)

You are just one person but you are important to God and His work. Be faithful as you give of your time, talent and treasure.

## CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will take place on Monday, March 10 at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.

This year, the Chrism Mass is particularly special because we are celebrating 100 years of our diocese. Several bishops, as well as the Apostolic Nuncio assigned to Canada will be in attendance. This is going to be a BIG event!!!!

All parishioners are invited to attend this wonderful celebration of the diocesan church! This is also when the Holy Oils are blessed and consecrated! Please join us!!!

## AND YOU SHALL LIVE

The power of the Lord is revealed today in the story of Jesus' authority over life and death. The last of the great gospels for the instruction of the Elect is a reminder to the entire assembly of the reason for our hope through our baptism into Christ. Each of the readings directs our attention to the life that God wants us to have.

Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah, and like him he had to help his fellow exiles cope with the immense tragedy of the exile in Babylon. But what a powerful communicator, visionary and man of hope. This was the greatest tragedy experienced by the people of God. And yet, this man talks of hope and life, resurrection. In this

case, national restoration to life, which is no small challenge. The vision of the dry bones (which is at the beginning of the passage that we read this weekend) expresses Israel's yearning for national resurrection after the exile. Ezekiel expresses a vision of hope to his fellow exiles.

St. Paul reminds us in the letter to the Romans of the life that God has given us in Jesus and through the presence of the Spirit. We are called to live a new life for God, in the Spirit, not in the flesh. For Paul, the term "the flesh" is synonymous with sinfulness (one could read 'original sin' for this term).

The gospel account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is considered a 'sign' that is more than a miracle: a revealing deed pointing towards Jesus' true identity as "the Resurrection and the Life". Given the nature of the sign, we already get a sense of its significance in Jesus' public ministry. It is in fact the last sign he actually performs, and it anticipates symbolically Jesus' own death. The sign also causes the Sanhedrin to meet and plan to kill him.

The story of Lazarus has many layers to it. First, it expresses the best of Jewish hope in a resurrection "on the last day". It also expresses the core of the early Christian faith in the resurrection. In between we hear about Jesus own disciples. They are slow to understand what Jesus means when he says that 'Lazarus is asleep'. Between the lines, we can read the questions early Christians had about death and afterlife. We learn that Jesus' followers and friends are not to be spared from death and that for those who believe in Jesus, death cannot be God's last word: "Whoever believe in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die". The question, now ours to answer, is "Do you believe this?" How do you live it?



## PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Since the last GRRRAPEVINE, I have been to Smithers for a meeting, and to McBride for Sunday Eucharist, and have spent the rest of the time at home, slowly catching up on parish and diocesan work that had fallen behind during all my meanderings. I cannot believe that next weekend we will be heading into Holy Week, but Lent is nearly over, and somehow it doesn't really seem to have begun yet. The Art Show was a great time for us as a community to gather, enjoy and appreciate the talents of a few members of the community, meet new people and continue to forge stronger bonds of community. Already, we are looking ahead to the second annual show, and it should be bigger and better. Giselle was away this past week in St. Albert, attending a Returning to Spirit workshop, but will be back in the office at the beginning of the week sometime. Because of her absence, we do not have an update from her—she didn't even send anything by email! I'm assuming that all is well, and that the group that has gathered is benefiting from the workshop. I look forward to a full and detailed report!

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Do not be daunted  
by the enormity  
of the world's grief.  
Do justly, now.  
Love mercy, now.  
Walk humbly, now.  
You are not obligated  
to complete the work,  
but neither  
are you free  
to abandon it.

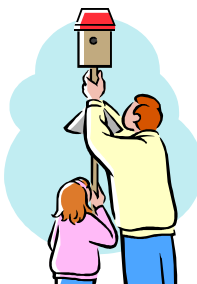
## KIDS BUILD THINGS

Knowing that children like to putter and build and discover new things, we are planning a morning of bird feeder building. Join us on Saturday, April 19 at 9:00 am in the school gym for a morning of fun and community

We will have pre-fabricated bird feeders available – the kids just need to pick up the kit which will include all the parts needed and instructions, then get to work putting it all together. We will also have paint and other finishes available, and so the finished project can be painted or decorated before leaving. We figure on closing the morning with a hot dog lunch or some other simple meal. There will be a small cost for the hardware that is needed for each project.

There is a large poster on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the Church.

If you want to be part of this fun day, choose the design(s) that you want to build then put your name and phone number on the list below the chosen design. We will have those kits that were ordered ready for you to assemble and finish. There will be a charge of \$2 per kit to help cover the cost of hardware.



We will have a few extra kits available, in case you get finished quickly and want to build another design, or in case you forgot to sign up ahead of time. In these cases, it will be first come, first served.

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## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Jesus called to his friend from the dead, "Lazarus, come out!" It is the same call our Lord makes to us unceasingly: "Come out!" Jesus calls us from our tomb of doubt and unbelief, from the darkness of our fear and anxieties; from the depths of our weaknesses and lack of hope. Christian stewards pray for an open heart, so that they may hear the voice of the Lord, heed the continuous call to come away from their former way of living, reprioritize their lives in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we move into the last moments of Lent, what still needs to be responded to in our lives? Where do we need extra grace to move toward the great celebration of Easter, when with the Lord, we will come out of the tomb?



**I believe,  
I give**



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Creator God, we are sometimes overwhelmed by the ecological problems that our societies produce and the amount of change that is needed to walk more lightly upon your Earth. But we know that we are not alone. We live in your world. Remind us, Lord, that you are with us always and that you walk together with us on our journey to a new way of living. Amen.

*Adapted from Environmental celebrations draft, "We Dare to Say", United Church of Canada.*

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## NEW TO THE PARISH??

Are you new to the parish? Have you filled out a parish registration form yet? They're available on the bulletin boards at the entrances of the Church. Better yet, introduce yourself to Fr. Richard or Giselle after Mass. We'd love to meet you and get the chance to know you.



## SPRING PLANT SALE

It is still early to start the tomatoes, but not too early to start thinking about our Spring Plant Sale for St. Vincent de Paul. The sales over the past two years have been wonderfully successful and have made a significant contribution to the work of the Society in the late spring and early summer. So, if you have a green thumb, it may be time to start warming-up exercises! You can contribute in other ways as well—last year we had coffee and goodies, so the morning became a time for relaxation and visiting as well as getting some plant material for the garden or house. So, we are looking for bakers, servers, cashiers and helpers of all sorts. The sale will be held on Saturday, May 17. Put it on your calendars and start planning your planting schedule.

## EARTH HOUR - TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

KAI ROS wants you to turn off your lights for an hour at 8 pm on Saturday, March 29. Why? Because our use of fossil fuels – symbolized here by a light bulb – is contributing to global climate change. People, businesses, and communities are being invited to turn off their lights and demand action on climate change.

KAI ROS invites you to join in this global effort as part of your commitment to the Re-Energize: Time for a Carbon Sabbath campaign. Use this time to reflect on your use of fossil fuels and their connections not just to climate change but to human rights and conflict as well. On March 29, join with people all over the world who will be turning out their lights as a message to our governments that we need immediate action on global climate change.

What are you going to do when the lights come back on? Earth Hour is a symbolic action, but it's very important, when we flick the lights back on at 9:00, that we commit to truly reducing our carbon footprints – as individuals, as communities and as a nation.

Think of ways in which you can commit to a more energy-efficient lifestyle, and how you can encourage our elected officials to help us do that as a country. As part of the Re-energize campaign, KAI ROS IS DEVELOPING A NEW PROGRAM, THE Carbon Sabbath Initiative, which will invite the formation of groups who want to cut their carbon consumption, continue to learn more about fossil fuels, and advocate for a just and sustainable energy policy for Canada. More information about the program or KAI ROS, is available at [www.re-energize.org](http://www.re-energize.org) and [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org).

KAI ROS unites eleven churches and church agencies in faithful action for justice and peace. Earth Hour is a project of the World Wildlife Fund, and KAI ROS has prepared the information for use. See [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) for more information.

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the February financial statement.

Bank Balance:	24.44
DDF Balance: 1	59288.74
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>2755.35</u>
Total Assets	162068.53

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	14126.50	Aministration	14685.40
Fees	0	Programs	387.23
Programs	575.00	Operation/Maint.	2416.91
Other	494.25		
Rentals	3487.50	Rental Operation	2849.63
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>18683.25</u>	<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>20339.17</u>
Net Income	-1655.92		



Our income was down about \$6000 this month, which had an impact on our month end balance. Expenses were also down. The cushion that we had at the end of January covered the income shortfall and left us with a few dollars at the end of the month. There will be more maintenance expense as we prepare to rent the vacant apartment, and then we will have to replace the roof over the Conference Room. Maintenance is nearly up to date now, and the cost should drop. Thank you to all for your continued generous support of the work and mission of the parish.

THE TRIDUUM:  
THREE DAYS OF EASTER  
VIDEO SERIES

The Three Days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are the centre and climax of our Christian year. It all begins on Holy Thursday afternoon and ends on Easter Sunday afternoon.

As we approach this solemn time in our liturgical calendar, we thought it would be good to spend some time preparing. Over the next three Sundays (Mar 2, Mar 9 & Mar 16), we are offering three short videos on the different celebrations of the Triduum.

Holy Thursday Video—Sunday March 2 at 10 am in the Conference Room. This 30 minute video explores what we do in the first hours of the Triduum.

Good Friday Video—Sunday March 9 at 10 am in the Conference Room. This 30 minute video explores what happens in the afternoon of Good Friday.

Easter Vigil Video—Sunday March 16 at noon in the Conference Room. This 60 minute video explores the greatest celebration of our liturgical year. "This is the night", the night spend around a blazing fire, then around a newly-lighted candle, then with the scriptures, from which we proclaim once again the stories of our salvation. Finally, the saints process to the font, where those who have been long preparing renounce evil, profess faith in Christ, and enter the waters. Then they are anointed with chrism and join the rest of the joyful assembly in eucharist.

INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF STEWARDSHIP

Bishop Morneau of Green Bay has spoken about the 12 Gardens of Stewardship. This broad concept of stewardship shows that it extends to the soul, the arts, the mind, history, technology, politics, emotions, the planet, decisions, money, relationships, the body, and perhaps others. If stewardship consists of many gardens, then obviously it is something that needs to be planted (recognizing God as the source of all we have through prayer and thanking God for all those gifts), tended (cultivated and nurtured), and harvested (sharing with others and giving back to God). The following Individual Acts of Stewardship suggest many different ways that we can be stewards.

The Garden of Relationships

Our lives are busy. But the purpose of our lives is all about relationships – with God, with each other. To neglect our relationships, especially with those who are close to us, is to not exercise good stewardship.

Our relationships can be a lot of work, but they are crucial for our survival. We must give our relationships proper time and attention – just like the gardener giving proper time and attention to his garden. Some ideas for tending the garden of our relationships:

- Send a card to someone who is in need of support.
- When you hear a siren, say a prayer for those it is going to aid and a prayer of thanksgiving for those who help them.
- Invite some friends over that you haven't gotten together with in a while.
- Write a letter to someone you've not spoken to/written to in a while.
- Eat out one less time a week. Invite a friend over for dinner.



- Take a parenting class or anger management class (they are great for learning better communication skills, even if you don't think they'd apply to you).
- Sign up for a Marriage Encounter weekend. It's great stewardship of your marriage.
- Take every chance you get to say hello to your neighbors. You'll build good relationships that will benefit you, too.
- Attend your family gatherings if at all possible. Maintaining a relationship with those who share a common history and background can help us understand more about our past and our future.
- Visit the homebound – especially any relatives or friends or acquaintances.
- Say a prayer for those in need every day.
- Don't be shy – when appropriate wave/say hello.
- Tell someone that they are gifted – compliment them on their talents.
- Don't pass on gossip or participate when people are gossiping!
- If there is someone you know who might benefit from a timely word or gentle suggestion, make a point to speak to them.
- Next time you get an invitation with an RSVP, respond immediately. You'll be a good steward of everyone's time.
- Be careful getting in and out of your car not to ding another's car. Treating other people's property with respect is good stewardship.
- Be honest – pay what you owe.
- Give others the gift of silence.
- Tip those who serve you properly – including maids at a hotel, etc.