

THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

PARISH BARBEQUE

About 45 people came out to West Lake last weekend and enjoyed the gorgeous weather! We roasted hamburgers and hotdogs, played in the water, caught some fish, lost some fish and had a great time. Thanks to all the parishioners who contributed their time in making this event happen!

BIKE/STROLLER PARKING

We are happy to offer FREE bike and stroller parking at the weekend Masses. Sorry, no valet service! The gym will be open before and after the Masses for you to park your bike and/or stroller. During Mass, the accordion gate will be locked for security. We encourage you to ride your bike or walk your stroller to Mass!



FOOD CANNING WORKSHOP

It's a little early yet, but on Saturday, August 23, Kairos PG will be supporting a canning workshop at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Canning and preserving locally grown foods is something our grandparents used to do. With rising fuel and food costs, it's something that's back in vogue. More details later!

CONTRASTS & INVITATIONS

The readings this weekend are full of contrasts (and opposites) – a triumphant king, humble and riding on a donkey; flesh/Spirit; wise and intelligent/mere infants; take up my yoke and you will find rest. What are we to make of all this? It seems that we need to do many different things and be many different things if we are going live as part of God's people.

The prophet Zechariah calls Israel (and us) to rejoice greatly and shout aloud. He goes on to enumerate some reasons for rejoicing. As we listen, we are invited to reflect on our reasons for rejoicing, as the call to rejoice is directed at us as well. What has God done for me which gives me cause to rejoice? Have I taken any time to reflect on what God has done? Do I recognize the work of God in my life? If and when I do recognize the blessings and gifts that God gives, do I ever take the time to give thanks and to rejoice? Do I ever tell others about the goodness of God toward me? Zechariah has no hesitation in proclaiming to the world the goodness and graciousness of God.

Paul invites and challenges us to live out the gifts that God has given. Having recognized and given thanks for the blessings, now we are to use them in a positive way in our own lives and in all our relationships – to continue to build the kingdom of God in our world. Do others benefit from the gifts that God has given me? How generous am I in sharing those gifts with others?

Jesus also invites us to reflect on the many gifts that God has given. He reminds us that it is not because of our intelligence or our worthiness that God bestows gifts – it is purely out of love for us that God shares those blessings. We are to trust in God's love, and take the gifts upon ourselves in order to share them with others. In sharing the gifts, they are not a burden, but rather a blessing for us and for those around us.

There must be always remaining in every life, some place or the singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.
Howard Thurman

BAPTISM PREPARATION

All parents asking to have their first child baptized are required to take a baptism preparation program in the parish. Since we normally hold these sessions every two to three months, please take the time to ensure that you have taken the program before you wish to have the baptism. This may mean doing the preparation before your baby is born, which is a wonderful way to help prepare for the birth of your child!

Our next sessions will be held on September 8 and 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office meeting room (1088 Gillett Street). Please call ahead to register if you are planning to attend; this helps us in our planning as well.

CAMP MORICE

There are brochures and registration forms on the bulletin boards at both entrances of the church.

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

Baptisms:

Erik Pelipe
Kaleb Ravlic
Mairin Callaghan

Weddings:

Jacob Carpenter &
Vanessa Dennis
Dallas Schmelzel &
Chelsea Roberts

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: With the warmer weather and seeming summer, it is time to spend a bit more time in the garden! The school closing celebrations were wonderful and it was great to see the kids excited about the upcoming holidays. Hopefully it will be a bit quieter in the parish and Diocesan Office over the next couple of months too. With Sr. Jude away visiting her community and family in the United States, it is a little quieter around the office (not that she is noisy, mind you).

I am off to McBride again this weekend – it is hard to believe that it is only a month ago that I was there; so much has happened in the meantime that it feels like it must be at least a couple of months. The parish picnic last weekend was perfect – a nice relaxing afternoon and evening visiting by the lake. May the rest of the summer be relaxing and peaceful for all of you.

Giselle: I'll be gone for the next 6 weeks or so, taking my holidays and delivering a couple of Returning to Spirit Workshops. I'll be back some time in mid-August. Hopefully not too late for the blueberry picking season! While away I hope to update the website every once in a while so it's not totally out of date! And checking emails... I hope...

Jude: Sr. Jude is away until around July 20 visiting her religious community and family in the United States...

COMPETITION

A little boy sees his brother with an ice cream cone and runs to ask his mother if it's all right to have an ice cream cone before dinner. He really hopes that his mother will take the treat away from his brother, and maybe even scold him in the bargain.

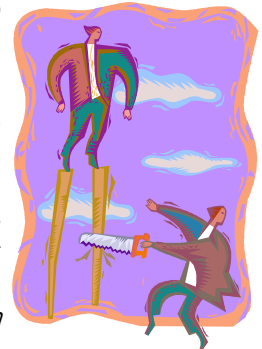
A student pulls out a calculator to solve an exam problem. No sooner does she have the calculator out of her bag than the girl next to her raises her hand to ask the teacher if it is permitted, hoping that she might get a better grade for having pointed out the other girl's infraction.

If the little boy and teenage student had been sincere in their questions they would have gone directly to the persons involved, wouldn't they? Why, then, rather than address the situation directly, did they choose to go to a higher authority? Could it be that they believed that by making someone else look bad they could make themselves look good? It's a common human failing, I suspect, and not only among children.

The Pharisees knew the law. They knew what had been written regarding divorce. So why did they approach Jesus with the question (Mk 10:2-16)? Perhaps they, too, were hoping to make themselves look good by making someone else look bad. But is that really what God's law is about?

Several years ago, a secretary in the office where I was working came to see me about her sister, whose husband routinely beat her. She had encouraged her sister to seek a divorce. However, when her sister asked her pastor if it was permissible for her to divorce her husband, he sternly referred her to this Scripture passage.

The Pharisees wanted Jesus to tell them they were right, but Jesus saw right through them. He described marriage as a covenant, not as a contract; as that sacred union in which a man and a woman are joined together by God as equals, each loving the other as one flesh. God's law is given to protect this reality, not to enforce a contract. Do we understand this? Or do we, like the Pharisees, prefer to use God's law against others in an attempt to make ourselves look good? (*taken from On the Way to Work by Vinal Van Venthem*)



MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the June financial statement.

		I N C O M E		E X P E N S E S	
Bank Balance:	59.88	Donations	17000.34	Aministration	15913.54
DDF Balance:	147810.94	Fees	150.00	Programs	154.80
Accts Receivable:	3015.33	Programs		Oper./Maint.	3146.42
Total Assets	150886.15	Other	218.20		
		Rentals	4270.00	Rental Oper.	3166.24
		Total Inc.	21638.54	Total Expense	22381.00
				Net Income	-742.46

Our fiscal year has ended, and we begin again! It seemed like the summer collections started around the end of May this year, so there was less in the account to cover the bills along the way. We have a major project – replacing the roof over the conference room, but that will come from our savings account.

Once again, thank you to all the parishioners for your generous response in providing for our financial needs.



Bicycle Benefits is a progressive bicycling program designed to reward individuals and businesses for their commitment to cleaner air, personal health, and the use of pedaling energy in order to create a more sustainable community.

The program's continual growth decreases parking demand, increases helmet use, and improves cyclists' safety and health by putting more people on bikes.

Cyclists purchase a helmet sticker (\$5) from one of the participating business sponsors. This sticker then gives them discounts on various in-store products! Here in PG, the following business support BicycleBenefits (so far)!

Ave Maria
Cycle Logic

*** Evergreen Pharmacy
Northern Cycle & Sport
Pizzarico's
Sassafras Savories
Stride & Glide Sports
The Waddling Duck
Wasabi Sushi & Wonton House
The Chinese Store

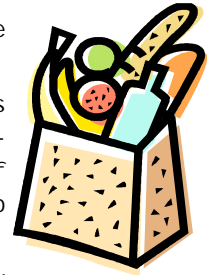
Ride your bike downtown! Save on parking! Don't contribute to pollution. Practice stewardship of creation. Exercise and contribute to your health! Plus get discounts!

It's a great way to contribute to the health and well-being of our local PG community. Think about it when you go down to the Farmer's Market on weekends! For more info visit their website: www.bicyclebenefits.org

WHAT A WASTE: THE FOOD WE THROW AWAY

What a disturbing irony! Good, edible food thrown away while the world accelerates towards a food crisis of massive proportions.

India recently halted the export of non-basmati rice to ensure its poor can eat. Meanwhile, every month residents in the city of Toronto, Canada, toss out 17.5 million kilograms of food. Images of green bins overflowing with wasted food stand in stark contrast to media images of riots and hunger around the world.



Food waste is pervasive in western society. A recent British study determined that about one-third of food purchased in the UK is thrown out every year. This equates to about CDN\$19.5 billion.

In Toronto, the picture is not all that different: single-family households produce an average of 275 kilograms of food waste each year. Twenty-five per cent of this food goes unnecessarily into the garbage—as opposed to the green bin—where city taxpayers pay nearly \$10 million a year for its disposal. Most of it is still edible and much of it is still in its original packaging.

Food waste has serious implications for society. Consumers unnecessarily spend a lot of time and money on food they don't eat. Rotting food also pumps heaps of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Plus the costs for collecting, transporting and land-filling the excess food come from the taxpayers.

The good news is that some simple lifestyle adjustments offer huge payoffs for your family, community and the planet.

A UK waste program reports that 61 per cent of all food waste could have been eaten if consumers better planned and stored their food purchases. Check the refrigerator before you shop. Freeze what you don't plan to eat. And don't just plan your shopping list, but assess your eating habits and plan when you'll have time to prepare the food you're buying.

Much excess food becomes trash eventually. Once discarded, the valuable resources used to produce the food, including your time, are wasted. Leftovers can be as appealing as a freshly cooked, hot meal. To make leftover food delicious and useful:

- safely store food to keep it fresh and safe,
- prepare leftovers properly—a microwave is quick, but traditional heating can help maintain the taste,
- freeze leftovers for later use, and;
- think outside the plate! Combine leftovers with other food items for a unique meal.

If you have an excess of edible, perishable food, look for organizations like [Second Harvest](#), that redistribute food to those in need, including hospices and school lunch programs. As well, livestock farmers and zoos use leftovers to feed the animals. Call your local zoo or farmer's association to find out if this is an option in your area.

Not all towns and cities have organic collection programs. To keep food from rotting uselessly in a landfill, begin a compost pile in your backyard. Go online for tips on composting and with a little research and work, you'll see that your pile will benefit the soil and make your garden more plentiful. (*above article from www.msn.ca*)



We are all called to be stewards of creation, to share what we have with those who are less fortunate. We are called to watch what we buy, to watch what we eat or fail to eat. To be mindful of our habits and to alter them in line with our vocation as Christian disciples. Jesus had the disciples gather the leftovers after the feeding of the multitude. What do you do??

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA

In 1908, Catholic Missions In Canada was established under papal mandate at The Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada to provide financial and spiritual support to Catholic missionaries – priests, sisters, brothers and lay people – whose lives were dedicated to proclaiming the blessings of the Catholic faith throughout the poorest dioceses in the Dominion of Canada.

The aims of our founders were to strengthen the Catholic Church in the Dominion of Canada. In 1908, there was an urgency to provide humanitarian and spiritual care to newly arrived Catholic immigrants pouring into Canada's western provinces.

Our mission today, 100 years later, is to foster and extend the blessing of the Catholic faith throughout the dioceses of Canada which cannot economically support their local church and its ministry.

Catholic Missions in Canada today supports over 600 missionaries in 27 mission dioceses across Canada.

Our missionaries reach over 1.2 million Catholics living in some of the poorest and most remote regions of Canada – from Newfoundland to British Columbia to Nunavut and in First Nations Reserves across the country.

The funding of Catholic Missions in Canada amounts to over \$4million each year in support of 6 critical areas:

- *Missionaries (priests, sisters, deacons, brothers and lay leaders) need funding for their living expenses, their heating bills and their transportation costs;
- *Religious Education programs for both children and adults;
- *Building and repair of churches, rectories and religious centres;
- *Lay pastoral leadership programs that train the faithful to lead others in the celebration of the Catholic faith in the absence of clergy;
- *First Nations Ministry, which allows our First Nations peoples to celebrate their Catholic faith in remote communities;
- *Education of Seminarians to help ensure the future of our faith. In 2007 alone, Catholic Missions in Canada provided a total of \$360,000 to support the education and formation of 40 seminarians across Canada.

We ask you to join us in celebrating 100 years of Missionary work by the Catholic Church in Canada! With your help, we look forward to continuing the sacred work for as long as God's Word remains unknown throughout the dioceses of Canada.

*To find our more about the work that Catholic Missions in Canada is doing today,
pick up a complimentary package at the back of the church this weekend!*

GOOD FOOD BOX

The Good Food Box is a monthly, bulk-produce buying program open to anyone interested in eating well and saving money. No membership is required. By pooling your money with others, you can increase your buying power and you can expect to save 30-40% on your fresh fruit and vegetable purchases. The program aims to help build a healthier community and local food system by encouraging consumption and appreciation of locally grown farm produce. When local supplies are exhausted, we purchase through wholesalers.

The contents of the box vary from season to season, depending on local availability, pricing and quality. You can expect at least 15 different types of produce in every box including potatoes, onions, carrots, broccoli, salad greens and apples. The PG Good Food Box newsletter promotes local farmers, food events and recipes.

There is a poster on the bulletin board with details on how to order a food box, how much it costs, how to register, etc.

It's a great way to save money and eat healthy! Of course, you can always just go down to the Farmer's Market as well. The Vatican recently issued a statement encouraging us to support local food-growers to help them achieve sustainability... Go for it!

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.

