

## FINANCES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER PRACTICAL STUFF

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



Bank Balance:	17,652.74
DDF balance	168,747.89
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>-7,979.15</u>
Total Assets	178,421.48

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	20,938.25	Administration	18,573.20
Fees	375.00	Programs	1,995.27
Programs	2,199.50	Operation/Maint.	2,963.48
Other	141.00	<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>2,000.84</u>
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3,850.00</u>	Total Expense	25,532.79
Total Income	27,503.75	Net Income	1,970.96

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. The invoice for the Mission has been paid now (January 9), so the statement for January should give a true picture of the parish's financial position (if the remaining two parishes send in their contribution for the Mission before the end of the month).

Comparing the period from July 1 (the beginning of our fiscal year) to last year's statement, our regular collection contributions remain higher than last year. Thank you to all for your generosity in sharing the material blessings you have been given. Through your generosity, you assist the parish in also being generous in sharing with others who are in need.

There is nothing major planned for the coming month in terms of maintenance or other projects. We hope that with all the work that has been done over the past sixteen months, we are pretty much caught up with the work. One project that will be undertaken in the next few months is to change the lighting in the church, to soften it, provide for variable lighting and give us greater energy efficiency.

We have signed up to be part of the Blue Jewel Recycling program. All our waste paper as well as household recyclables from the rectory and the apartments is now being picked up on a regular basis. It may be a small effort, but we are doing our best to be environmentally conscious.



# THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 8

January 15, 2006

## WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR ON THE GRRRAPEVINE

We are nearly halfway through the first month of the year, but since this is the first edition of 2006, we take a moment to wish all the members of the parish a very happy, peaceful New Year. May the Lord bless you abundantly with all the gifts you need each day. "May the Lord's face shine upon you, may the Lord be gracious to you and give you peace." (*adapted from the blessing of Aaron*) Once again, a reminder that our parish website can be accessed at <http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/>. We have designed the site to be interactive, so do not be afraid to add comments, send questions, etc. We will respond to any questions that are posted, and we do appreciate your comments and suggestions. We look forward to a year of dialogue with the members of the parish community.

## VESPERS

We have celebrated Vespers twice now, and the response has been that we continue to offer this form of prayer on a regular basis. We will celebrate sung Vespers each month on the third Sunday at 4:30 p.m. That means that we celebrate today (January 15). Come and join us. See the article on The Liturgy of Hours on page 3.

## PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Giselle: I will be in Terrace this weekend for Lay Formation. Other than that, I will spend the next couple of months here in Prince George. After the Christmas break, a number of groups are back on track: RCIA, Baptism Prep for Older Children, Religious Education, Sacramental Prep, etc. This is a hopping place!!

Richard: I'm home after visits to Fort Babine and the farm in Alberta. I have no travel plans for the rest of the month, but will be sticking close to home with meetings of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Catholic Independent Schools Board of Directors, Diocesan Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, School Council, Parish Liturgy Committee and Shepherd's Corner Board of Directors. We have also begun six weeks of Marriage Preparation sessions, so I will be involved in those, as well as teaching at Lay Formation in Prince George next weekend.

### HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Remember that list that we published a couple of GRRRAPEVINEs ago? The one that listed ways in which we could build community. We expanded a bit on the "Know Your Neighbour" idea, by encouraging submissions of Christmas Customs. Another way in which we can Build Community, is by sharing meals together. Eating together is a great way to build fellowship and to learn a bit about each other. It says a lot about somebody when you find out that they love to eat pig's feet or haggis (yuck!). And it just so happens that this Sunday, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring another pancake breakfast. Don't let the name fool you thought, there's a lot more than pancakes there!! These breakfasts are a great way for us to get to know each other. Why not come and maybe approach that person that you've seen in church for years, but whose name is still a mystery.



### CHRISTMAS IS OVER... NOW WHAT?

Yup, Christmas is officially over. And the next statutory holiday is in April!! Anybody else suffering from the post-Christmas January blues yet? Liturgically, we're straddling that time between the Advent/Christmas and the Lent/Easter seasons. It's a period called Ordinary Time, and often, we might be tempted to equate ordinary with boring! But that is far from the case. There's more to our liturgical year than the birth and death of Jesus. If you listen carefully to the readings for the next two Sundays, you'll find a prominent thread linking the First Readings and the Gospels. Can you hear it?? The readings do tend to belabour the point a little bit: God calls Samuel, God calls Jonah, God calls Nineveh, Jesus calls the first disciples. God is calling you and me. Do we hear God's call? It might not be something as obvious as a voice from the heavens calling you to become a priest or a religious brother or sister. It might be something as subtle as waking up in the middle of the night convinced that you should phone somebody. It might be something as subtle as Richard approaching you and asking you to serve the parish in some capacity. It might be something as subtle as hearing that somebody is sick and in the hospital. God's call isn't necessarily going to be a shout, it's much more likely to be a whisper. Can you hear it??

### SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

Rectorino and Venerando were in PG this past week for a visit. Venerando has now gone back to Dawson Creek, but Rectorino will be spending the next few months at the Cathedral. Fr. Pier from Kitimat has gone on sabbatical, so Rectorino will be working with Fr. John. We might see him here at St. Mary's, so give him a welcoming smile and a warm handshake when you see him.