



# THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 9

January 29, 2006

## ANOTHER WEEKEND ON THE GRRRAPEVINE

We plan to publish bi-weekly for the time being. This seems to work for our schedule. In the future we may increase the number of issues per month, but that will depend on time and the amount we have to say!

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.

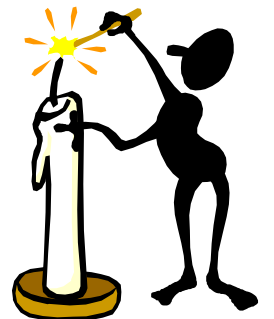
## PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Giselle: I was in Terrace a couple of weekends ago for Lay Formation, and will head west again in another couple of weeks. In-between-time, there is always RCIA, Baptism Preparation, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the occasional weekend preaching!

Richard: After a couple of hectic weeks, the past week was very quiet, and the coming week is relatively so, with only meetings of the Diocesan Finance Council, St. Mary's School Council and marriage preparation scheduled. There should be time for hiking, photography and a little parish work! Actually most of the time will be spent in the parish office, catching up with paper work and appointments.

## VESPERS

In case you're wondering, our next celebration of Vespers is scheduled for the third Sunday of each month. So the next celebration will be on February 19. Did you know that anybody can lead Vespers? It doesn't have to have an ordained presider. So, next month, we'll give Fr. Richard a break and Giselle will preside. Between now and then though, she'll have to practice those little solo singing bits!



### 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. With Lent looming around the corner, we are looking for Shrove Tuesday and Lenten customs, and not long after that we would welcome Easter customs. Get your pens out and start writing! You can send things to us by email, regular mail, the web page or in the collection basket. By the way, how many met someone new at the last pancake breakfast? There will be another coming up in February, so make plans now to attend. The date will be listed on the parish calendar which is included with the bulletin.

### SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

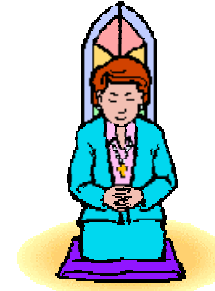
Rectorino, who has returned from Kitimat and is now at Sacred Heart Cathedral, will be participating in the RCIA sessions here at St. Mary's as well as the Marriage Preparation evenings. You may encounter him at some of these gatherings or occasionally at morning Mass - give him a big St. Mary's welcome. Venerando has reported that -25 degree temperatures and heavy snowfalls in Dawson Creek are rather exciting. It's his first winter - he'll get over it!

### HOW ATTENTIVE ARE YOU?

How long have you been coming to Mass? 5 years? 20? 30? 50? 70? Have you ever noticed that sometimes it's the things we do the most often that eventually escape our notice? We come to Mass week in and week out, and you'd think that we would be intimately familiar with it, and yet, quite often, the opposite is the case! Or maybe not. Think you've got it down pat? How about a little quiz!! Below are the different parts of the Eucharistic Celebration. The trick is to put them in their correct order! Number them from 1 to 25... No peeking in the missal! And you can check there for the answers.

Preparation of the Gifts	Lamb of God	Lord's Prayer
Prayer after Communion	Homily	Preface
Gloria	Opening Prayer	Prayer over the Gifts
Sign of Peace	Final Blessing	Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation	Creed	Introductory Rites
Great Amen	Psalm	Eucharistic Prayer
Prayers of the Faithful	Gospel	Greeting
First Reading	Reception of Communion	
Dismissal	Holy Holy	

## PRAYER TYPES



What do you think of when you hear the word "prayer"? Many of us might think of prayers that we learned as a child – the Our Father or the Hail Mary. Or maybe we have a book at home of Catholic Prayers. But really, what is prayer? Simply put, it is communication with God. And, since communication is a two-way street, it's not just us talking to God, but us listening as well.

There are many different forms of prayer. Which is a good thing, because there are many different types of people. What works for you, might not work for your neighbour. Each of us prays differently. Each of us has a different relationship with God. Some people like to pray during Adoration. Others like to pray while they are gardening or hiking. Others like to pray while listening to music or while painting. Still others like to pray in a group, perhaps in a small group bible study.

Sadly, our Catholic upbringing doesn't usually expose us to a lot of different prayer styles. Do you know what prayer style works best for you? Maybe you're a musical type. You know, singing along to tunes as you drive to work. Or maybe you play an instrument. Perhaps you should try a more musical form of prayer. Did you know that St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church has a evening of Taize prayer on the last Sunday of the month? Check out the posters on the bulleting boards for times!

## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - FEB 2

On Thursday, February 2, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast has been celebrated since 386 AD when it was accompanied by torch or candlelight processions. Prior to Vatican II, we used to call this Candlemas, and it was traditional to have the blessing of candles on this day. Ultimately, this feast celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the different encounters between the infant Jesus and those who have been awaiting his coming. The Light of Christ has come into the world!

## GOD IS LOVE - ENCYCLICAL OF BENEDICT XVI

Benedict XVI has published his first encyclical, entitled DEUS CARITAS EST, which means GOD IS LOVE. It's still hot off the press, which means some of us haven't read it yet, although rumour has it that it is quite good. If you're interested, you can follow the links from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website ([www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)).

### EUCHARIST MEANS THANKSGIVING

So many of the prayers of our Eucharistic celebration refer to thanksgiving. We give thanks for many things as we celebrate, but do we pause to reflect on the need for thanksgiving? We are in Ordinary Time, and while the world around us may seem to be asleep or dead under its blanket of snow (at least on rare occasions) and grey skies, the vesture for this season reminds us that we are a people of hope, of life. The green vestments speak of growth and life and are a reminder to us that our call as disciples is to live in hope, rejoice in the gifts God gives us and continue to grow in our relationship with God and our communion with one another.

As we gather each Sunday, the Gospels will remind us of Jesus' victory over the powers of sin and death, his liberating power and the light that he brings into our world. As we reflect on these things, that can lead us to reflect on the many ways in which we have been liberated, enlightened, freed, called into life. While human life is a composite of joy and sorrow, victory and tragedy, sadness and hope, health and sickness we are reminded in our celebration that Christ came to free us and fill us with life. In Christ, we can face human suffering head on, because we do not have to face it alone and Christ has power to give life. When we are bowed low under the burdens of life, Christ restores us to hope and to joy in life with him and in the service of others.

The Gospel stories of physical healing, forgiveness of sins, raising the dead to life and compassionate welcome of all who were burdened are a potent reminder that Christ came to save us as well as a call to rely on the presence, power and love of Christ to carry us through the difficult times of life.

For what are we grateful; for what do we give thanks as we gather on Sunday for Eucharist? This is not a rhetorical question; it is a question we need to answer for ourselves each time we gather, for the answer to the question is the reason we gather for Eucharist. As we give thanks, as we praise God, we do not do these things in a vacuum, but rather from our lived experience.

Gratitude also needs to be expressed in a tangible way. We can say the words or think the thoughts, but we also need to do something to express our gratitude. Our full, conscious, active participation in the celebration is the beginning of our expression of gratitude. Our reaching out to our neighbour at the celebration is also key. This would remind us that hospitality is the responsibility of each member of the assembly and is to be exercised by all as we gather and celebrate. Gratitude also calls us to service – to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters as we gather, but also to serve those we encounter along the journey each day.

In this loving service we live out the thanksgiving we celebrate; we live out the Eucharist in our daily living.