

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16/17, 2006

DONATIONS

Regular Envelopes.....	3,714.00
<u>Loose</u>	<u>230.00</u>
Total	3,944.00

St. Vincent de Paul Hampers Total.....\$ 4,164.07

We give sincere thanks to the people of St. Mary's Parish for sustaining our projects. You have played a vital role in our Christmas hamper campaign. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who contributed in so many ways.

PASTA SUPPER GIANT THANK YOU

We send an enormous THANK YOU to Mike Labonte and the Knights of Columbus and their families, who are so wonderfully supportive every year with the Pasta Supper. We collected 129 gifts from the parish for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers. Thank you for your caring and kindness. You are helping to make many families have a happier and brighter Christmas.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will host Christmas Dinner, for those in need, Dec. 25th at Sacred Heart Auditorium. Dinner will be served Christmas Day from 11:30am to 1:00 pm. A work bee is planned on Sunday Dec. 24th from Noon until 2 pm. Potato peelers and turkey carvers are especially needed. Dessert donations are very much appreciated and will be accepted at the hall during the work bee. Volunteers are needed Christmas Day from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm for serving, dish washing and hall cleanup. To ensure sufficient help, please confirm your assistance by calling Bernie at 564-3416

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the school.

We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.
.....Robert Louis Stevenson

MORNING PRAYER 7:00AM WEEKDAYS

MORNING MASS 7:20 AM WEEKDAYS

Sat. Dec.16	7: 00pm	RIP Frances Glasser
Sun. Dec.17	. 9:00am	RIP Pearl & Lawrence Benoit
	11:00am	For the People of Our Parish
Mon. Dec. 18	7:20am	INT Suzanne LeFebvre
Tue. Dec. 19	7:20am	RIP Frances Glasser
Wed. Dec. 20	7:20am	INT Merlin Sullivan
Thu. Dec. 21..	7:20am	RIP Lindsay Santos
Fri. Dec. 22	7:20am	RIP Joe Moffatt
Sat. Dec. 23	7:00pm	RIP Genna Gialeonardo and Joe Paolucci
Sun Dec. 24	.9:00am	RIP Deceased Oblates
	11:00am	For the People of our Parish
	7:00pm	For the Children of Our Parish
	9:00pm	For the People of Our Parish
Midnight		RIP Jack Santos

YOUTH MINISTRY

PARISH YOUTH – The St. Mary's Youth and Young Adult Groups will be partying with Sacred Heart and Christ Our Saviour Christmas style this Sunday (17th) No Youth Group on the 24th and 31st due to the Christmas Holidays. We are back to schedule on January 7th. YOUNG ADULTS - Anyone Grade 12 and up is invited to meet after Youth Group the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:30pm We meet in St. Mary's Gym foyer.***UPDATE *** No Young Adults on the 24th and 31st due to the Christmas Holidays. We reconvene on the 7th of January.

**YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR,
ROBERTA.**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA meets Mondays, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. For more information call Giselle at the parish office 564-4097.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME!

The Children's Liturgy of the Word is celebrated at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays.

OMI MISSION IN KENYA

I am very grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist with you this past weekend and share about God's blessings on our new Mission in Kenya. Thank you to those who took envelopes with the intention to share what you are able. A few envelopes are left at the entrance of the Church for those who perhaps were absent last Sunday but would like to assist the Mission. Many blessings! Have a holy and happy Christmas with family and friends. Thank you.....Fr. Ken Forster OMI

2007 DONATION ENVELOPES

Your donation envelopes for 2007 are available at the back of the church today. Please pick yours up. If you do not use envelopes but wish to start, please call the parish office. By using numbered envelopes, you will receive an Income Tax receipt for your donations at the end of the year. Income Tax receipts for 2006 will be mailed out early in January.

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

We are seeking donations of candies and other sweet treats for our Open House Christmas Party on Dec.19th. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Shepherd's Corner.

It isn't enough to talk about peace. You must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it, you must work at it.

DOMANO RENEWAL CENTRE- 964-4475

Please call 964-4475 to register for all programs.

COUNSELING

Counseling services at the Renewal Centre for couples and individuals offered by Brian Bulgin.

Wed. Dec. 20th. 10:00am to 11:30am

**Please join us for Christmas coffee
and Open House.**

Bethany House # 110.

RSVP, please call 964-4475.

DOMANO RENEWAL CENTRE

The centre is comprised of the Domano Chapel and four attractive houses – a peaceful setting for educational and retreat experiences. Wholesome delicious meals are served buffet-style to groups. For individuals making a private retreat, cooking facilities are available. All of our guest facilities are warm, clean and comfortable.

SPIRIT OF THE CENTRE

Programs at the Centre are both educative and experiential in nature, characterized by a contemplative attitude, encouraging participants to develop an awareness of God's presence and action in their lives and to respond to that God in a healthy and life-giving way.

BLUE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7pm Thu. Dec. 21, Knox United Church.

In this season when the focus is most often on joy and merry-making, many of us find ourselves conflicted with other emotions. This service will offer a place for sadness and hope-recognizing that this is a season of grief as well as joy. It will be a time to sing, pray, reflect and gather courage. We are not alone.....God is with us.

PASKO SIMBANG BAYAN NG DIVOS

A traditional Filipino Simbang Gabi Christmas Mass celebration will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Dec.22. Carols start at 7:10pm, Mass at 7:30 celebrated by Fr. Edpo. A potluck Agape (merienda), social and gift exchange follows. (not less than \$10.) Hymns are in Pilipino. Choir practice every Wed. and Sun., 7pm at Sacred Heart. "Sama-sama nating ipagdiwang ang kapanganakan n gating Poong Hesukristo". For more details call Romeo at 562-6041.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Tue. Dec.19th 7pm at Christ Our Saviour

Thu. Dec. 21st 7m at Immaculate Conception.

I'm not OK and you're not ok, and that's ok.

WEBSITE

If you've been reading **The Grrapevine** newsletter, you know that we have developed a website for the parish. Check it out!!! www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg

ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON PARISH NEWS?

We publish our Grrapevine Newsletter every two weeks (more or less). It's a place for information on what the Pastoral Team is up to, a place for education and a place for parish information. We can't fit everything into the bulletin, so a lot of it goes into the Grrapevine. If you haven't picked up a copy, give it a try. It's a nice, bright gold colour!

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN

We have revised our baptism preparation program for older children. Parents who wish to have their child baptized (age 5 to 12) are asked to register their child in the Religious Education program. During the year they will have special sessions that will prepare them for baptism. Children in Grade 2 and up will also receive preparation for Confirmation and First Communion. Please phone Giselle at the parish office.

**CATHOLIC COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE
FOR INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES AND FAMILIES**

Sr. Tarianne deYonker, OP, a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker, can be contacted at 964-4424) Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 for an appointment. One need not be Catholic to receive these services. Care will be taken to make the service affordable. Sessions take place at the Diocesan Centre Counselling Office.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

St. Francis Xavier University Continuing and Distance Education Department offers courses in theology, ministry, spirituality and ;liturgy by distance education. Please call toll free 1-877-867-5562 or email: diplomainministry@stfx.ca for an information package. Website: www.stfx.ca/continuinged/Ministry.html

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

The crowds came to John wanting instruction. "What should we do?" they asked. This is a human reaction. We want to manage our lives, our faith and our salvation by taking action. It feels safer when we think we're in control. But we pay a price for this micromanagement in stress and anxiety. We're never free from the pressure to strive. There is always pressure to do something, and to keep on doing it. This is the way of the world. But God has done something entirely different. When the crowds pressed John for an answer about what to do, he didn't answer. Instead, he talked about what God has done. It's not what we do that matters, but what God did. It is this that gives life to the world. When you find yourself stressed this Advent, take John's advice: Forget yourself and focus on God.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS FOR SHUT INS ON T.V.

St. Michael's Cathedral Christmas Eve Mass will be broadcast December 25th on Vision TV, (Channel 51) at 5am and 9am Pacific Standard Time, and 6am and 10am Mountain Time.

