

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 13, 2011

Matthew 25:14—15,19-21

- Wealth can lead to happiness and generosity, if we remain masters of money rather than letting money—or its equivalents like property, or job, or reputation—master us. Money can also engender anxiety and will never, of itself, make us happy.
- Jesus was one who founded his happiness on his relationship with God and on the fulfillment of his mission in life. We can find a true happiness when our lives are guided towards God and live in the values of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14TH

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Friday 9:00 a.m. Mass

Saturday 7:00 p.m. John & Richard Hull by Gladys & Family
Jimmy Mulvey by Elaine Sloan

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Des Bolton by Burke & Nicole O'Heare; Agnes & Stanley Collett by Elizabeth Bolton

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,207.86 Thank You!

Are You New to Our Parish? Welcome!

Welcome to those who want to make their “faith home” here. You may have come from other places. You may have been “away for a while”. You may be “checking us out”. Perhaps you wonder “what we do here on Sunday morning” or at other times. Naturally, every parish has its own character. It is shaped by those who have gone before us, by those who today make up the parish, and now you are able to contribute to it as well. Be assured that we love to have you among us.

A practical matter: we would appreciate it if you identified yourself at Mass, so that we may get to know you. It would also help if you would take the time to fill out a registration form. They are at the entrance of the church. The next time you are with us you may leave it in the collection basket or give it to one of the hospitality ministers or to the priest.

Our “Coffee Sunday” every first and third Sunday of the month may be an excellent opportunity to let us know about your presence, interests and expectations. That is also a challenge to our regular parishioners: they are there to welcome you. Perhaps you may have suggestions on how we could be more hospitable or more inclusive. Sometimes we overlook the obvious until someone points it out.

Welcome!

About that “Coffee Sunday”: In the Hall or in the Marvee Room?

Last Sunday, because the hall was being used, we had our “Coffee Sunday” in the room behind the folding doors in the church itself. Some parishioners remarked on the positive experience that was and wondered whether that should be a regular feature. It is closer to where we have celebrated our fellowship, rooted for us in Jesus Christ, and – instead of having to go downstairs – it would be sort of natural to extend that fellowship around a coffee or tea or juice in that room. It may be a little more work for those who look after it, but after we have done it a couple of times we could evaluate it and weigh its pro’s and con’s, we might want to make it into a regular feature. It may be something worthwhile...

The Month of November: We Remember the Deceased

The month of November is traditionally the month in which we give more attention to the remembrance of the dead. Christians do so in a unique way based on what is central to our faith: **the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ**. That makes all the difference for us. We try to express that in *The Book of Life* that you see displayed in the center of the church next to the **Paschal/Easter Candle** during the month of November. Parishioners are invited

to write the name of their deceased relatives in the book. In and through Jesus Christ we entrust them to the life-giving God.

And so we have started the implementation of the new translation...

As mentioned before, we plan to do the implementation of the new translation of the Roman Missal in stages. Last Sunday we started with the easiest stage: the “**spoken responses by the people**”. We had made cards available for that purpose and the plan is to leave those cards in the pews for the foreseeable future until such time that the new responses come sort of natural. Of course, it will take a bit of time for that, but we will get there.

Those who are leading the congregational singing during the Mass are working on becoming more familiar with sung parts of the Mass, such as the acclamations during the Eucharistic Prayer: the *Holy, holy...*, the *Memorial Acclamations*, and the *Amen*. Once they are sufficiently at ease with them and prepared to lead the congregation in the singing of them, we plan to move on to the second stage. That may take a little longer, because it means that we let go of melodies that we have grown accustomed to and now learn new melodies that fit the newly translated texts.

The third stage concerns more the priest that presides at the Mass. It deals with the so-called Presidential Prayers: the *Eucharistic Prayer*, and the *Opening Prayer*, the *Prayer after Communion* etc. The changes here are considerable, and it may take the priest a little while to become more at ease with them. It also implicates the congregation that will hear these prayers with new words. If the newly translated Roman Missal arrives in time, we plan to start the implementation of that stage on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27.

Please note: this newly translated version of the texts for Mass is not something unique to St. Mark's. It applies to the Roman Catholic Church in all of Canada; in fact, it is supposed to be that way for all English speaking countries. It was felt by the authorities in Rome that, after having worshipped in English, the texts for the Mass needed a translation that is closer to the official Latin version. We'll do our best to follow their lead.

Last Saturday's Launch of the Pastoral Year for the Diocese with particular attention to the English-speaking Parishes

This refers to the session we had last Saturday, November 5, which was held at our church for the English speaking parishes of our Diocese. In some way it was a first. We used to have this sort of session in October for the whole Diocese, especially intended for those who had a leadership position in the different parishes. This year, for the first time, they brought the session closer to the parishes. So there were three held in French, one in the Eastern part of the Diocese, another in the Eastern section of Gatineau, and a third one in the Western section of Gatineau. There was also one planned for the English parishes and that one was held at St. Mark's. There were about 30 representatives from the different English parishes. So that was a respectable showing.

What did we deal with? The Diocese has a five-year plan to be in pastoral communication with the 18-35 year old age group. Needless to say the participation of that age group in church life tends to be rather limited. How do we handle this? Giving up on that age group would be very un-Gospel like. New pastoral approaches are called for. But for that it is imperative that we get to know the world of the 18-35 year old age group better. What world do they inhabit? What makes up their interests, their concerns, their questions, their searchings? Why preoccupy ourselves with those? Ideally and potentially, these may serve as points of entry for what Jesus Christ and his Gospel offer all of us on God's behalf.

Needless to say, the wrestling with these sort of questions led us in a variety of directions. For one thing and as a starter, the 18-35 year old age group is not a homogeneous group. There are at least two sub-groups: from roughly 18-24 and from roughly 25-35. To establish the basic characteristics of each of these groups is a major challenge, but it is a step we cannot skip if we want to be in a respectful and pastoral dialogue with them. No one should be surprised that we did not come up with a neat plan. It is all too new for us. But at least we got a first taste in what direction we have to move.

All in all, even if we did not arrive at a clear plan, the session was in general a positive experience for those present. One particularly encouraging feature was the presence of Bishop Roger Ébacher. Yes, he is retired now, but until our new Bishop Paul-André Durocher is really with us, Bishop Ébacher found the session important enough to come and join us in our endeavour. It was much appreciated.

**Is the Request of Parents to have their Children Baptized
such a Point of Entry? If so, it needs a lot of attention and pastoral care**

Roughly speaking, the parents who request to have their son/daughter baptized fall in that age group of 25-35 that we talked about above. Of course, it is only one point of entry for a pastoral dialogue, but it is a readily available one and a crucial one. That is why their request is not just an administrative one. The way that request is received and handled is first and foremost a pastoral issue. That applies to the first telephone call to “make the arrangements”, to the visit of a member of our baptism team, to the way we conduct the three preparation sessions, to the way we welcome and respond as a parish to the parents when they come with their son/daughter to the Sunday Mass prior to the actual baptism, and to the way we handle the actual baptism ceremony. These are all God-given opportunities where we have the privilege to give a human expression to the face of – not a bookkeeping God (no offence to bookkeepers) – but to a gracious, welcoming, people-loving God. The fact that we minister in the name of Jesus dictates this pastoral approach.

Naturally, this sort of pastoral approach is not limited to the requests for a baptism. It applies with the necessary variations to all requests, for Confirmation, for First Communion, for Weddings, for Funerals... What a privilege it is to work in the vineyard of the Lord!

FUNDRAISER’S: On November 19 & 20, FOR ST. MARK after each Mass, there will be a display of home care, beauty and health products in the church basement, hosted by Trudy Connelly. All profit on orders placed that weekend will be donated to the church. Gift cards also available plus 2 gift baskets will be raffled off with the proceeds going to St. Mark’s. A chance to replenish some regular personal & home care products plus do a little Christmas shopping.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Advent Event: November 26 4:00 – 8:00

Guignolée: December 4

MEALS ON WHEELS needs volunteer part-time delivery drivers for Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings. If you are interested please call Cal Mott 819 684-8523.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Gabriel Filiou, Lucy Lafontaine, Don Daly, and their families in your prayers.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY: Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Bourassa Family on the death of Jean Paul.

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