

Faith in the Unbelievable Future

The Apostle Thomas in today's gospel, like many of us, is a bottom-line realist: "Unless I see the wounds, I will not believe." So, how dramatic it must have been for Jesus suddenly to appear in the locked room, and invite Thomas to touch his wounded hands and side. Jesus challenges him directly: "Do not doubt but believe." If I took a survey right now, how many of us would be willing to admit that we have doubts about God, Jesus, and our faith. Belief in God IS difficult, once we have suffered enough in life. After we have lived through deception, violence, war, deaths--isn't our experience of God's presence more often an experience of God's absence? Certainly all of the great saints have said this was true for them. Jesus' first words are usually "Peace be with you!" because he totally understands our fears and doubts. Jesus doesn't want fear and doubts about the future to destroy our belief in life itself. This seems to be happening, for example, in the case of abortion. It is often easier to think of ending a life for which we cannot see a future. But God has an eternal vision for each beloved life, which we cannot see. Remember the old saying, "Seeing is believing"? Not true for Jesus. He says, "Believing is seeing." Our faith shouts to the world that, thank God, there is a sacred beginning, a blessed middle, and a joyful end to every life! We should not let our doubts drag us into the mud of inaction. Through loving our selves and one another, even in our doubts, we will move even deeper into relationship and unity with God. I'd call that an excellent prospect for our future, wouldn't you? Go forth to love and serve our God! Second Sun. of Easter April 19, 2009

On the evening
of the first day
of the week,
when the doors
were locked,
JESUS
came and stood in their
midst and said to them

PEACE



be with you!
As the FATHER has
sent me, so I send you.

Receive the HOLY
SPIRIT.

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MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues. Apr. 21	9:00 am	RIP Lorene Bilawka	Geoff & Lorraine Kindle
	9:00 am	RIP Steve & Rose Kowalchuk	Joanne Clearwater
Wed. Apr. 22	7:30 am	Post Abortion & Single Parents	League for Life
	9:00 am	RIP James O'Rourke	Kennedy Family
Thurs. Apr. 23	9:00 am	Gerry Martens	Emily Potvin
	10:30 am	RIP Michael Sadowski	Jeanette & Family
Fri. Apr. 24	9:00 am	RIP Helen Vooch	Anne Safian
	12:15 pm	RIP Anne Popien & Zosik Leosiak	Janina Makuc
Sat. Apr. 25	10:00 am	RIP David Serle	Russell & Joan Lawrence
	7:30 pm	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
Sun. Apr. 26	9:00 am	RIP Terry & Kay Yonda	Amelia Adamski
	10:30 am	Thanksgiving	Rolande
	12:30 pm	Jennifer & David Ferrera	Father Tom Ferrera
	4:00 pm	RIP Liliane Felling	Lawrence & Noreen Dubois
Souris: Apr. 19	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
Apr. 25	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph

St. Augustine's CWL is offering a \$500 scholarship to a Catholic, female student graduating from Senior IV in 2009. The application form and criteria are available at the St. Augustine's Parish office or contact Dianne Fox 727-1209 to have an application mailed to you. **Please note that applications received after the deadline of June 2, 2009 will not be considered.**

CWL Day of Peace and Hope will be held on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26. The CWL will be holding a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul. This event is open to all parishioners. Each hamper given out by St. Vincent de Paul contains the following: healthy cereal, pasta and pasta sauce, pork and beans, canned creamed corn, canned salmon and/or tuna and a small jar of peanut butter. Donations of any of these items or a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated.

CWL Executive Meeting will be held Tuesday April 28th at 7 pm at the home of Carol MacKenzie.

CWL General Meeting will be held Tuesday May 5th with Mass at 7 pm and meeting to follow.

Second Sunday of Easter

Catechism of the Catholic Church

651-655: Meaning and salvific import of the Resurrection

Mon.	(Acts 4.23-31) (John 3.1-8)
Tues.	St. Anselm (Acts 4.32-37) (John 3.7-15)
Wed.	(Acts 5.17-26) (John 3.16-21)
Thurs.	St. George/St. Adalbert (Acts 5.27-33) (John 3.31-36)
Fri.	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (Acts 5.34-42) (John 6.1-15)
Sat.	St. Mark (1 Peter 5.5-14) (Mark 16.15-20)
Sun.	3rd Sunday of Easter (Acts 3.13-15, 17-19) (1 John 2.1-5) (Luke 24.35-48)

Rosaries and Crucifixes: If you have either rosaries or crucifixes please bring them to the church. We are always in need of them for those who don't have them.



VOCATION VIEW: Easter: resurrection and new life; to be begotten by God. A new life, achieved from a conquered tomb. Meaning for life for people for thousands of years. Nothing more secure, nothing more lasting. "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you...".

THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	20	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
	20	Confirmation Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Tues.	21	St. Vincent de Paul	9:30 am
	21	Legion of Mary	4:30 pm
	21	Brandon Catholic School Board Mtg.	7:30 pm
Wed.	22	Quest for Christ (Last Class)	4:00 pm
	22	RCIA	7:00 pm
	22	K of C Executive Meeting	7:30 pm
Thurs.	23	Serra Meeting	11:30 am
	23	Quest for Christ (Last Class)	4:00 pm
	23	Development & Peace Meeting	7:00 pm
	23	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	24	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	24	Holy Hour	4:00 pm
	24	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	24	Benediction	5:00 pm
	24	Vocational Discerners	7:00 pm
Sat.	24	English Class	4:30 pm
	24	Face to Face Retreat	
Sun.	25	Face to Face Retreat	

From Father Dominic's desk:

Youth Stations of the Cross & Passion Play - I have to admit that I have been unsuccessful at attending the stations of the cross on most Friday evenings during Lent. However, I certainly was glad that I did not miss this devotion on Good Friday. Our youth gave an inspiring presentation of the final hours of the Lords's life here on earth. I commend the youth participants, the young adults who gave direction and assistance, as well as our parish youth coordinator Sister Maybelle.

In Gratitude - Holy Week is, most notably, a time of additional activity on the home front as well as in the parish family. Unknown to most in the pews is the dedication and hard work of the parish staff who work throughout the year to meet diocesan standards, to keep the liturgical worship space and parish centre neat, tidy and clean. They also bring harmony to the various ministries within the parish and meet the demand of volumes of paper and computer work which are all a part of parish life and pastoral ministry. All of this and more they do, primarily because St. Augustine's is more than just a job; the parish is their spiritual home.

During Holy Week and especially during the Sacred Triduum many other dedicated parishioners give of their time and talent to bring glory to God and to assist the worshipping community. So, to each of them, irrespective of ministry, I speak on behalf of the parish in saying **"thank you"** for your dedicated ministry during a time of the year when other demands also present themselves.

Forty Years of Abortion: This May 14 will mark the 40th anniversary of the 1969 *Omnibus Bill*, the law that opened the door to abortion on demand here in Canada. On that day, Parliament approved Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's law that has since resulted in 3.5 million babies being killed by abortion here in Canada. Imagine anything else that would have eliminated 10% of the Canadian population. Would it be allowed to continue without any restrictions? Would it be funded by Provincial Government health budgets? This tragedy is an abomination and it must not be allowed to continue. It must not be allowed to continue unchallenged. (taken in part from Campaign Life Coalition National News, April 2009).

A petition to pass legislation for the protection of human life from the time of conception (fertilization) until natural death addressed to the House of Commons is at all church entrances. Please feel free to sign the petition.

FINANCES:	RECEIPTS:
Collection for the Weekend for Sunday Apr.12, 2009	
Offertory Collection (Brandon)	\$9400.00
School Fund Collection	\$ 20.00
Restoration Collection Apr. 12, 2009 -	\$3816.00

Stewardship Reflection of the Week

All are invited to Attend the 3rd Bi-annual Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference

Delta Regina, June 12 to 14, 2009

Opening Keynote Speaker: Archbishop V. James Weisgerber

Early bird registration: \$75 by April 30

(Includes: All sessions, Friday Evening Reception, Saturday Lunch, & Sunday Breakfast)

After April 30, the fee will be \$100

Hotel: \$151 per night (taxes incl.)

Bus Transportation (optional): \$65 per person

(Bus departing Winnipeg with pickups in Portage la Prairie and Brandon)

For more information contact: Dan Potvin

Director of Stewardship

Archdiocese of Winnipeg

204.452.2227 ext. 228

danpotvin@archwinnipeg.ca

Online brochure at www.archwinnipeg.ca

Vigil Lamp

The light burns in memory of

Alain Desaulniers

Knights of Columbus Brandon Council 1435 Scholarship Notice: Brandon Council is inviting young men for this \$500 scholarship no later than June 12, 2008. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

Catechism Registration: The registration for Catechism/Quest for Christ next fall 2009/2010 will be available at both entrances of the church and also on the St. Augustine website. For more information please contact Sr. Therma at 727-4728 or the Parish Office. **Deadline is April 30, after 30th there will be extra charge.**

Brandon Area League for Life Information Alert

It is a national and international scandal that so many people do not get adequate pain control. But killing is not the answer to that scandal. The solution is to mandate better education of health care professionals on these crucial issues, to expand access to health care, and to inform patients about their rights as consumers.

<http://www.internationaltaskforce.org/faq.htm>

Sharing God's Gifts 2009

Our parish goal for the Annual Appeal this year is \$90,940.

In 2008, through the generosity of many of our parishioners we raised \$98,656 for the appeal. In total 277 parishioners made a gift and the average gift was \$356. We are confident what we will once again reach our goal for 2009. Sharing God's Gifts envelopes are available each month in your parish envelopes or you may use the envelopes found at the entrance to the Church. Thank you for sharing your gifts.