



The Scandal of the Christian Family

Did you hear the one about the husband and wife sitting at the breakfast table? He's in his customary position, with his nose buried in the newspaper. The wife says, "The marriage counsellor told me to compliment you more often.... Hey, nice elbows!" Well, at least she's looking on the positive side! These days, it can seem there isn't very much good news about the state of marriage. In past, people understood marriage as the obvious union of a man and a woman, usually united at a church service. Today, though, we see around us many "social experiments" going on, where people consider themselves in a "marriage" of some sort—without the paperwork. We live with these realities, to be sure, but they are not shocking. No, the *really* shocking ideal of marriage and family life is the one held up by Jesus Christ. And anyone who is not upset and scandalized by Jesus' idea of family has not really understood it. "Who are my mother and my brothers?...Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Instead of claiming his blood family, Jesus takes the private, exclusive meaning of "family" and expands it to a world of strangers: "family" now means, not belonging to blood-parents and siblings, but belonging to God, *and to all others who obey God*, in an inclusive and intimate relationship never before imagined. This may scandalize us as much as it did the Jews. Clearly, marriage, and family, and human relationships are holy and sacramental. But they are not ends in themselves—they point us to the Most Sacred God Who loved us first. So, our "family ties" in God are meant to FREE us, to let our love burst out and fly beyond all boundaries, to those most in need. Go in peace to love and serve our God! (The Holy Family - December 28, 2008)

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues.	Dec.30	9:00 am	RIP Ethel Sharein	Fr. Dominic
		9:00 am	Jozef Reibesteijn	Parishioners of St. Augustine's
Wed.	Dec.31	7:30 pm	RIP Lenore O'Rourke	Dan & Lynn, Jim & Carol & families
Thurs.	Jan. 01	10:30 am	RIP Emile Desaulnier	Vic & Simone Desaulnier
Fri.	Jan. 02	9:00 am	RIP David Serle	Ken, Karen & Steven
		12:15 pm	RIP Brandon Bourassa	Ray Bourassa
Sat.	Jan. 03	10:00 am	Special Intention	Melina
		7:30 pm	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
Sun.	Jan. 04	9:00 am	RIP Michael Sadowski	Grant & Joanne Allan
		10:30 am	RIP Paul Cancade	Jim & Mary Huch
		12:30 pm	Deceased Members of Kasiurak Family	Vivian Ferenc
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Souris	Dec. 28	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
	Jan. 01	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
	Jan. 04	11:00 am	Janice Hardy	Elsie Kurtenbach & Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Francsica Arishande, Ann Babiak, Marguerite Bicknell, Noreen Bicknell, Jeanne Boutilier, Jim Bradford, Alice Brown, Margaret Buckmire, Irene Copet, Jules Declercq, Ann Delgaty, Juliette Desroches, Jared Dryden, Justin Enns, Rosaline Fedorkie, Mervin Fleury, Nora Fleury, Mary Gaab, Megan Gardham, Marcelle Granger-Gentes, Kay Gray, Brett Lawrence, Tess McLaren, Kathleen MacDougall, Paul Malabar, Alisa Moran, Joan Napper, Tony Petrucci, Hazel Philipott, Minnie Plaseski, Emily Potvin, Monica Seitz, Coralie Serle, Gary Sproule, Jean Tarnowski, Doreen Thompson, Marion Vorspel, Rosa Weiss, Debbie Williams and all our shut-ins.

CWL:

2009 CWL membership is now due. Fees are \$20 and can be given to Rose Hercun or Jacquie DeCorby.

CWL General Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 6th. Mass at 7:00 pm with meeting to follow.

CWL Executive Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00 pm at the home of Rose Hercun.

Holy Family

Catechism of the Catholic Church

529: Presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple

2214-2233: Duties of the members of the family; the family and the Kingdom

Mon. **St. Thomas Becket**

(1 John 2.3-11)

(Luke 2.22-35)

Tues. (1 John 2.12-17)

(Luke 2.36-40)

Wed. **St. Sylvester I**

(1 John 2.18-21)

(John 1.1-18)

Thurs. **Mary, Mother of God**

(Numbers 6.22-27)

(Galatians 4.4-7)

(Luke 2.16-21)

Fri. **St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen**

(1 John 2.22-28)

(John 1.19-28)

Sat. **Holy Name of Jesus**

(1 John 2.29; 3.1-6)

(John 1.29-34)

Sun. **Epiphany of the Lord**

(Isaiah 60.1-6)

(Ephesians 3.2-3, 5-6)

(Matthew 2.1-12)

Please Remember: Use NEW current (2009) donation envelopes in 2009, as your old number could be assigned to someone else.

THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	29	NO Charismatic Prayer Group	
Tues.	30	Legion of Mary	5:30 pm
Wed.	31	Mass time 7:30 pm	
Thurs.	01	Mass time 10:30 am	
	01	Office Closed	
Fri.	02	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	02	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	02	Benediction	5:00 pm
Sun.	04	K of C Pancake Breakfast after 9:00 & 10:30 masses	

**NEW TO OUR PARISH? CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND PLACE IT IN THE SUNDAY
COLLECTION BASKET**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____
____NEW PARISHIONER ____REQUIRES ENVELOPE
____MOVING OUT OF PARISH ____CHANGE OF ADDRESS

FINANCES: RECEIPTS:

Collection for the Weekend for Sunday Dec.21, 2008
Offertory Collection (Brandon)\$9627.00
School \$ 35.00
Renovation Collection Dec. 21, 2008 - \$17,460.00

Stewardship Reflection of the Week

Happiness is not something we are given, but rather, something that results from the way we live. Happiness is a gift that comes from within; it comes from a life of generous giving of self. May the coming year bring our families happiness through giving of ourselves, of our time to one another out of gratitude for the great gift of family!

Brandon Area League For Life Information Alert

Since 1973, over 50 million surgical abortions have been performed in the United States. The death toll from abortion is more than all the casualties put together from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Iraq War
<http://www.humanlife.org/abortion.php>

Vigil Lamp

**The light burns in memory of
Ignazio Scaletta (Dec. 29, 2008)**

Liturgy Meeting will be on the regular date, on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009 beginning at 7 p.m.

Young Pianists/keyboards players: if you are interested in learning to play the pipe organ please phone the parish office 727-4728 and leave your name and phone number. A class will be given in January 2009 by Michael Malazdrewicz.

Vocation View: The Old Law said that every first born male shall be dedicated to the Lord. Is there a priest, deacon, brother, or sister from your family? Now is the time for families to encourage a vocation!



The New Year of 2009

I once read that, Queen Elizabeth I of England, who was the richest person in the world, when she was approaching death said, "All of my possessions for a moment of time." On her death bed, the queen recognized time as her most precious and priceless possession. However, as we all know, all the wealth in the world cannot buy time.

Someone who does know the unmistakable value of time is Satan. The Scriptures say that he is determined to steal, to kill and to destroy. Satan is a robber. Robbers are attracted to valuable things and Satan knows that the element of time is by far our most precious of gifts.

Since we know Satan's tactics, we can recognize him and stop him before he reaches what is precious to us. How then can we stop a robber of time? Prior to committing ourselves to any activity, we need to ask "what will be the fruit of this in a few years?" Will it make any positive difference? If it will not make any positive difference or if there are any negative consequences, then we need to invest our time elsewhere.

For those who are the parents of small children, in the next few years you may never address the members of the House of Commons, sing a hit song, or write a best seller, but if your children are serving God, you will, in deed, be a success.

In order to help your children serve the Lord, you will need to spend time with them. This will require self discipline. You will have to train yourself to spend international time with them and remind yourself of Mt. 12:36 which tells us that we will "give an account for every idle word."

Whether we have small children or not, we each have only one life, which will soon be past. As the old saying goes "only what is done for Jesus will last". We need to invest our time, which we can't keep anyway. Let us resolve in the New Year ahead to make an eternal treasure that we will never loose. As the New Year comes in, let us together sanctify it to the glory and honour to our great and mighty God! Happy New Year to each of you!

Father Dominic

Sacred Heart of Jesus Vigil Lamp -There will be a vigil lamp burning in memory of your loved one or friend. If you wish to do this please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. The cost for the lamp to burn for 1 week (the cost of the candle) will be \$5.00.

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPT UPDATE: As per Revenue Canada information please be informed that donations received after DECEMBER 31, 2008 CANNOT be added to the year 2008 receipts. Therefore it is advisable to make sure your 2008 donations are given in the current year. This information was received from Revenue Canada.

Welcome to Our Christian Community:

Owen Lloyd Falk, Jordell Joseph Rogger Fleury, Zandria Donna Hansford, Sydney Alice Lawrence

Christian Unity Week: Your are invited to join us in "Prayer for Christian Unity" on Jan. 25 at 7:00 pm at Bethel Christian Assembly. Sponsored by Brandon Ministerial.

YOUTH INFO NIGHT on Wednesday, January 7, 7-9 PM. Please bring potluck snacks to share with everyone. It's an event for youth and adults alike interested to know more about youth and young adult events for the year 2009. Come and see!

ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH GATHERING on Friday, January 30, 7-9 pm. Come out for an evening of prayer and community with other youth and young adults. At this gathering we will do Taize Prayer, which will be followed by a social. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!