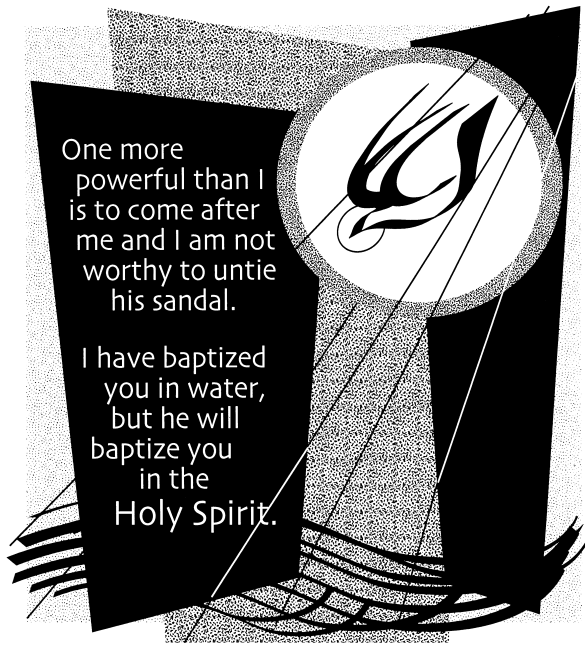


Weeding the Garden of our Hearts

We have some themes going in the Scriptures today that might make you very happy—such as Isaiah’s very first word: “Comfort!” The word itself is soothing, as in “comfort food.” Well, today Isaiah brings out the comfort food for the soul. “Comfort, console my people,” says God, because the punishments the Israelites received for being unfaithful to God are finally over. Today, as we get closer to the coming of Jesus, Isaiah’s theme is: “Clear a pathway through the desert—even out the rough places—and shout it out: Your God is here!” How are we doing at cleaning up the wilderness of our hearts for the Lord God to enter in? Many times, our hearts can feel as numb and empty as a wilderness—maybe we just hear an echo, as if we’re praying in a void. At other times, we feel so choked with the injustice and cruelty of the world that we don’t realize our hearts are like weed-infested gardens that desperately need clearing out. So it is when John pours water over the baptized at the River Jordan. Their eyes are opened, and they see new hope for their futures. They are so eager to clear out the dirt and weeds of their old lives, that they begin to pour out their sins, repenting, and become eager to change.

What is your idea of repentance? Remember that Isaiah says “Jesus is like a shepherd... gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast...” Don’t we all feel better when someone we’ve hurt wraps their arms around us and says, “It’s okay—it’s forgotten”? The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers that comfort in the name of Jesus. And when we ask to be changed, Jesus calls us to return to new life by receiving him into our hearts in Communion. Now, THAT’S comfort food. *Go in peace to love and serve our God!*



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MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues.	Dec. 09	9:00 am	Fr. Raju Madanu	Russell & Joan Lawrence
		9:00 pm	Thanksgiving	Melina
Wed.	Dec. 10	7:30 am	Thanksgiving	María Huerta
		9:00 am	RIP Roly Hamel	Julia Hamel
Thurs.	Dec. 11	9:00 am	RIP Leo Madden	Bidinosti Family
Fairview Home		10:30 am	RIP Norbert Potvin	Emily Potvin
Fri.	Dec. 12	9:00 am	RIP Helen Vooch	Harold & Jeanette Tripp
		12:15 pm	Thanksgiving	Peter Lee Family
Sat.	Dec. 13	10:00 am	RIP Paul Cancade	Dora Boschman & Family
		7:30 pm	Fr. Raju Madanu	Greg & Yvonne Skura
Sun.	Dec. 14	9:00 am	RIP Ron Van Achte	Lois & Family
		10:30 am	RIP Lenore O'Rourke	Kennedy Family
		12:30 pm	All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
Souris	Dec. 14	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
	Dec. 21	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Joseph
Rivers	Dec. 07	11:00 am	RIP Monique Genaille	Genaille Family

2nd Sunday of Advent

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1739-1742: Freedom and sin; obstacles to freedom, freedom and salvation; freedom and grace

Mon. Immaculate Conception of Mary

(Genesis 3.9-15,20)
(Ephesians 1.3-6,11-12)
(Luke 1.26-38)

Tues. (Isaiah 40.1-11)
(Matthew 18.12-14)

Wed. (Isaiah 40.25-31)
(Matthew 11.28-30)

Thurs. St. Damascus I
(Isaiah 41.13-20)
(Matthew 11.11-15)

Fri. Our Lady of Guadalupe
(Zechariah 2.10-13)
(Luke 1.39-47)

Sat. St. Lucy
(Sirach 48.1-4,9-11)
(Matthew 17.10-13)

Sun. 3rd Sunday of Advent
(Isaiah 61.1-2, 10-11)
(1 Thessalonians 5.16-24)
(John 1.6-8, 19-28)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Francisca Arishande, Ann Babiak, Marguerite Bicknell, Noreen Bicknell, Jeanne Boutillier, 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, Bertha Trevech, Marion Vorspel, Rosa Weiss, Debbie Williams and all our shut-ins.

Christmas Poinsettia: You are invited to participate in the liturgical enhancement of our church this Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of your loved one. Sign up sheets are at the exit of the gym and the church office.. Please include payment (Clearly marked Christmas flower) in your weekly envelope or make payment at the office.

THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	08	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
	08	Confirmation	7:00 pm
Tues.	09	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg.	9:30 am
	09	Legion of Mary	5:30 pm
Wed.	10	Advent Reconciliation	1:00 p.m., 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
	10	Quest for Christ	4:00 pm
	10	RCIA	7:00 pm
Thurs.	11	Serra Club Mtg.	11:30 am
	11	Quest for Christ	6:30 pm
	11	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	12	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	12	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	12	Benediction	5:00 pm
Sat.	13	K of C Children's Christmas Gathering	1:00 pm
	13	English Class	5:00 pm

**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 Nov. 30, 2008
 Offertory Collection (Brandon) \$7112.50
 School \$ 20.00
Renovation Collection Nov. 30, 2008 - \$14,965.00

Stewardship Reflection of the Week

The second Sunday of Advent brings with it the familiar theme of Peace. The Christian steward is called to always be mindful of the needs of the poor and vulnerable. We are one human family and the goods we possess are not just meant to be hoarded among ourselves – they are meant for the good of all. 'St. John Chrysostom vigorously recalls this: *"Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."* C.C.C 2447 For the Christian steward peace also means "peace of mind"... the sort of peace of mind that can only come from putting all of our trust in God who always provides for our needs.

Vigil Lamp

The light burns in memory of
 Ethel Sharein (Dec. 8, 2008)

Brandon Area League For Life Information Alert

"It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive...It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception..."

Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth *Harvard University Medical School*

http://www.humanlife.org/abortion_scientists_attest.php

Mark Your Calendars:

St. Dominic's is celebrating 100th Anniversary on Aug. 8, 2009, St. Lazare on Aug. 23, 2009 and Polonia Celebrates its 50th year of pilgrimage in July.

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a come and go **Christmas Party** on Saturday December 13, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Augustine Square. Santa appears at 2:30 p.m. ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME. Activities will be catered to kids on 8 and 12 years but all are welcome, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. Please R.S.V.P with how many children no later than December 6, 2008 at nolanadam@mts.net or 1.204.745.8933.

Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring Contest is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and encourages all Pre-school children and students to participate by submitting a free hand drawing or collage on 8.5 x 14 paper to the Knights of Columbus Youth Program Director, Nolan Adam. The obvious theme is : Keep Christ in Christmas. There are three prizes per category. Submit entries to the parish office by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday , December 10, 2008. Full details on bulletin board outside the parish office.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: There will be Advent Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 pm for the school children, 4:00 pm for Catechism children and for the Parish at 7:00 pm. Any adults who wish to attend at 1 pm and 4 pm are also welcome.

YOUTH EVENTS - Ages 13-18 yrs.

Soul Speak: Parish Youth Leaders' Gathering by Catholic Outreach Team Monday, December 8, 6-9 P.M., Church Square Retreat cost \$10 with snacks.

Youth Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 17, 7-9 P.M., Church Square.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS - 18-35 yrs.

Sanctuary for the Soul: Young Adult Leaders' Gathering by the Catholic Outreach Team Sunday, December 7, 6-9 P.M., Church Square Retreat cost \$15 with snacks.

Young Adults' Christmas Gathering Sunday, December 7, 5 – 8 P.M., Church Square.

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.

Confirmation 2009: Archbishop Weisgerber has delegated all pastors to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation throughout the Archdiocese of Winnipeg on Pentecost weekend. St. Augustine's Confirmation will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2009.

Pre Confirmation Gathering with Archbishop Weisgerber will take place at St. Augustine's on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is for all confirmands in the Westman Deanery.

Postage Stamps: Just a reminder as we approach the Christmas season, that Canada Post issues two types of Christmas postage stamps. If you ask for Christmas stamps you will most likely be handed the "Winter Fun" stamps. If you are wanting the "Christmas Nativity" stamps that were released November 3rd you need to specifically state "Nativity" when purchasing your stamps. It is wonderful that Canada Post does issue a "religious" stamp yet, so please make sure that the message gets out so that they know there are people who want this stamp and not the other seasonal one. Please feel free to pass this on to promote the purchase of the Nativity stamps and the beautiful witness this provides of the true reason for the season.