



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

## In Praise of Emptiness

Many of us fill our lives up completely with the task of looking after our immediate needs, some of which are real and some of which are imaginary. Then we try to pour in a little bit of spirituality on top of it. But it doesn't work. We are already too full to receive anything else. When our whole life is taken up in only looking after our immediate needs, then we miss the point of really living. In our Gospel today, we read, "...in those days before the Flood, people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away." They suspected nothing. Their lives were too full. There was no room for anything else to get in. And so nothing did. We need to savor life, not drink it down in one big gulp, without really tasting it. Have you ever seen someone really enjoying a glass of wine? They don't pour it down their throats as if they had just come out of the Sahara desert. They want to taste every little bit of the wine in their glass. They don't want to miss any of the wonderful flavour that is in that glass of wine. Living life shouldn't be like going through a fast food restaurant, getting as much as we can eat and feeling full, but not getting the nutrition that our bodies really need. Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of a new Church Year -- it is a time to ask the Lord to bring a sense of freshness and fullness to our lives. Our lives were not meant to be filled up with just taking care of business, no matter how much business we have to take care of. We need enough room and enough empty space in our lives to allow ourselves the reflection and quiet we need to be responsive to God's presence in our lives. If our cup is too full already, then there's a chance that nothing else will be able to get in. Peace, Fr. John Vella (December 2nd, 2007)

### MASSSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues.	Dec. 04	9:00 am	St. Augustine Staff	Ken, Karen & Steven
		5:30 pm	Peace	CWL
Wed.	Dec. 05	9:00 am	RIP Anthony Fillion	Fillion Family
		9:00 am	Deceased Omilano Family	Mary Lou & Bertie Omilano
Thurs.	Dec. 06	9:00 am	Louis & Liz Roy	Dora
			50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary	
Fairview Home		10:30 am	RIP Doug Janz	Julia Hamel
Fri.	Dec. 07	9:00 am	RIP Sister Mary Verda	Fr. Dominic
		12:15 pm	RIP Matthew Ripco	Alex & Marilyn Motuz
Sat.	Dec. 08	10:00 am	RIP Joe Boschman	Dora & Family
		5:00 pm	For all Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Raju
		7:30 pm	Marie Janz	Dora Boschman
Sun.	Dec. 09	9:00 am	Msgr. Louis McCloskey	Louise Begyn
		10:30 am	Lorraine Kindle	CWL Prayer Partner
		12:30 pm	RIP Mike Chudy	Rhea Chudy
Rivers	Dec. 02	11:00 am	RIP Antonia Salazar	Roger & Liliane Dupuis
	Dec. 09	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	
	Dec. 16	11:00 am	RIP Monique Genaille	Genaille Family

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Ann Babiak, Marguerite Bicknell, Jeanne Boutilier, Margaret Buckmire, Irene Copet, Ann Delgaty, Pauline Demery, Noah Dheilily, Jared Dryden, Justin Enns, George Feledchuk, Mervin Fleury, Nora Fleury, Mary Gaab, Megan Gardham, Marcelle Granger-Gentes, Kay Gray, Pauline Hayde, Patricia Kallusky, Brett Lawrence, Tess McLaren, Kathleen MacDougall, Derek Manshanden, Alisa Moran, Joan Napper, Moses Peech, Tony Petrucci, Hazel Philipott, Minnie Plaseski, Vanessa Sanko, Rena Schwalm, Monica Seitz, Coralie Serle, Gary Sproule, Isabelle Sproule, Jean Tarnowski, Doreen Thompson, Rosa Weiss, and all our shut-ins.

**Aboriginal Mass:** There will be an Aboriginal Mass on Saturday, Dec. 15 at the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Catechism of the Catholic Church 1020-1022: Particular Judgment

Mon.	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b> (Isaiah 4:2-6) (Matthew 8:5-11,13)
Tues.	<b>St. John of Damascus</b> (Isaiah 11:1-10) (Luke 10:21-24)
Wed.	(Isaiah 25:6-10) (Matthew 15:29-37)
Thurs.	<b>St. Nicholas</b> (Isaiah 26:1-6) (Matthew 7:21, 24-27)
Fri.	<b>St. Ambrose</b> (Isaiah 29:17-24) (Matthew 9:27-31)
Sat.	<b>Immaculate Conception of Mary</b> (Genesis 3:9-15, 20) (Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12) (Luke 1:26-38)
Sun.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> (Isaiah 11:1-10) (Romans 15:4-9) (Matthew 3:1-12)

**Canterbury Senior Social Club Christmas Party/Dinner, 2:00-5:00 Monday, Dec. 3, 2007.** Please confirm your attendance at Parish Office 727-4728 or with Donna Young 728-1077.

**VOCATION VIEW:** In our materialistic society, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?



**THE WEEK AHEAD.....**

Mon.	03	<b>Canterbury Senior Social Club</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
	03	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
	03	Confirmation	7:00 pm
Tues.	04	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	9:30 am
	04	CWL Advent Mass and Party	5:30 pm
	04	Legion of Mary Meeting	7:00 pm
Wed.	05	Quest for Christ	4:00 pm
	05	RCIA	7:00 pm
Thurs.	06	Bible Study	1:15 pm
	06	Confirmation Net Retreat	6:00 pm
	06	Quest for Christ	6:30 pm
	06	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	07	Net Retreat	9:00 am
	07	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	07	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	07	Benediction	5:00 pm
Sat.	08	Nathanael at St. Hedwig's	
Sun.	09	Spanish Community of St. Augustine's	1:00 pm

St. Augustine Square. Santa appears at 3:00 p.m. Activities will be catered to kids between 3 and 12 years but all are welcome. Children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc, are all invited. Please R.S.V.P. with how many children no later than December 7, 2007 at [nolanadam@mts.net](mailto:nolanadam@mts.net) or 1.204.745.8933.

**C.W.L. Advent/Christmas Party:** Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007. Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the church office or call Marlene at 727-7902. Deadline for tickets is Nov. 28, 2007. Non perishable items for Samaritan House & St. Vincent de Paul will be collected. All ladies are welcome. \$5.00 wrapped gift exchange.

The **Knights of Columbus** are asking their members for help with the following: delivering Meals on Wheels on Fridays please call Jim Dyck at 725-2795 and working at the Salvation Army Kettles call Terry Szmon at 726-4280. If any of the Knights are available for either of these worthwhile ministries please call Jim or Terry.

**St. Augustine's Development & Peace Social Justice Group** will be selling "Fair Trade" products in support of 3<sup>rd</sup> World producers (coffee, tea, lotions, crafts, etc.) before and after all Masses on Dec. 1 & 2 in the church foyer. Why not buy a Christmas gift that gives twice: once to the gift receiver and once to the "Fair Trade" producer?

**YASA** - The Young Adults of Saint Augustine's will be hosting a movie night on Friday, December 7th in the square. All young adults ages 18-35 are welcome to join us. Please let us know if your coming by contacting us at [yasainfo@gmail.com](mailto:yasainfo@gmail.com) or call Nicole at 573-0734. Please join us for a great night of fun and fellowship!

**R.C.I.A.** - We welcome each of our new R.C.I.A. members into our community here at St. Augustine's. They have been journeying as inquirers, building a deeper relationship with God and acquiring an understanding of the Catholic faith. Together we will grow in faith as we share our experience of Jesus Christ and continue growing spiritually from our old person to the new person.

**FINANCES: RECEIPTS:**

Collection for the Weekend for Sunday Nov. 25, 2007	
Offertory Collection (Brandon)	\$7590.00
School Fund Collection	\$ 45.00
Rivers Collection	\$ 392.00

**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

**Stewardship Reflection of the Week**

Today's gospel, marking the beginning of the new Church year, sounds pretty scary! Jesus reminds us that things can change very quickly and that there is a need to stay alert. As one who wants to live as a faithful steward, how does my life show that I am alert and participating in bringing God's dream for creation to reality?

**Vigil Lamp**

The light burns in memory of  
Escaravage Family

**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.

**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 Tuesday, December 13, 2007. Full details on bulletin boards in the east entrance to the church and outside the parish office.

**The Knights of Columbus** are hosting a come and go Christmas Party on Saturday December 15, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the

**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 all exits of the church. Please include payment (Clearly marked Christmas flower) in your weekly envelope or make payment at the office.

**Advent:** Our Catholic church has designated the four weeks preceding Christmas as Advent, a time to prepare the way of the Lord. The Church primarily celebrates Christmas from Christmas Day until the solemnity of the Epiphany. Many homes have the advent wreath as one of the most popular Advent traditions. The circular wreath made of evergreens with four candles interspersed, represents the circle of the year. The lighting of the Advent candles represents promise of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. Traditionally there are three purple candles and one rose candle (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday). Purple reminds us to turn our hearts toward God, rose is the color of joy.