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Hospitality Rediscovered

Throughout the Scriptures we find a large emphasis on practicing hospitality. There are many instances where people, when they are welcoming to strangers, find themselves in the presence of the Divine. In the Gospel of Matthew we read, "I was a stranger and you made me welcome." (Matt. 25:35). Jean Vanier, founder of the L'Arche communities, writes that "Welcome is one of the signs that a community is alive. To invite others to live with us is a sign that we aren't afraid, that we have a treasure of truth and of peace to share." He also offers an important warning: "A community which refuses to welcome-whether through fear, weariness, insecurity, a desire to cling to comfort, or just because it is fed up with visitors-is dying spiritually." (Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*, rev. ed. New York: Paulist Pr., 1989, 266-7.) Becoming deeply welcoming is a sign that we as a community are alive. It starts with each of us praying for the willingness to allow others into our lives. So many people need to receive our gift-newcomers to our parish, people who are handicapped in any way, those suffering from a recent death in their families, the frail elderly-and so many others. But be aware that often there is a high cost to being deeply welcoming, and that is the reason so many of us stay locked in our own small worlds. Allowing others into our lives can cost us time, energy, even money. It can challenge our thinking and way of life. It can disturb us when the one whom we welcome is in deep pain and intense suffering. We need always to keep our eyes on Jesus, crucified but risen, if we wish to live lives that embrace the stranger and the outsider. Deep hospitality is not so much something we do as the way we live. It calls us out of ourselves and our precious security, and plunges us into the human community of all of God's daughters and sons. Peace, Fr. John Vella (December 9th, 2007)

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues.	Dec. 11	9:00 am	RIP Bill & Nellie Wolski	Mabel Mochnacz
		9:00 am	Expectant Parents	League for Life
Wed.	Dec. 12	9:00 am	RIP Randy St. Goddard	Marie Anne Peloquin
		9:00 am	RIP Dale Kamann	Knights of Columbus
Thurs.	Dec. 13	9:00 am	CFB Shilo Troops	Carl & Carol Hartman
Fairview Home		10:30 am	RIP Ricardo Rodriguez	Maria & Family
Fri.	Dec. 14	9:00 am	Arthur & Clarice Chartier	Jeannette & Melina
		12:15 pm	No Mass- Confessions in St. Lazare at 1 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 15	10:00 am	Dave & Coralie Serle	Russell & Joan Lawrence
		5:00 pm	For all Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Raju
		7:30 pm	RIP Anthony Fillion	Fillion Family
Sun.	Dec. 16	9:00 am	RIP Jim MacKay	Gayle & Family
		10:30 am	RIP Marie Greeniaus	Marlene Brechka
		12:30 pm	Brian & Mary Anne Schoonbaert	Ken, Karen & Steven
Rivers	Dec. 16	4:00 pm	RIP Monique Genaille	Genaille Family
	Dec. 23	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	

Rivers: There is a mass change on Sunday, Dec. 16. Mass will begin at 4 p.m. on that date only, in order to accommodate a potluck supper and Advent parish community fellowship following Mass. We count & look forward to your presence!

12:30 Noon Mass Cancelled: This Friday, Dec. 14, we will have the usual 9 a.m. Mass, however the **12:15 noon Mass is cancelled** as Fr. Raju and I will be in St. Lazare hearing confessions. We begin with the school kids at 1:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: On Wednesday, Dec. 12th the Universal Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In Canada this day is recognized annually as a national day of prayer for Aboriginal peoples. As a parish, we will recognize this day on the following Saturday, Dec. 15th at 7:30 p.m. However, on the actual Feast Day we are encouraged to pray, read Scripture, participate in the Mass, or join a prayer circle. Pray specifically for the Aboriginals living in Brandon and surrounding vicinity.

Sister Marlene requires a ride to Edmonton or a sponsor for her trip on December 22 or 23, if you can accommodate this request please call the Parish office.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1739-1742: Human freedom in the plan of salvation

Mon. (Isaiah 35:1-10)
(Luke 5:17-26)

Tues. **St. Damasus I**
(Isaiah 40:1-11)
(Matthew 18:12-14)

Wed. **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
(Zechariah 2:10-13)
(Luke 1:39-47)

Thurs. **St. Lucy**
(Isaiah 41:13-20)
(Matthew 11:11-15)

Fri. **St. John of the Cross**
(Isaiah 48:17-19)
(Matthew 11:16-19)

Sat. (Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11)
(Matthew 17:10-13)

Sun. **3rd Sunday of Advent**
(Isaiah 35:1-6, 10)
(James 5:7-10)
(Matthew 11:2-11)

Holy Days of Obligation in Canada are: Christmas (Dec. 25) and Mary, Mother of God on Jan. 1. All Catholics are privileged and obliged to attend Mass on these two days.

VOCATION VIEW: Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?



THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	10	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
	10	Confirmation	7:00 pm
Tues.	11	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	9:30 am
	11	Liturgy Meeting	Noon
	11	Capital Campaign Meeting	2:00 pm
	11	Legion of Mary Meeting	7:00 pm
Wed.	12	Quest for Christ	4:00 pm
	12	Advent Confessions	1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm
	12	RCIA	7:00 pm
Thurs.	13	Serra Mtg.	11:30 am
	13	Quest for Christ	6:30 pm
	13	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
	13	Knights of Columbus Christmas Party & Meeting	7:30 pm
Fri.	14	No Mass	
	14	No Confession	
	14	No Benediction	
Sat.	15	K of C Kids Fun Day	1:00 pm
Sun.	16	Spanish Community of St. Augustine's	1:00 pm

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 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 or 1.204.745.8933.

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. If any of the Knights are available for this worthwhile ministry please call Jim.

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.

The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor their "**Keep Christ in Christmas Lighting Contest**". If you have an outdoor Nativity Scene and would like to enter please phone Don Solkoski at 727-3695 or Rudy Bidinosti 727-5780 and leave your name, address and phone number. Prizes are: 1st \$50.00 and a engraved Holy Family figurine, 2nd \$35.00, and 3rd \$25.00.

Serra Club: On Dec. 13, 2007, some young people from Honduras will be speaking to the Serra Club, and all others who should be interested, on the effects of a Canadian Mining company which is doing considerable damage to their water, and the ecology of the country. We are going to begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Square, and it should last until just before 1 p.m. You should bring a bag lunch, if you like to eat at noon time, and we will try to have gallons of coffee ready. Please mark it on your calendar.

Brandon Area League for Life Annual Dinner will be held on January 20, 2008 in St. Augustine's Square at 5:00 pm. A roast beef dinner will be served. Guest Speaker will be Dr. Larry Rados. Tickets: \$10.00. Tickets are available at the Parish Office, Wing & A Prayer, Gerry Kennedy, Karen Fitzpatrick, Christopher Dubois, Jackie Miles or Wendy McComb.

Advent Confessions: The season of Advent is a time of patient waiting and a time of preparation. Of course we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus as a human being. We are, however, also preparing for His second coming, either at the end of time or at the time of our death; which ever comes first. A good and contrite confession is an excellent way to prepare for both. On Wednesday, Dec. 12 the priests from the Brandon Deanery will be here to assist us with confessions. We will begin at 1 pm in the church, with the students from St. Augustine's School. At 4 pm the students from the public schools will arrive. Then, at 7 pm we will hear the confessions of everyone else. We encourage each of you to attend this Sacrament of healing.

FINANCES: RECEIPTS:

Collection for the Weekend for Sunday Dec. 02, 2007	
Offertory Collection (Brandon)	\$13,193.50
School Fund Collection	\$ 40.00
Rivers Collection	\$ NA

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

Vigil Lamp

The light burns in memory of
 Stanley & Valerie Kovar

Parents Beware! Anti-Catholic, Anti Christian Movie: Golden Compass Both Zenit and CCRS have released a warning to the Catholic community about an occult movie entitled Golden Compass which will be released on Dec. 7. It is a lavish production which has Oscar written all over it. Based on a novel by atheist Phillip Pullman, this movie is an epic of global power struggles with hostility toward Christianity and the Catholic Church in particular. The movie portrays the ruling Magisterium as the enemy which answers to a not-so-powerful god. The Pullman novels are international best sellers in the young adult market category, so there's a ready-made audience of eagerly waiting fans. The movie is packed with occult spirituality and portrays adults as cruel and not to be trusted. A beautiful, insightful witch, who along with other witches, has been persecuted by the ruthless Christian church; religious leaders obsessed with human sin and offering no redemption; yet faith is available through science fiction, talking animals - including armored polar bears - and a magical truth machine. What more could Hollywood invent in its relentless goal to de-flower, de-Christianize and paganize Western youth? To read more, go to goldencompass.com & click on "Angering Christian Groups."

Thank you: I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for the food, Mass cards, flowers, visits, prayers, kindness and compassion during Ralph's illness and after his passing. May God richly bless you for all you have done for our family. *Emily Jaffray and family* **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