



God is Still Hoping

Have you ever heard anyone say: "Please be patient—God isn't finished with me yet!" "God isn't finished with us." Doesn't that feel like a hopeful thought to celebrate the first Sunday of preparation for Jesus' birth, his beginning as a little child? And have you ever heard, "The journey is as important as the destination." In this life, God is leading us on a journey, really more of an adventure, where we have to trust constantly, since we never see the road ahead. So the Psalmist cries out, "Teach me your paths, God. Let me know your ways!" All our lives, we're in the process of God bringing us to a destination. Along the way, we're being asked to prepare for something we can't entirely envision. We will make mistakes at times during this trip—but, as Scarlett O'Hara might say, "Tomorrow is another day" to renew our best intentions and try again. The main thing is that we pick ourselves up and try again. All of our efforts should go in one direction—as St. Paul says, "Make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants...." But what kind of life *are* we meant to live? Jesus says, seek "the life that God wants." He warns us "Watch out!" that we don't get worn out and weighed down by an unspiritual rut of chronic over-work, no rest, and a frantic life. When our hearts become insensitive, we are not living the life God hopes for us. Life's meaning begins to fall apart, and there is only One who can put broken hearts and broken lives together for us. As we say at Mass, "We wait in hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!" **Go in peace to love and serve our God!**
 First Sunday of Advent Nov. 29, 2009

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MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 01	9:00 am	Fr. Barry Schoonbaert	Ray & Mary Lou Simms
	9:00 am	Michael Cherniski	Pat Dinsdale & Family
	5:30 pm	Peace	CWL
Wed. Dec. 02	7:30 am	Nicole Dubois	Bruce, Jackie & Brendan
	9:00 am	RIP Anne Safain	Kindle Family
	9:00 am	Cecile Tryhuba	Bea Gross
Thurs. Dec. 03	9:00 am	RIP Wanda Wilk	Craig, Rachele Wilk & Family
	Fairview Home 10:30 am	Sister Eliana	Fran Machibroda
Fri. Dec. 04	9:00 am	Mrs. Kristalovich	Footo Family
	9:00 am	Michael & Tanis Dubois	Bruce, Jackie & Brendan
	12:15 pm	RIP Philip Veitch	Simms Family
	12:15 pm	RIP Aloise Hauber	Joan
Sat. Dec. 05	10:00 am	RIP Anthony Fillion	Fillion Family
	10:00 am	RIP Wilma Kichak	Bill & Family
	7:30 pm	Special Intention	Josie Bessant
Sun. Dec. 06	7:30 pm	Pope Benedict XVI	Faith Sharing Group
	9:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. James
	10:30 am	Manuel Ajoc	Sr. Jing & Family
	12:30 pm	RIP Temilda Villa	Ken, Karen & Steven
Sun. Dec. 06	11:00 am	Rita Forest	St. Mary's Parish

1st Sunday of Advent

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2846-2854: Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil

Mon.	St. Andrew (Romans 10:9-18) (Matthew 4:18-22)
Tues.	(Isaiah 11.1-10) (Luke 10.21-24)
Wed.	(Isaiah 25.6-10) (Matthew 15.29-37)
Thurs.	St. Francis Xavier (Isaiah 26.1-6) (Matthew 7.21, 24-27)
Fri.	St. John of Damascus (Isaiah 29.17-24) (Matthew 9.27-31)
Sat.	(Isaiah 30.19-21, 23-26) (Matthew 9.35-10.1,5,6-8)
Sun.	2nd Sunday of Advent (Baruch 5.1-9) (Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11) (Luke 3.1-6)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ann Babiak, Marguerite Bicknell, Noreen Bicknell, Jean Boutellier, Irene Copet, Jules Declercq, Ann Delgaty, Diane Dougall, Ron Ediger, Justin Enns, Rosaline Fedorkie, Mervin Fleury, Nora Fleury, Megan Gardham, Matthew Hrankowski, Brett Lawrence, Tess McLaren, Kathleen MacDougall, Paul Malabar, Alisa Moran, Tony Petrucci, Hazel Philipott, Minnie Plaseski, Emily Potvin, Linda Seitz, Monica Seitz, Coralie Serle, Gary Sproule, Jean Tarnowski, Doreen Thompson, Irene Toma, Ashely KostECKI Truax, Marian Vorspel, Rosa Weiss, Debbie Williams and all our shut-ins.

There will be an information session for the **Columbian Squires** for young men aged 10-18 and their parents this Sunday after 10:30 am mass in the Parish Square.

You are invited to: Brandon Men's Ecumenical Fellowship Christmas Turkey Supper Friday Dec. 4th - 6:00 pm Trinity United Church (6th and Richmond) Guest Speaker: Rev. Wayne Sanderson, Trinity United Church.



VOCATION VIEW: Make your decision to follow Jesus during THIS Advent Season. Delaying until "one" of these days is "none" of these days. Follow now.

Brockie Donovan Presents **Tree of Memories Community Candlelight Memorial Service** on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Central United Church. Please call 729-7074 to confirm your attendance and to order a new 2009 ornament.

THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	30	Archbishop - Year For the Priest	7:30 pm
Tues.	01	St. Vincent de Paul	9:30 am
	01	Legion of Mary	4:30 pm
	01	CWL Mass & Advent Celebration	5:30 pm
	01	Confirmation Class at school	7:00 pm
Wed.	02	Weekly Catechism	4:00 pm
	02	RCIA	7:00 pm
Thurs.	03	Little Rock Bible Study	1:15 pm
	03	Weekly Catechism	6:30 pm
	03	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	04	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	04	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	04	Benediction	5:00 pm
Sat.	05	K of C Kids Christmas Party	1:00 pm
Sun.	06	K of C Pancake Breakfast after 9:00 & 10:30	
	06	Youth Band Practice	4:00-6:00 pm
	06	St. Augustine's Community Choir Practice	7:00-8:00 pm

FINANCES: RECEIPTS:
Collection for the Weekend for Sunday Nov. 22, 2009

Offertory Collection (Brandon)	\$ 6924.00
School Fund Collection	\$ 20.00
Restoration Collection Nov. 22, 2009 -	\$ 644.00

**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 REQUESTS ENVELOPE
 MOVING OUT OF PARISH CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Vigil Lamp

The light burns in memory of
 Dorothy Leblanc
 week of Nov. 30, 2009

Healing Mass - "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed!" St. Dominic Parish in Neepawa invites you to join us for a Healing Mass on Friday, Dec. 4th at 7 pm. Experience the healing touch of God through the Sacrament of anointing of the sick or the oil of gladness. Several priests will Concelebrate the Mass and administer the Sacrament through the Laying on of hands. Coffee and snacks to follow in the parish hall.

If you have a key to gain entry to the church and you only use it during regular business hours or you are no longer on a ministry, please return key to Parish Office.

From Father Dominic's Desk:

Year For the Priest: As a part of the year long celebration of the Year For the Priest, the Archbishop will be offering an evening of reflection on the theology and spirituality of the Ordained Priesthood since Vatican II. Consider yourself invited on Monday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. We will host this event at St. Augustine's beginning with Evening Prayer. A reception in the parish square will follow.

Loose Change Collection: It was decided at our last liturgy meeting that we will have a loose change collection during the four weekends in Advent to offset costs of the Christmas flowers and decorations.

CWL Advent Celebration will take place on Tuesday December 1st. Mass at 5:30 pm with supper to follow at 6:30 pm. \$5 gift exchange for those who wish to bring a gift. Please bring a healthy cereal to donate to St. Vincent de Paul. Tickets are \$17 - available from Leona Smithson.

The Knights of Columbus Kids Christmas Party open to all children of the Parish, Dec. 5, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Al's Hall. Games, crafts and carols with Santa. To register call John at 727-1814 or email jhouli@mts.net by Dec. 3 with number of kids and ages please.

St. Vincent de Paul is in dire need of good used furniture, kitchen suites, small appliances and dishes. Contact Ed or Jeannie at 728-2047. These goods are to assist new arrivals in Brandon.

Lectors who want to proclaim the word at Christmas and New Year's masses please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the cork board outside the sacristy.

St. Mary's, Souris will host the annual **Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 4th at 7 pm.** This is an Ecumenical Service for all those who are grieving loss of any kind while the rest of the world is joyful during the Christmas season.

Development and Peace Fall Action Campaign: Agrofuels are being heralded as a solution to our declining oil reserves. Development & Peace, however, feels that this hides a dark secret. There is a disturbing trend emerging in the Global south of using land to grow agrofuels for cars instead of food for people. Please read the enclosed brochure in this week's bulletin for more insight. There will be a card signing after each Mass next week to encourage our Prime Minister and MPs to oppose this non-sustainable use of land.

A guide for this season Advent Family Prayers: Consider gathering as a family to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. A downloadable guide for families is available on our parish website - just go to youth ministry and click ADVENT FAMILY PROGRAM.

Spiritual Adoption: A huge "thank you" to all who took part in our Spiritual Adoption Program these last 9 months. You may never know who you helped, but rest assured that your prayers saved babies. Also, thank you to those who attended our Baby Shower and gave so generously. *Brandon League for Life*