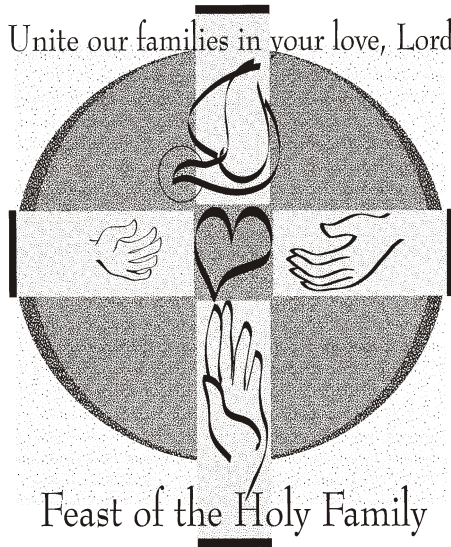


Unite our families in your love, Lord



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Living Out The Family Mystery

Today St. Paul draws a beautiful description of how to live with other people: "Bear with one another," he says. "Forgive whatever grievances you have against one another.... Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.... Sing gratefully to God from your hearts...." Sounds great—but are you thinking, "Are you kidding? Have you seen what family life is like out there?" Well, it's true we're still living in the "Simpson's Generation," where parents are portrayed in the media as goofy, confused, or weak. Or we might think it's impossible because we've grown used to a more unstructured view of family. It's hard to "bear with one another," forgive all grievances, and sing with gratitude to God, if you see family as a loose group of individuals who have no unified identity. Our Catechism says: "The family is the original cell of social life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society." (Sec. 2207) The stability stems from our one identity as the children of a God who loves us wildly, deeply and unconditionally. It requires that we listen to God and to each other for guidance and wisdom. Joseph is the model of Christian listening in the gospel today. The root word for "listen" comes from the word for "obedience". Joseph listened and obeyed in spite of terrible fear and doubt. He knew God loved him—so he trusted God's counsel as part of a deeper life of trust. This is the kind of trust-full listening St. Paul is telling children, husbands, and wives they must have with each other—no bossiness or angry power plays. Christian obedience is simply our loving response to each other's genuine needs.

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 28	9:00 am	RIP Mike Panchuk	Terry, Pam and Family
	9:00 am	RIP Ed Davis	Ken, Karen & Steven
	9:00 am	RIP Rev. Alexander Machuy	
Peter & Cecilia & Family			
Wed. Dec. 29	7:30 am	RIP Armand Belmore	John Wilson
	9:00 am	RIP Don Solkoski	Harold & Jeanette Tripp
	9:00 am	Ed & Jeannie Burgess	Dora & Brett
Thurs. Dec. 30	9:00 am	RIP Wilma Kichak	Helen Lepine
Fairview Home	10:30 am	Abused Women & Children	Faith Sharing Group
Fri. Dec. 31	5:00 pm	RIP Elsie Panchuk	Sally & Family
	5:00 pm	RIP Doreen Thompson	Velma Beaudette
Sat. Jan. 01	10:30 am	Darren Tripp	Your Friends
	10:30 am	Special Intention	Legion of Mary
Sun. Jan. 02	9:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. James
	10:30 am	RIP Gordon Phillips	Geoff & Lorraine Kindle
	10:30 am	Julie Genaille	Anne Simms, Family & Friends
	12:30 am	Waite Family	Ken, Karen & Steven

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ann Babiak, Marguerite Bicknell, Noreen Bicknell, Irene Copet, Jules Declercq, Ann Delgaty, Ron Ediger, Justin Enns, Rosaline Fedorkie, Mervin Fleury, Connie Gudz, Matthew Hrankowski, Brett Lawrence, Kathleen MacDougall, Paul Malabar, Millicent Mychasiw, Alisa Moran, Tony Petrucci, Minnie Plaseski, Coralie Serle, Gary Sproule, Jean Tarnowski, Irene Toma, Ashely Kostecky Truax, Marian Vorspel, Rosa Weiss, Rebecca Weitzman, Debbie Williams and all our shut-ins.

Spiritual Adoption: Your baby is quite active in the womb now—although his mother won't feel him for another couple of months. If his mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow, and move his tongue. He can make a tight fist if you touch his palm. He obtains the oxygen his body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs once ounce. What a miracle he is!

Save the Dates: The Brandon and Area League for Life will be selling tickets to their 4th annual fundraising banquet after all masses on the weekends of January 8th and 9th and January 15th and 16th. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. The banquet date is January 22, 2011. The guest speaker is Michael Coren, Toronto journalist for life.

Holy Family

Catechism of the Catholic Church

530: The flight into Egypt

2196-2233: The fourth commandment

Mon. **St. John the Evangelist**

(1 John 1.1-4)
(John 20.2-8)

Tues. **Holy Innocents**

(1 John 1.5-2.2)
(Matthew 2.13-18)

Wed. **St. Thomas Becket**

(1 John 2.3-11)
(Luke 2.22-35)

Thurs. (1 John 2.12-17)

(Luke 2.36-40)

Fri. **St. Sylvester I**

(1 John 2.18-21)
(John 1.1-18)

Sat. **Mary, Mother of God**

(Numbers 6.22-27)
(Galatians 4.4-7)
(Luke 2.16-21)

Sun. **Epiphany**

(Isaiah 60.1-6)
(Ephesians 3.2-3, 5-6)
(Matthew 2.1-12)



VOCATION VIEW: Families are where kindness, humility, patience and thanksgiving are lived and celebrated. People cannot truly teach these qualities unless they have experienced them.

THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	27	Office Closed	
	27	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
Tues.	28	Office Closed	
	28	Legion of Mary	4:30 pm
Wed.	29	RCIA	7:00 pm
	29	12:30 Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Thurs.	30	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	31	Mass at 5:00 pm	
Sat.	01	Mass at 10:30 am	
Sun.	02	Masses at 9 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm	

FINANCES:**Collection for Dec. 19, 2010**

Offertory Collection	\$NA
School Fund Collection	\$NA
Restoration Collection	\$NA

RECEIPTS:**Vigil Lamp**

The light burns in Memory of
Ignazio Scaletta for week of Dec. 27, 2010

Stewardship- Faith on Fire, Hearts & Minds Transformed

As good stewards we learn to trust much more in God, and much less in ourselves. Let us, on this day dedicated to the Holy Family, trust in God's plan, and be open to the Holy Spirit working in the lives of each of our family members, particularly those who have fallen away from their faith. Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of Winnipeg, www.archwinnipeg.ca

Christmas Dates & Times

Sunday Dec. 26 - Mass times will be 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of obligation in Canada. Masses at St. Augustine's will be on Fri., **Dec. 31** at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 1 - Mass will be at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2 - Masses at St. Augustine's will be at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

In Souris, Mass will be on Jan. 1, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

In Souris, on January 2, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPT UPDATE: As per Revenue Canada information please be informed that donations received after DECEMBER 31, 2010 CANNOT be added to the year 2010 receipts. Therefore it is advisable to make sure your 2010 donations are given in the current year. This information was received from Revenue Canada.

Donation Envelopes: Donation envelopes for 2011 are in the east vestibule ready for pick up. Please do not use these until 2011.

Notice to all who purchased an angel Christmas tree decoration from the Brandon Area League for Life: The in memoriam mass for Mary's Angels will be February 6, 2011 at 12:30 pm.

St. Augustine's Community Voices Choir will begin rehearsals for the new year on Sunday, Jan. 9 at 7:00 PM in the church. All are welcome to attend.

From Father Dominic's Desk:

Pastor's Christmas Message: Four weeks ago I mentioned that Advent always passes too quickly for me. It is the same every year. We enter the Christmas season abruptly. Christmas is truly a universal celebration. Even non-Christians are aware that something extraordinary and transcendental is happening during the Christmas season.

Unfortunately we live in a hedonistic and consumeristic society, so Christmas is more and more in danger of being reduced from a spiritual solemnity to a mere commercial occasion to buy and exchange the "perfect" gift. The present economic difficulties in the world may serve as an incentive for rediscovering the warmth of simplicity, friendship and solidarity that are the traditional and true values of Christmas.

As we fix our attention on the stable in Bethlehem, may we all be thankful for the gift of love and be prepared to welcome Him. That welcome should take the form of caring for those in need. Indeed, the Almighty Lord often takes the form of the poor in order to vanquish our pride.

In the infant Jesus we observe the defencelessness of God's love, that is, God comes to us unarmed. His plan is not to defeat us externally, rather, He wants to win us internally by His love. The stable in Bethlehem was not occupied by refined persons. Perhaps we are so far from the stable due to the fact that we are too refined and intelligent. Do we live too much closed in on ourselves, in our self-sufficiency, that we are not in tune to the songs of the heavenly hosts who come to adore the new born babe. Let us come in simplicity to the stable in Bethlehem this Christmas; come let us adore Him.

The staff and myself here at St. Augustine's want to wish each of you a truly Blessed and Holy Christmas. May the new year of 2011 bring with it riches in spiritual blessings, prosperity and health in mind and body.

Vocational Discerner Christopher Dubois: When I was thinking about the priesthood, Archbishop Adam Exner set my heart at ease by telling me that "a man enters the seminary to discern whether or not he has a vocation to the priesthood." Christopher's decision to enter the seminary follows a long soul search, an honest desire to do God's will and long hours in prayer vigils. As Christopher follows the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit in his heart and enters St Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton to begin studies toward his Masters Degree and to discern if he has a vocation to the priesthood, let us keep him in our daily prayers. Father Dominic

Bible Study: If you are interested in joining the next Bible Study course, please call Yvonne Skura at 726-8243. The topic is: The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus. The class will begin on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 1:15 p.m. Deadline for registration is Dec. 31, 2010, all books ordered must be paid for in advance of order being placed.

Parish Face to Face Retreat/Mission:

Where: St. Joseph the Worker R.C. Parish, Russell, Mb.

When: Saturday, January 15th, and Sunday, January 16th, 2011

For: Ages 4 years old and up!

Come for Talks, music, Mass, Sharing, Games, Discussion!
Come for only one day, one hour or for the whole retreat!

For more information or to register contact Glenda Stasiuk
@204-773-2652 or the parish office @204-773-2924.