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Keep Daydreaming

Have you ever been at work or at school when suddenly, you're into a full-fledged daydream. You're playing drums for the Beatles, or strolling on a beach in Tahiti when you hear, "You, there, with the glazed look... stop daydreaming and pay attention!" True, daydreaming was once called lazy and time-wasting; but studies show that people who daydream, from Einstein to Beethoven, show increased empathy and can do more complex problem-solving. The prophet, Isaiah, is all in favor of you going back to your daydream, too. Isaiah paints a fantastic dream of the fulfillment of all the hopes we could have—no more illness, death, injustice, or violence. Right now, we live in a world gone wild with problems. But Isaiah is saying, that's all temporary. Because here is the ultimate truth of how things are: "Here is your God... (who) comes to save you!"--the justice and mercy of God is coming to take eternal victory over all of our problems: "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, the tongue of the dumb sing." Isaiah reminds us to envision the impossible becoming actual—which is exactly what is going to happen at Christmas. Jesus made this dream come alive in real-time. God gave Isaiah this vision, so that we could take hope, and see the future with God's eyes. And we need this encouragement desperately. When we feel we are losing faith, remember that *this is not our real home*. Take heart! Christmas is the beginning of the end—the end of our exile here. So, let's "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!" Go in peace to love and serve our God!

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 14	9:00 am	Brian Kehler	Your Godmother
	9:00 am	Lise Melynychuk	Ken, Karen & Steven
	9:00 am	Their Children	Marie & John Vachon
Wed. Dec. 15	7:30 am	RIP Don Solkoski	Mother Angelita & M.A.C.E. Sisters
	9:00 am	RIP Wilma Kichak	Helen Lepine
	9:00 am	RIP Roly Hamel	Julia & Family
Thurs. Dec. 16	9:00 am	RIP Thomas Popien	The Family
	Fairview Home 10:30 am	RIP Huey McDiarmid	Deacon John & Carol MacKenzie
Fri. Dec. 17	9:00 am	RIP Dorothy Leblanc	Leo & Family
	12:15 pm	RIP Paulette Soloway	Robert & Sandy Jutras
	12:15 pm	Brincy, Jaison & Family	Biju & Deepthy
Sat. Dec. 18	10:00 am	Expectant Parents & Parental Love	League for Life
	4:00 pm	RIP Elsie Panchuk	Ken, Karen & Steven
	4:00 pm	RIP Don Solkoski	Amelia Adamski
Sun. Dec. 19	9:00 am	RIP Kelly & James Turtle	Tony & Linda De Vliegere & Family
	9:00 am	Thanksgiving	Pat Dinsdale
	10:30 am	RIP Donal O'Donohoe	Pat O'Sullivan
	10:30 am	Jen	Mom & Dad
	12:30 pm	For All Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. James

Thank You: A big Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the Feast of St. Nicolas Children's Party. Special thanks to Jennifer Houlihan for all her efforts in making our celebration a huge success.

The **Knights of Columbus** will be starting the Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring Contest. All entries are due by Dec. 20 by 3:30 pm. For more information call Matthew Dubois at 570-0123 or please check the bulletin boards.

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 or would like to nominate someone else, call Todd Misanchuk at 728-4131 and leave your name, person nominated, address and phone number. Judging will be done throughout December with prizes being awarded.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Catechism of the Catholic Church

456-460: Why the Word became flesh

547-550: Signs of the kingdom of God

Mon. **St. Lucy**
(Numbers 24.2-7, 15-17)
(Matthew 21.23-27)

Tues. **St. John of the Cross**
(Zephaniah 3.1-2, 9-13)
(Matthew 21.28-32)

Wed. (Isaiah 45.6-8, 18, 21-25)
(Luke 7.19-23)

Thurs. (Isaiah 54.1-10)
(Luke 7.24-30)

Fri. (Genesis 49.2,8-10)
(Matthew 1.1-17)

Sat. (Jeremiah 23.5-8)
(Matthew 1.18-24)

Sun. **4th Sunday of Advent**
(Isaiah 7.10-14)
(Romans 1.1-7)
(Matthew 1.18-24)



VOCATION VIEW: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.

Sunday Missals for 2011 are available in the Parish Office.

THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	13	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
Tues.	14	St. Vincent de Paul	9:30 am
	14	Legion of Mary	4:30 pm
	14	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
Wed.	15	Advent Reconciliation Services	1:00 pm, 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
	15	Catechism Classes	4:00 pm
	15	RCIA	7:00 pm
	15	Into the Deep	7:00 pm
Thurs.	16	Catechism Classes	6:30 pm
	16	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	17	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	17	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	17	Benediction	5:00 pm
Sun.	19	St. Augustine Community Choir Practice	7:00 pm

FINANCES:**Collection for Dec. 5, 2010**

Offertory Collection	\$9813.00
School Fund Collection	\$ 50.00
Restoration Collection	\$1885.00

RECEIPTS:**Vigil Lamp**

The light burns in Memory of
Dorothy Leblanc for week of Dec. 13, 2010

Stewardship- Faith on Fire, Hearts & Minds Transformed

In the readings today, we discover two virtues of the disciple and Christian steward – patience and persistence. The stewardship way of life is both joyful and rewarding, while at the same time being challenging. We need to be patient with ourselves and with others if we are to persist in the journey. It is, after all, the work of a lifetime. Being a steward and disciple is to place Christ at the center of our lives. In doing so we are able to take on the daily challenges of life with confidence and hope. Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of Winnipeg, www.archwinnipeg.ca

Christmas Flower Collection: Christmas, once again is right around the corner and we are already preparing to decorate our beautiful church. Last year we asked for a loose change donation to be made during mass which was very successful. This Advent season we are asking for your support through a second collection at each mass.

Advent Dates & Times

Advent Confessions will take place at St. Augustine's on Wednesday, December 15. As usual, there will be three separate times: 1 pm, 4 pm, & 7 pm.

Confessions at **1 pm** are primarily for the students and teachers of St. Augustine's School. Added to these, we invite any seniors who may feel safer attending in the daylight. Also, anyone else who may not be able to attend with the rest of the parish in the evening.

Confessions at **4 pm** are for the children who attend public school and their parents who may wish to attend.

Confessions at **7 pm** are for the parish at large.

All priests from the Westman deanery will be here to listen to your confessions.

Confessions at Souris will take place following Sunday mass on December 5 & 12.

From Father Dominic's Desk:**Christmas Dates and Times:**

Christmas Masses at St. Augustine's are Friday, Dec. 24 at 4pm, 6 pm, 8 pm and 12 midnight. Christmas Day 10:30 am.

Christmas mass in Souris will be December 24 at 8 pm.

Sunday Dec. 26 Mass times will be 9 am & 11 am.

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 pm. Saturday, Jan. 1 Mass will be at 10:30 am.

In Souris, mass will be on Jan. 1, 2011 at 11:00 am.

Sunday, Jan. 2 Masses at St. Augustine's will be at 9 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

Parish Tithe

On behalf of the parish and myself I want to thank the members of the Finance Council for their commitment and demonstrated faith in tithing this year. Once again, St. Augustine's has given away one-tenth of its total income to other charities. The financial gifts were distributed to the following charitable organizations or institutions:

Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's Sisters in Haiti) \$5,000, Sisters of Life (work with pregnant women in distress) \$5,000, Save A Family Plan (India housing) \$5,000, CHALICE (children in undeveloped countries) \$5,000, Uganda projects (c/o Linda Chegwin) \$5,000, Holy Childhood Association \$5,000, Canadian Food For Children \$5,000, Sisters of Mary in Haiti (assist children) \$5,000, Missionaries of Christ in the Eucharist (orphanages in Philippines) \$5,000, Sisters of St. Elizabeth (orphanage in Bethlehem) \$5,000. The total was \$50,000.

Several months ago a parishioner made the erroneous claim that the parish tithe consisted of nothing more than the special collections taken up throughout the year. This is not true. The above tithe of \$50,000 was calculated from the total annual income contributed through the weekly collections.

The criteria used by the Finance Council for recipients who will receive our gifts are quite simple: They must be a Catholic organization or institution in good standing with the teaching office and mandate of the Church. Individuals must be Catholic and either discerning or studying for the priesthood or Religious life.

The Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus are parish organizations which receive individual requests, however they too, have criteria for acceptance.

When I was in my early twenties I decided to go to Germany where I worked with the Brotherhood of Jesus for a number of years. My parents were poor and I could not depend on them for assistance. Nonetheless, I never would have considered soliciting funds from my home parish of St. Augustine's to assist me. The remedy was and still is simple. It is called "work". So, that is what I did until I was able to save enough for my flight and other expenses. Nothing wrong with working. Don't you agree?

The parish is unable to financially support individual requests, many for noble causes, due to the obvious reason that a land slide of requests would ensue.