

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 4th	12:10 p.m.	† Donald Hinch
Tuesday, January 5th	12:10 p.m.	† Stephen Ameer-Beg
Wednesday, January 6th	7:00 p.m.	† Patrick Brennan
Thursday, January 7th	12:10 p.m.	† Mary Cavanaugh
Friday, January 8th	12:10 p.m.	† Loretta Poretta
Saturday, January 9th	9:00 a.m.	† Maywood Michael



With best wishes for the coming year

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Parishioners,

Over the coming year we will be very conscious of the renovation of our church.

The people of this parish had great foresight in the mid sixties to acquire these marvelous grounds and to build our present church which has served us so well for forty years.

Mr. Roberto Chiotti of Larkin Architects has been engaged to do the work during this first phase of renewal and will soon present the plans as we move forward.

We are also very pleased that Elizabeth Devereaux of Chico, California is working on the stained glass windows for the church. She has embraced well the theme of the *Litany of the Blessed Virgin* and will be providing us with dramatic and reflective windows based on this ancient prayer.

I would like to thank our architect committee which is comprised of two parish council members, two finance committee members, two property committee members and our music director for the generous use of their time and good cheer over the last many months. They have truly aided this undertaking.

A GENTLE REMINDER REGARDING WINTER WEATHER

Winter is now upon us and it is important that we remember that when roads are

impassable or ice is a serious problem that we are not morally compelled to attend Sunday mass. This reminder is particularly for those who are advancing in age who can, if they take a fall, cause themselves no end of grief recovering from the damage that may be done.



CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



For those who would like to develop a deeper sense of their call to ministry, all are invited to consider this program. The diocese will offer its winter session, *Basic Teachings of the Catholic Church* beginning January, 2010 and a spring session, *The Sunday Eucharist* beginning April 2010. Registrations are \$50/person and are now being accepted. The time commitment is one and a half hours, once a week for six weeks. For further information, please see the information rack in the foyer.

COFFEE SUNDAY



A big thank you to the following who were hosts for coffee during the first part of the parochial year.

Youth Ministry
Knights of Columbus
Parish Council
Pray and Sew
Catholics at Georgian
St. Monica's School
The Catholic Women's League
The Social Life Committee
Ministry with Maturing Adults
Stay N' Play

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

We will take down our decorations in the church on Monday, Jan. 4th after the noon mass. Anyone who can help is encouraged to assist.

DONATION DEADLINE



If you missed making a donation that you wish to be credited in 2009, the deadline for doing so is January 10th. It is important that Pat closes off one set of books so she can proceed with the New Year.

STATISTICS FOR 2008 AND 2009



IN OUR PARISH

For your information we are pleased to provide our parish statistics for 2008 and 2009.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Baptism and Professions of Faith	147	174
First Communions	159	153
Confirmations	161	169
Weddings	25	34
Funerals	97	83

As the stats indicate, we are not seriously off last years' numbers except for deaths, and that of course is happy news.

Weddings were up somewhat because we have been making a bit of a push to have marriages of those married outside the church have their marriage blessed. Happily this has been happening more frequently.

The same effort is reflected in the increase in baptisms and professions of faith.

We should see some diminishment of the number of sacraments that involve children as the number of children decrease within our society.

GILDA'S CLUB



Gilda's Club provides support to individuals of all ages who have been diagnosed with cancer. The Club's services are free of charge and includes a peaceful home-like gathering place, supportive groups, education, and social activities. We are blessed to have a Gilda's Club coming to our community and to be able to support its Founders as they support others living with cancer.

The club is holding a raffle and selling tickets for \$20/ea. They will be sold after all masses on January 9 & 10th. The draw is on January 29 and includes a car, as well as some cash prizes.

DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION

It has come to my attention that people have been solicited at their doors for money on behalf of St. Mary's parish. We do not now, have not, and will not be knocking on doors for money. If you are solicited do not give. Please be emphatic in dissuading this behaviour and if it is a topic among your friends and neighbours, inform them of the truth.

*God bless you
with health and happiness*

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

School

Monsignor Clair School

We went all out to support a school family who needed to purchase a wheelchair van for two of their children who have who have Pelizeaus-Merzbacher Disease. The brothers, in Grades 1 and 3, are now able to enjoy travelling while staying in their wheelchairs instead of being lifted in and out of their old van. It was getting difficult for the boys' mother to lift them in and out of their previous van. The boys were growing, and she also had to squeeze their wheelchairs into the back of their old vehicle.

Members of Monsignor Clair raised funds throughout the spring and summer and the school community came through with flying colours. The school hosted two movie nights, sold ice-cream sandwiches, ran bake sales and raffles, school staff had weekly 50/50 draws, and crafts were made and sold with the help of parents. In total the school raised \$3,941 for the family.

St. Joseph's Catholic High School

Students also championed the cause by raising funds through dress down days and a car wash in June. In total, the school raised \$2,572 for the boys through these two events.

Sister Catherine Donnelly

With this year's focus on the Catholic values of truth, compassion and service, our school has made a commitment to raise money to support the building of a school in a small village in Ghana. Teachers, students and families have embraced this project and have planned various activities to further their understanding of the uniqueness and the needs of this community. This month Sister Catherine Donnelly will be hosting a Christmas Charity Event that includes a craft and bake sale, raffle and family sing - a - long. All proceeds from this event will go towards the project.

Good Shepherd School

Efforts were made in many ways to support the needs of the poor in Barrie at around the world. Students have raised funds for Christmas Cheer and the Grocery Assistance Program. Funds have also been raised for building a school in Ghana.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION



Marriage preparation will be running in the parish in the winter months ahead. Our parish preparation program will begin March 2nd and run through to April 20th. It is held every Tuesday evening from 7 - 9:00 p.m. Please call the parish office to register.