

We are the Community. We are the Church.

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the First Mass
at Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street
on September 5, 2015*

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August 29-30, 2015



*Saturday, September 5, 5 p.m.: 50th Anniversary
Mass followed by a potluck celebration:*

Ushers

Twenty-seven parishioners of all ages usher at weekend masses on a rotating basis, but there is a need for more ushers for the 5 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. There are no minimum required days for ushering. It is okay to volunteer to usher once a month.

Ushers are the face of our church: ■ joyfully greeting parishioners before mass — hence ushers arrive 15 minutes before mass; ■ helping latecomers find a seat quietly; ■ helping to pass the collection baskets between the pews; ■ recruiting and directing people to take the gifts to the altar; ■ assisting with the lines at communion to achieve an organized flow; ■ working behind the scenes to have minimal disruption during the mass so that everyone is comfortable; ■ staying after mass for 10 to 15 minutes to distribute bulletins and tidy up the pews.

Training for new ushers is on site and continues until they are ready. Communication is by e-mail regarding scheduling.

Interested in ushering? Contact coordinator **Zeudy Villar-Vega** at zeudy@shaw.ca or approach her after the 10 a.m. Sunday mass.

Funeral Reception Committee

The Catholic Women's League serviced receptions at funerals at the church for many years until many members felt they could no longer continue the work involved. In '11, **Fr. Bill MacDonald** asked **Joan Carmichael, Elizabeth Olcen** and **Sue Lemay** to coordinate a funeral reception committee and recruit volunteers.

Today the committee has 11 women and six men. The men set up the tables and chairs and take them down after the reception. The women place white table cloths and flowers on each table and prepare the large tables for food that is brought in, set out the food and make and serve coffee, tea and juices. They clean up after and take the table cloths home to be laundered.

If you are a new parishioner, or newly retired, or looking for the right niche, consider joining this committee. You can help when you are available. For more information, call: **Sue Lemay** at 250-386-4950 or email her at: suzanne.m.lemay@gmail.com or **Elizabeth Olcen** at 250-477-8115.



Youth Group

The Group's goals are: ■ to bring their faith into their everyday life; ■ to talk about what it is like to be a Catholic; and, ■ to discuss how they can spread their faith and love in the world.

The group meets every second Saturday to talk, listen, and have fun with their faith. It encourages all teens, from grade 7-12, to join them, even teens who have graduated. **Sandy Bourbeau**, the youth group leader, is always looking for young adults to help her out with planning the lessons.

Interested in joining the youth group? Contact **Sandy**: san.beau@gmail.com. Members connect through Facebook to keep in touch with what is happening.

Children's Liturgy

This ministry serves the youngest parishioners. Every Sunday at the 10 a.m. family mass, children ages 4- 9 go to the parish hall to hear the Good News. This essential ministry plants the seeds of faith in young people. It also gives parents an opportunity to listen to the Good News without distraction.

Parishioners who would like to share the Good News with the youngest parishioners, who love young children, and have a passion for teaching them are invited to join this ministry. Contact **Fr. David Hogman**, pastor, if you are interested.

Catholic Christian Outreach

CCO is a missionary organization that helps people develop a personal relationship with Jesus, equips them to live their faith fully, and develops them as leaders in evangelization.

CCO members lead faith studies groups at the parish. Each study group is six weeks in length

Participants learn, through discussion in a small, comfortable, group setting, more about their faith and how they can live it out. The five studies are: *Discovery, Source, Growth, Obedience, and Commission*. The material references the Bible, the Catholic catechism, and other Christian writings.

The faith studies will benefit those who: ■ want to deepen their relationship with Jesus; ■ would love to live the fullness of their faith; ■ would like their faith to grow and learn to share it with others; and ■ enjoy faith discussions in small group settings.

If you are interested in joining, contact **Adriana Rodriguez** at 250-704-0314 or email at fdelatorre@shaw.ca.

Christian Meditation Group

This group meets on Fridays in the parish hall after the 9 a.m. mass from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30, except on first Fridays as members join the eucharistic adoration in the church.

Benedictine monks in Montreal revived contemplative prayers — an ancient tradition dating back to the time of the Desert Fathers and Mothers in the early centuries of Christianity — in the 70s and 80s. Today, 2,000 groups [more than 200 groups in Canada] engage in contemplative prayers in more than 114 countries.

The groups meet in homes, churches, schools, hospitals, universities, offices and prisons. Sixteen Christian Meditation Centers around the world share the teachings through retreats and seminars.

After listening to the teachings, a 20-30 minute period of silent meditation follows "to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, everything we are."

You are welcome to join Christian Meditation — the "prayer of the heart." For more information, contact **Margie Noonan** at 250-388-3173 or margielnoonan@gmail.com. The group will consider other times of gathering to accommodate parishioners.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA]

Before Vatican Council II, parish priests handled the conversion of adults to the Catholic Church at personal, private lessons followed by baptism when the priest and the adults were ready. Early Christians did it differently. They had a three-year rigorous catechesis, called the catechumanate.

Vatican Council II restored the catechumanate and in '65 in the "Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church" spelled out in detail what it should look like. In '92, the Church published a "Complete and Updated version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church."

These two documents today provide the basis for the catechesis incorporated into the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The RCIA course also involves the faith community's participation and co-operation.

Besides lessons, participants engage in the active practice of the faith as lived by the faith community into which they wish initiation.

If you know of anyone who would like to become a Catholic and would like to take the RCIA course, contact **Fr. David Hogman**, our pastor.

Spanish Rosary

This ministry began on February '11 with members praying the rosary in Spanish every Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Everybody is welcome to pray with the group or to send their special petitions. The group also holds bible study in members' homes every Friday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 pm. For information, contact **Maritza Chouza**: maritzachouza@gmail.com

Environment

Using the works of God's creation and creativity, environment ministry members create a serene and beautiful place for parishioners to worship. There are new creative outlets for each week and season: ■ fresh flower arrangements for weekend masses; ■ seasonal decors, special-event projects and memorial set-ups inside the church; and, ■ maintenance of plants indoors. Projects for last Christmas season included: ■ projection/spot light for Jesus on the cross at the altar; ■ a background blue curtain behind the cross.

Want to help in this ministry, contact **Ruby Rivera** at: angelmother2@icloud.com.

Maintenance:

The maintenance committee maintains the upkeep and safety of the parish buildings and grounds. It assesses the status of all the parish properties to determine if they are meeting the parish's current and future needs, fixes whatever is required — doors, chairs, drains, lighting, etc. — and provides or seeks solutions to problems that the committee members cannot fix or build, such as the kitchen, sound system, etc.

Anyone with an interest in home repair and maintenance, or has a skilled building trade, is welcome to join. The committee meets about every four-to-six weeks or as needed. Contact **Ross McFadyen** at 250-744-2588.



Catholicism in the continents

Focus on South America

Continued from bulletin #49

Evidence of human life in South America dates back 9,000 years before Jesus was born. One of the earliest South American civilisations was in Peru: The Incas were the largest group of indigenous people when the Spaniards, Portuguese — and also the Dutch, British and French — colonized South America the late 15th century.

Indigenous cultures are still present in South America but the numbers are diminishing. There are still Arawaks and Caribs in Venezuela as well as Guarani in Brazil.

Some indigenous ideas, such as belief in the "evil eye," are widespread — held by at least one-third in each country in South America. Throughout the region, practices like communicating with spirits, consulting with traditional healers and participating in spiritual cleansing ceremonies are common among Catholics.

Today, Brazil has more Catholics than Italy, France, and Poland combined.

But while Pope Francis is the first pope from South America, the church hierarchy remains Eurocentric: South America has 28 per cent of the global Catholic population but has only 26 cardinals or 11.8 per cent of the total number of cardinals. Europe, the second largest with 26 per cent of the global Catholic population has 115 cardinals, or 52.5 per cent of the total number of cardinals.

And with one of their own serving as pope for the first time, South America provides a visible reminder of the importance this continent should play in the global church.