

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 2010

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010
(Sam9.1-4, 17-19; 10.1a, Mark2.13-17)
 5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Gilles Tremblay by his family
 Patrick O'Hara by his family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010
(Isaiah62.1-5, 1Cor12.4-11, John 2.1-12)
 10:30 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Irene Jadunath & family by June DeFour

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010
NO MASS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010
(1Sam16.1-13, Mark2.23-28)
 5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Most Rev. Thomas O'Donnell by Constance O'Donnell

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010
(1Sam17.32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark3.1-6)
 9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010
MEMORIAL - ST. AGNES
(1Sam18.6-9, 19.1-7, Mark3.7-12)
 9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010
(1Sam24.2-21, Mark3.13-19)
 9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010
(2Sam1.1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27, Mark3.20-21)
 5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Mary Veronica Jelf by Ann Pless

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010
(Neh8.2-4a, 5-6, 8-10++, 1Cor2.12-30, Luke1.1-4, 4, 14-21)
 10:30 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Josefina & Stanley Clarke by Simonne Clarke

This Week at Ascension

Wednesday: **Sunday Scripture Reflection** with Fr. Pat in the Parish Room of the Rectory at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Thursday: **Choir Practice** at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2010

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (*John 2:1-12*)

A wedding feast is a biblical symbol for the kingdom of God, therefore, the Old Testament sometimes pictures God as a groom and the people of Israel as his beloved bride. John may have had this imagery in mind when he wrote about the event in today's Gospel.

In this story, there are six stone jars of water the Jews used for ceremonial washings, each with a capacity of about twenty gallons. Some very strict Jews followed a religious law requiring them to wash their hands in a certain way before they ate. With their fingers pointing upwards, they poured water over their hands and let it drip to their wrists. Then, with fingers pointing downward, they poured water so it ran from the wrists to the tip of the fingers. They repeated this ritual before each course of the meal because they believed it was an outward sign of holiness. Hands not cleansed in this way were ritually unclean.

Because wine was both a symbol of joy and an important part of every meal in first-century Palestine the bride and groom must have been pretty embarrassed when they ran out of it. Jesus may have been at least partially responsible for this shortage if he brought some of his uninvited apostles to the party with him. This would explain why Mary, herself a guest, was so concerned about the shortage of wine.

The six water jars may stand for the special covenant relationship the Jewish people enjoyed with God. Since the number seven was symbolic of perfection, six jars of water meant the covenant was not perfect and had to be transformed by Jesus into an ideal relationship with God in his long-awaited kingdom.

Although the mother of Jesus is a prominent figure in this story, the evangelist never calls her by name in this entire Gospel. At the wedding (and as he hangs on the cross), Jesus simply calls her "Woman," an address that sounds disrespectful to us because there is no precise English translation for the Greek word the Gospel uses here. We may also translate this word as "madam" or "lady" but these titles are much too cold. Finally, John never uses the word "miracles" in his Gospel but prefers "signs" instead. Today's reading ends when he says the water turned into wine was the first of the signs Jesus performed. John records only seven signs in his Gospel.

For Reflection:

We usually see pictures of a serious Jesus but today's Gospel tells us he also went to parties and he undoubtedly had fun at them. We may even assume Jesus and his apostles joked around and teased each other as they traveled from town to town. Today, ask Jesus to teach you how to be a joyful Christian.

NEWS EDITOR WANTED

The Catholic Times is seeking a bilingual journalist with excellent writing and research skills. Proficiency in Mac and PC environments and knowledge of the Catholic Church are required. For more information on the position, go to www.catholiccentre.ca. Send resume and two writing samples to: editor.ed@catholiccentre.ca or to Catholic Times Editor, 2005 St. Marc St., Montreal, QC, H3H 2G8.

The United Irish Societies of Montreal
will be holding the annual evening for the
Selection St. Patrick's Parade Queen
on February 20, 2010

Participants must be Montrealers of Irish descent between 18 & 25 years of age, single and Canadian citizens. Grand Prize: A trip to Ireland. For more information, please visit: www.mopntrealirishparade.com or call 514-866-3525 or 514-426-4588.

St. Willibrord's Super Sale (325 Willibrord Ave., Verdun)
Friday, January 22, 2010 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Bargains for everyone! Tea Room at a reasonable price.
Come and enjoy our first sale of the new year and bring your friends!

Come and See Evenings at St. Willibrord Parish
(351 Willibrord Ave.)

For men, 18 and over, who may be discerning a vocation to follow Jesus as a priest, the Diocesan Vocation Office is offering informal get-together once a month from 5:30 - 9 p.m. This month's meeting is on January 22, 2010. Each meeting offers supper, recreation, a time of prayer, and ends with a discussion on various topics dealing with priestly life and ministry. These evenings are an excellent opportunity for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood to share in fellowship and to explore their call together. For more information call 925-4348 or email: vocationsmtl@hotmail.com

Parish Support

We encourage all parishioners to use the regular Sunday envelopes. These are mailed to parishioners four times a year. To obtain envelopes please call the parish office (932-3131) or fill in the form below and place it in the collection plate. We extend a warm welcome to new parishioners. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Msgr. Harty & Fr. Donnelly after Mass.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____