

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2010

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 - NO MASS
FEAST - CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL
(Acts22.3-16, Acts9.1-22, Mk16.15-18)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
MEMORIAL - ST. TOMOTHY & ST. TITUS
(2Tim1.1-8, Luke10.1-9)
 5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010
(2Sam7.1-17++, Mark4.1-20)
 9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Marty Kogan by his family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010
MEMORIAL - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
(2Sam7.18.-19, 24-29, Mark4.25-25)
 9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010
(2Sam11.1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17, Mark4.26-34)
 9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010
(2Sam12.1-7a, 10-17, Mark4.35-41)
 5:00 Marc Bibeau by Kathleen Toomey

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010
(Jer1.4-5, 17-19, 1Cor12.31-13.13, Luke4.21-30)
 10:30 Lorraine West & family (Estate)
 Alicia de Roussy de Sales by Simonne Clarke

This Week at Ascension

- Tuesday: **Diocesan Liturgy Services** presents a workshop to prepare for Lent at 7:30 p.m.
- 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.



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time *Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21*

In today's Gospel, we find Jesus in a synagogue in Galilee. Since the Gospels mention synagogues and the Temple quite often, we may find it beneficial to distinguish between these two very important Jewish institutions.

There was just one Temple, located in Jerusalem, where the Jewish people could legitimately offer sacrifices to God. At least once a year (and sometimes more often, depending on the distance) pious Jews traveled to Jerusalem to offer the various sacrifices their laws required. These sacrifices were usually cereal offerings (wheat or other grains) or holocausts (animals slaughtered and burnt in whole or in part on the altar of the Temple).

Considering the Temple to be God's home, the Jews ornately decorated it with gold trim, cedar beams, and items of the finest craftsmanship. Since nothing was too good for God, they even stitched the curtain in the Temple with the most expensive thread.

Synagogues, on the other hand, were houses of prayer and instruction. There the rabbis prepared Jewish boys to become adults in their religion by teaching them how to read Sacred Scripture. Jewish men gathered every morning and evening to pray and to hear God's word proclaimed and explained. Unlike the Temple, synagogue was not a place where the Jews could offer sacrifices to God.

According to Jewish law, synagogue services could not begin unless there were at least ten adult Jewish males present. A talk or homily usually followed the prayers and the reading of Sacred Scripture. Because there weren't always officially recognized preachers in the Jewish religion, a prominent citizen or a rabbi trained in Jewish law or Sacred Scripture usually delivered the sermon. According to custom, this person sat as he talked. Questions and a discussion followed.

The process described above is part of today's Gospel. After reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, Jesus returns to his seat and addresses the congregation. Although the Gospel does not say anything about a discussion and questions, we can assume they followed Jesus' sermon.

Speaking in the synagogue was Jesus' first teaching experience and an opportunity to hone his skills and prepare for his ministry as a wandering preacher. In modern terminology, we can say the synagogues were where Jesus did his student teaching before becoming a certified instructor.

For Reflection: Pray today for priests, deacons, and ministers who are learning to preach. Pray that, like Jesus, they will gain the confidence needed to help others experience God's love.

Diocesan Liturgy Services will present an evening workshop at Ascension on Tuesday, January 26th at 7:30 p.m. in preparation for Lent. Cost is \$25 (includes the workshop and package). For further information or to register please call Linda Wiltshire at 514-925-4349 or lwiltshire@diocesemontreal.org

**Emergency Aid to Haiti
through Development & Peace**

Donations to Development & Peace for the Haiti Crisis can be made

1. by phone (1-888-664-3387)
2. through the website at www.devop.org
3. by sending a cheque marked Haiti Emergency to the following address:

Development & Peace
425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3rd floor
Montreal, QC H3G 1T7

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Are you still looking for a great high school for your daughter or granddaughter? QAA offers outstanding academics, a caring environment, energetic teachers and award-winning activities. Call us today (514-636-0900 ext. 268) for application information as well as Spring Open House to be held on March 31st from 3-8 p.m.

**Montreal Directed Retreats -
Finding God in the silence of your own heart ...**

Silent directed weekend retreat at Villa Marguerite. Begins Friday evening, February 26, and closes Sunday afternoon. **Registration before February 12.** Call 626-9462 or 697-6684 or visit www.montrealretreats.org

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: _____