

The Catch the Spirit News

A Newsletter of St. Mark's by-the-Lake Church

THANKSGIVING EDITION



*Join us as we
Celebrate*

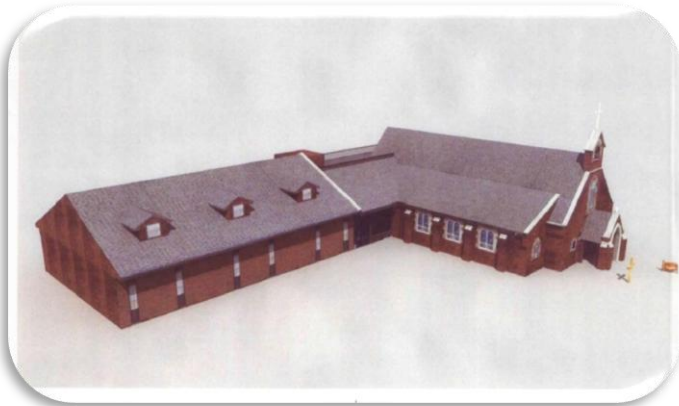
Harvest-Thanksgiving

**October 05, 2008
4-7PM Turkey Supper**

**October 12, 2008
8 and 10:30 AM
Thanksgiving Masses**

Building Begins

After a long delay the much awaited work has begun September 29th on our expansion at St. Mark's by-the-Lake. As we get ready for Thanksgiving this year we can offer our thanks for the start of this project. While we have been delayed we have maintained a great deal of excitement and we continue to look to our parish to stand to the challenges that lie ahead of us.



In July a dedicated group of parishioners worked steadily to empty our Wellwood Hall of all of its contents and moved them to storage. The parish is grateful to all who worked so hard for those few days.

With the Hall ready for work it seemed like things would never get underway for Art Shields who drove by daily to see what was happening. It would appear that the longer you are a member the more concerned you are with seeing things get done. We are fortunate to have such care and excitement.



Dr. Norm Becker and Fausto Volpatti have been working with the Town of Tecumseh to iron out all issues around building permits and late in September phase one of our project was given the green light. Unfortunately for Fausto it came after his anticipated knee surgery. But it is hard to keep a strong Italian down and even in pain he



has been on the work site each day to see that things are getting done.

In the next few weeks we will see much activity as the Hall takes on a new look. Please continue to pray for the many people who will be working on our property. We are thankful for their skill and expertise and we pray for their safety in the weeks and months ahead.

A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR REGARDING PRAYER FOR THIS PROJECT...

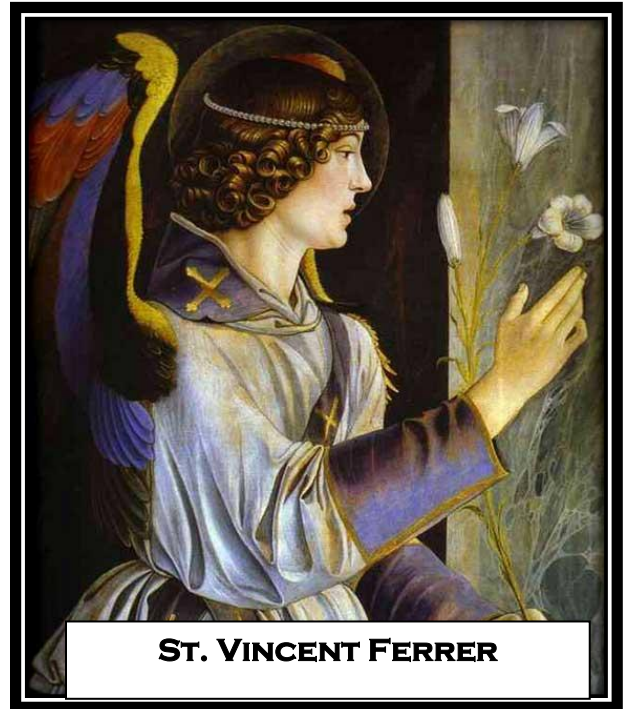
Many people in the Roman Catholic Church pray Novenas. It is not unheard of in certain circles in the Anglican Communion as well. According to Fr. John Hardon's *Modern Catholic Dictionary* a Novena is, ***“Nine days of public or private prayer for some special occasion or intention. Its origin goes back to the nine days that the Disciples and Mary spent together in prayer between Ascension and Pentecost Sunday. Over the centuries many novenas have been highly indulged by the Church. In modern times the one before Pentecost was prescribed for parochial churches.”***

I was reading a Novena today that I would encourage us to pray for nine days at the beginning of each month over the next months while we are under construction. I have added the special intentions in the middle of the prayer. This novena is prayed to St. Vincent Ferrer who is the Patron Saint of Builders. I think that any tool that we can employ for prayer is useful and this one is helpful given we will have so many builders on our property.

Novena to St. Vincent Ferrer

*O my protector, St. Vincent Ferrer, as the eternal God has deposited in you an inexhaustible treasurer of grace and of supernatural virtues, hear my earnest petition, and help me with your intercession, more powerful now even than when you were on earth. Hence with blind confidence do I cast myself at your feet, there to place my requests for all those in whom I am concerned but more particularly for **[our parish church at St. Mark's by-the-Lake. For Dr. Norm Becker and Fausto Volpatti and for all the contractors and employees who will work with them. We pray that in our midst they may be greeted by Jesus. We pray that in them we may be***

greeted by Jesus. We ask that all who work on our project will be kept safe and we pray for patience to deal with the many trials that come with being displaced while we build. Guide us as we continue to seek the resources necessary to make Raising the Roof a success and give us hearts of gratitude for all that God is doing for us in this community]. O glorious saint, let not my confidence in you be deceived. Present for me, to the Divine Majesty, your suppliant prayers and watch over my soul. Should sorrow and trials increase, so also will my rejoicing increase, and may my patience grow with each day, that I may thus save my soul. Amen.



ST. VINCENT FERRER

Perhaps praying a Novena to a Saint will be too foreign for some of you. That is quite alright. If so please take the time over these next weeks and months to simply pray in your own way, and in your own custom for the wellbeing of those who will work here and for the success of this project. Let us remember the words of Jesus, ***“That's why I urge you to pray for absolutely everything, ranging from small to large. Include everything as you embrace this God-life, and you'll get God's everything.”*** Matthew 11:24 – *The Message*



We have so much to be thankful for. Sometimes, however it is hard to grasp that concept. We get bogged down in the minutia of day to day life and the challenges that come along with it. Pretty soon we get to feeling that we are getting the rotten end of the stick. Even when we are feeling that things are on an even keel or perhaps even going very well, being thankful is often very far from our minds.

Sadly it sometimes takes an annual holiday to remind us to give thanks. This year we must look inside ourselves and indeed seek to be thankful, to have gratitude for what God has placed before us.

I was thinking last week as I waited for what seemed like forever to see something start at the church with our 'Raising the Roof' Project. We have been delayed by nearly 8 weeks and truthfully the frustration of it all was setting in. Then in prayer I found a calm wash back over me as I realized that my grumbling was unholy. When I assessed the situation I realized that I am priest in a parish full of gifts and that we are in a position that most parishes would love to be

in. I realized that the day to day challenges that come with trying to build are not so large when you look at them in the context of how we have managed to be a warm, inviting church in an environment where some congregations like St. Aidan's are so narrow minded they are leaving the Anglican Church to join a fringe group under the leadership of a renegade bishop.

We are so very fortunate at St. Mark's by-the-Lake. True we are facing some big challenges this Fall as we move forward with our changes. We are behind schedule, we have funds left yet to raise, we have to move events away from our building, we have to catch up on our budget, and we have to come to grips with change. At the same time as we face those challenges, we have so much to be thankful for.

- We have fantastic church music- Thank you God, thank you choir and thank you Andrea
- We have great Pastoral Leadership from a priest with more than 50 years of experience- thank you God, thank you Geoff.
- We have great lay participation in our weekly worship. Thank you God, thank you readers, thank you greeters, thank you servers, thank you chancel guild, thank you Eucharistic ministers.
- We have amazing youth and children ministries. Thank you God, Thank you teachers and Nursery leaders, thank you children and thank you youth, thank you Jane.
- We have STRONG leadership. Thank you God, thank you Wardens, thank you Parish Leadership Team.
- We are an inviting, inclusive and affirming congregation. Thank you God and thank you congregation for welcoming all persons from all walks of life.

- We love our church. Thank you God, thank you property lovers who have sawed, planted, built and dug. Thank you to all who have sought to make the House of God Better.
- We love to serve God in the broken. Thank you God. Thank you Kathy, thank you parishioners for giving so readily, thank you Outreach and Justice Team.
- We love to play and we love to eat—thank you God. Thank you people of God for playing golf, for going to Arby’s, wearing hockey jerseys, serving coffee, making meat pies, enjoying dinners, cooking turkeys, making soup, etc. Thank you Michelle for Murder and for Mystery.
- We are creative- thank you God. Thank you all who have made multitudes of craft over the years. Thank you Minnie and Thank you Lee.
- We are a community that sees new people regularly – thank you God, and thank you people of God for being so welcoming.

I could probably go on with that for many hours and many pages. I think you get the idea. There is one very common denominator to this entire list above – our greatest gift from God...our people. There is a new Thanksgiving hymn that we will be using on Thanksgiving Sunday. One of the verses of ‘We Thank you, O God’ is

***For laughter and living,
Receiving and giving,
For love so uplifting,
We thank You, O Lord!
So freely You bless us.
You daily refresh us
Through people so precious.
We thank You, O Lord!***

“You daily refresh us through people so precious.” That is a great line. That for me

sums up what I am - so grateful for as I approach this Thanksgiving. I am rejuvenated and refreshed daily because of how I see God at work in the people of this fine church

Are there challenges ahead of us as a congregation at St. Mark’s by-the-Lake? Of course there are! But I love the mural that used to live on the North wall of the Wellwood Hall. Jesus was depicted holding a net full of fish. Above his head was written the slogan, ABUNDANCE AND CHALLENGE. I think it summed our parish up well. We face a load of challenges, always, and we have an abundance of gifts to meet those challenges. That net was FULL of fish. They were representative of all those people of God and all of their gifts. When I think of the challenges, I think of that image and I know that we will meet the challenges that lie ahead, because of the people of God. I know that we will navigate the change ahead of us because of the People of God. I know that we will continue to do tremendous work in outreach because of the people of God. I know that we will meet our budgetary challenges, because of the people of God. I know that we will get this building completed, because of the people of God. I know that we will raise the funds needed to complete our project because of the people of God. I know that we will continue to bring new people into our midst because of the people of God. For the people of God – I am so thankful.

St. Mark's by-the-Lake Sunday School Fall 2008

Starting Sept. 7th, the Sunday school will be taking place in two rooms: one inside the Montessori school and one in the adjacent building east of the school. (back of the Montessori store.)

The toddler room and the kindergarten class will be in the main building of Montessori, second floor.

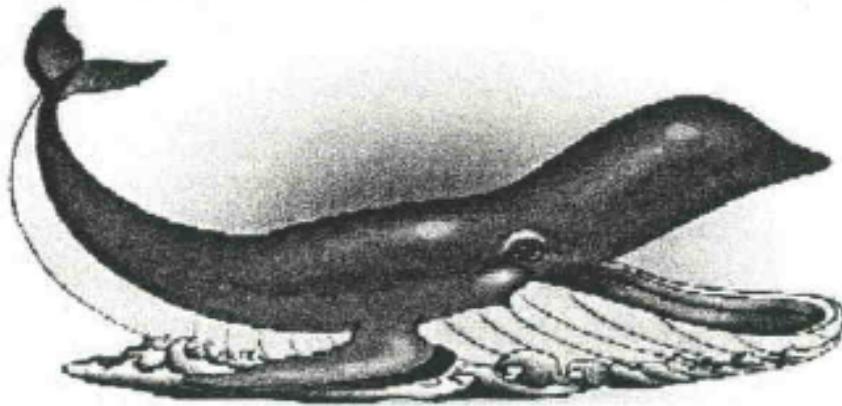
Please bring your children, aged 12 months to 6 yrs to the school entrance off of St. Mark's road (beside the church rectory). The nursery volunteer and Jennifer Beasley (JK/SK teacher) will be at the door to greet you at 10:15am.

All children in grades 1-6 should be brought to the building just east of the school. The driveway is off of Riverside Drive. The door is off the playground, at the back of the Montessori store. Someone will be there to greet your child at 10:15am.

The Sunday school uses walkie talkies to communicate with the greeters. Should your child need you, we will be able to communicate this to the greeter, who will then find you.

Each week, all the children will join their families after the Peace and will remain with you until the end of the service.

We are beginning a 6 week lesson on the story of Jonah! Through various workshops, the children will be discovering many elements of the story and are sure to have a 'whale' of a good time!



A Friendly Reminder from Mark



At the September Parish Leadership Team meeting, I reported a year-to-date operating deficit of nearly \$30,000. We usually have a deficit throughout the year until offerings and event proceeds catch up in the fall. The expected shortfall at this point is \$18,000; so we are \$12,000 adrift of the plan. Vestry approved a modest 5% increase in offerings with full knowledge of the distractions of "Raising the Roof". As we enter the construction phase there's a great deal of excitement and I'll be writing to you shortly about our Capital financing and fundraising.

Last year we enjoyed a fabulous response to the offerings and deficit issue. Often times we see a good response from the special envelopes for times like Thanksgiving. These can be found in your box of envelopes.

On many occasions we've seen this parish respond to a variety of needs. For now, please take time to reflect on your planned giving for the remainder of the year. As always, we encourage you to consider Pre-Authorized payments.

Regards,
Mark Charlton
Treasurer

Saying Thank-you to Geoff



Each year we are very fortunate to have the pastoral assistance of The Reverend Canon Geoff Dibbs. Geoff has been Honourary Assistant now for four years and has served each year from May until October.

Geoff's kind demeanour and sound theology and preaching make him a great fit here at St. Mark's. While Kevin was away on summer vacation, Geoff assumed all responsibilities at the parish and was available to families in the midst of their pastoral needs. This past summer was a busy one and we are so thankful that Geoff was here. We had again this year some real pastoral challenges that Geoff was so wonderful present to.

On a week to week basis, from May until October, Geoff takes a regular spot on a roster for liturgies, rotating with Kevin the preaching and officiating duties. Geoff is kept very busy.

Kevin is so grateful for Geoff's work and for his kind advice and attentiveness.

Sadly, fall brings not just cooler temperatures but also thoughts of Geoff and Margaret's departure for the warm sun of Arizona for the winter months. As they will be leaving us after thanksgiving, this is an appropriate place to say thank you to them for all that they do for us while they are here.

You will find enclosed in your Newsletter a Thanksgiving envelope for Geoff. It works the same way our Christmas Offering works for Kevin. It is our opportunity to offer him a thank you in the form of a gift.

Please use your envelope to offer your thanks. Geoff is not on the payroll at St. Mark's. His work is very much a labour of love — Love for God and love for all of us.

A Service of All Souls

Join us as we remember our Loved Ones
that have died.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2008

7 PM at

The Marcotte Funeral Home & Chapel

Last year we remembered over 600
people in our
Remembrance Bulletin

Our Liturgy will be followed by a
light reception provided by the
Funeral Home.

Call the parish office to add the
name of a loved one to our bulletin.

The hymn below is a new Thanksgiving
hymn that we will use this year at our
Thanksgiving Mass. The words are
wonderful.

Read it as a prayer
during this time of thankfulness

We Thank You, O Lord!

Our praise we are bringing
with hearts of thanksgiving.
With joy and with singing
we thank You, O Lord!
Your goodness surrounds us.
Your power astounds us.
Our wonder abounds as
We thank You, O Lord!

Behind and before us,
You heal and restore us.
Your love evermore is
Our strength and our song.
Our praise we are bringing
With hearts of thanksgiving.
With joy and with singing
We thank You, O Lord!

For laughter and living,
Receiving and giving,
For love so uplifting,
We thank You, O Lord!
So freely You bless us.
You daily refresh us
Through people so precious.
We thank You, O Lord!

For tenderly caring,
For guiding and sharing,
Forgiving, forbearing
Through all of our needs,
Our praise we are bringing
With hearts of thanksgiving.
With joy and with singing
We thank You, O Lord!

Words by Ken Bible

Music: Traditional Welsh Melody

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Annual Turkey Dinner Changes Location

Each year people in the Windsor Tecumseh Area look forward to our annual Turkey dinner. Last year we served over 500 people and had a wonderful time as we gobbled up the gobblers that our faithful team of 90 volunteers prepared, served and cleaned up.

This year is no different. We have been taking calls as the event gets closer, and again people's mouths are watering. But there will be some changes in how we get those gobblers into those hungry parishioners.

Due to the construction at St. Mark's by-the-Lake we will have to move to the Knights of Columbus Hall at 152 Lesperance Rd. This actually gives us a lot more flexibility as seating is not an issue and those who wish to enjoy an adult beverage with their turkey will be able to do so.

John Rocheleau and Jerry Marcotte (Grand Knight) at the K of C have been exceptional in helping us get this event off the ground, as well as many others that we will be hosting at 152 Lesperance while we complete our building project.

Same great dinner served by the same great people, to assist the same great church - So plan on joining us - and bring your friends

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008

4-7 PM

AT THE K OF C HALL TECUMSEH

**As always - a Free Will offering
will be accepted**

9th Annual Steak BBQ and Auction



This year we honour WINDSOR POLICE CONSTABLE MIKE AKPATA

This year we thought we would like to hear from a local hero!
Constable Akpata volunteered to do a 6 month tour in Afghanistan. He is a dynamic speaker and has a great story to tell.

Our Evening will be emceed by Tony Doucette



Host of CBC Windsor's the Early Shift
After 9 years Tickets are still \$25
The event will be held at The Knights of Columbus Hall in Tecumseh. Get your tickets by calling the office at 735 4921.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

You can assist the Auction by donating items for our silent or live auction tables. Just drop your gift by the church office and if you have a receipted value we can offer you a tax receipt for your generosity