

## 2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT

### PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:

My dear parishioners, our parish is in a dire and serious financial situation which can only be remedied by your weekly parish offertory commitments. The following information will be posted in the bulletin each week until such time as we begin to meet our weekly financial commitments to keep everyone apprised of our overall financial situation. *Thank you. Fr. Charles*

■ WEEKLY COST OF RUNNING OUR PARISH - \$6,243.

#### LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

- Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$3709.50 .
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1,517. (November)

➔ TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: **\$5226.50**

**Deficit in last week's collection: \$1016.50**

### SINCE YOU'VE ASKED...

The inauguration of the Mass celebrated with the New Roman Missal got off to a tremendous start last weekend and the responses from our parishioners was most commendable. It is not easy for anyone to experience change in what you have known, sometimes even by heart, for years, only to have to remember new responses. Four times in the Mass does the priest say "The Lord be with you" or "The peace of the Lord be with you all" and the people respond, "and with your spirit".

#### **"spirit"**

Even though we know it makes sense in the effort to make the original Latin text translate more accurately to English, it still sounds strange to our 'street ears' to hear 'with your spirit' instead of simply 'with you', but one of the things I am finding with the use of the new words of the New Translation is that it is taking me back to things I have learned over the years from the scriptures. Looking at the word 'spirit', we recognize that it is not capitalized, which means we are not speaking about the Holy Spirit of God that dwells in us from baptism. This small 's' spirit is the part of us that is called to respond to the Holy Spirit and, therefore, when we call for peace to be with someone else's spirit (as we do 4 times in the Mass) we are actually recognizing that spiritual part of the person that responds and is enlivened and opens itself to the Spirit of God. These are spiritual responses for a spiritual people in a language that should be spiritual in nature as well.

#### **"descended into hell"**

In the new translation of the Apostles Creed we hear the words "he descended into hell", and these words may seem strange to our hearing on many levels. First of all, h-e-l-l wasn't a word we were allowed to say when I was growing up, made only worse if you actually told someone to go there. It was referred to as "h-e-double hockey sticks". And it has always sounded like a rather harsh word in church, even when Jesus was using it as he referred to the place where the damned go. We know that Jesus died on the cross, so we wouldn't have a hard time with what we formerly said as "he descended to the dead". But now saying "hell" in the same line as Jesus' death conjures up ideas of Jesus actually going there.

On the Archdiocese of Toronto website, under New Roman Missal, it says the following about "descended into hell":

"This brief matter-of-fact statement holds the promise of immense hope for believers. It reminds us that Jesus Christ not only died our death but also entered the realm of the dead and set them free. The "hell" is not that of popular culture - a fiery place of eternal punishment but, rather, the hell of the scriptures, the shadowy domain where the dead are spiritless and lost, cut off from light and life."

The word 'hell' in Latin retains the earlier meaning of hell as the "limbo of the Fathers" or the "Bosom of Abraham". We remember the story Jesus told about The Rich Man and Lazarus, the poor beggar. In the story after both have died, the rich man is in hell while the beggar, Lazarus, is in the bosom of Abraham, a state of peace that is not yet heaven. We remember also that Jesus was dead and was ministering to these souls, not of the damned but of the righteous who were not yet in heaven because heaven was not yet open - Jesus' Resurrection on the third day would bring their souls from this state of limbo into the glorious Kingdom they were awaiting. So it would be very theologically wrong to think that people who had gravely sinned and whose souls were damned (known only to God, of course) would just be ministered by Jesus and then follow him into heaven. Jesus as God, even in death, attended to those souls who were marked for eternal life. In a culture that would like to foolishly believe that it doesn't really matter how you lived, what you did to others, or what you believed, because in the end everyone goes to heaven, this meaning can ring rather harshly. Yet Advent and Lent both prepare the Christian heart and soul for the realization and the fulfillment of what God has promised to those who live for and believe in him.

In 1 Peter 3:19 we read:

**"For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison."**

Jesus' Resurrection opened those prison gates. (Fr. Charles)

### SO, JUST WHAT IS THE 'SOCIAL COMMITTEE'?

Often there are announcements from the pulpit and in the bulletin about the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and generally we know what these groups are, do and represent. In our parish we also have a Social Committee but it may not be clear to all exactly what they both do and what their aims and goals are.

The Social Committee was formerly known as the Fundraising Committee but shortly after I arrived as pastor I changed their title to Social rather than Fundraising because I was concerned that a group with the word fundraising in its name would give the false impression to parishioners that there was a parish group taking care of all the fundraising needed in the parish. While the former Fundraising Committee had made great and considerable strides toward raising funds to help with the parish's large debt, at best they were able to assist in helping the parish towards the

then \$41,000. interest payment every three months on our 4 million dollar mortgage. There was no way that they or any and all groups combined could have achieved this in our young and relatively new parish.

The Social Committee has been and is largely responsible for the many social events that bring our parishioners together. Coffee Sundays, Pancake Breakfasts, the Spring Dinner/Dance and many other varied events assist in building a better sense of community here at St. Leo Parish. While some of these events which take place monthly on our parish calendar are intended to raise some revenues, their largest fundraising event is the annual Parish Bazaar which usually brings in anywhere from \$8-9,000., including the Raffle with prizes donated by parishioners, the Hotner's of Hotner's Greenhouses being the prominent prize-givers among them.

All of the moneys raised by the Social Committee have and will continue to go directly to immediate needs and projects the parish could not afford to undertake on its own. Last year Social Committee efforts made possible the new, large 10-burner gas stove and ovens for the parish hall kitchen as well as the new commercial grade dishwasher that washes dishes in 76 seconds. New stainless steel tables were also installed in the kitchen making for a clean work environment for food preparation.

This year the proceeds from the Bazaar and other efforts will go toward offsetting the cost of the new video surveillance equipment discretely installed on the exterior of the church with eight cameras that record 24/7 any untoward activity around the perimeter of the church, and also causes women to now touch-up their lipstick before exiting their vehicle to come into church. Their hard work and commitment to the parish has also made possible the repair of all exterior doors of the church which would not close properly, resulting in a threat to the security of the church and hall buildings. As well, this year we hope to obtain a fob-style system allowing secure entry and exiting from the parish building for all parishioners who come and go in the evenings for various group and social meetings.

The Social Committee is comprised of 12 women (though men are most welcome to belong) dedicated to the good of the parish and the community-building that is essential to Catholic parish life. To one and all who have and still serve on the Social Committee - on behalf of the people of St. Leo - THANK YOU!  
*(Fr. Charles)*

### IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

- **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** The CWL potluck Lunch Meeting after the 11:00 am mass in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** Blood Donor Clinic in the Parish Hall 4:30 – 8:00 pm.
- **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** Parish Reconciliation Service at 7:00 pm in the Church.
- **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** Knights of Columbus General Meeting at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall
- **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** the Knights of Columbus Free Breakfast after the 9:00 and 11:00 am masses.

**ATTENTION BAKERS:** This is your time to shine. We need help with our Annual Christmas Cookie Campaign, which starts the weekend and continues on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Cookies should be delivered to the church kitchen on Saturday mornings at 10 am. For further information call Jeananne at (905) 579-6118.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, Dec.6 - 8:30 am.** – For the intentions of John Cavallari  
**Wed., Dec. 7 – 7 pm** – George Campbell+  
**Thursday, Dec. 8 – 8:30 am.** – Karolina Gutherc+  
**Friday, Dec.9 – 8:30 am.** – George Campbell+  
**Saturday, Dec. 10 – 5:00 pm.** – Tony Puccia+  
**Sunday, Dec. 11 - 9:00 a.m.** – George Campbell+  
- 11:00 a.m. – Mass

**THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE WILL BE SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS THIS WEEKEND IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PAMPERED CHEF GIFT BASKET.**

### St. Leo's Church Baby Bottle Boomerang News:

The staff, board and clients of the Rose of Durham Thank You for your contribution and fundraising efforts as we seek to create a community that accepts, encourages, and empowers young parents. We are delighted to inform you that the parish raised \$1758.41.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE SELLING CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES – DECEMBER 10/11 AND DECEMBER 17/18, 2011 IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE AFTER ALL THE MASSES.**

**THE NEW SUNDAY MISSALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES AT A COST OF \$5 EACH AT THE WELCOME TABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE.**

**COOKING CROONIES CONVERGE** on St. Leo's to prepare you a Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, Dec.14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 - \$10.00. Tickets available for purchase in the church vestibule after all weekend masses. See you there. Tell your friends.

Our parish has a trained and dedicated team of Lay Pastoral Visitors (LPV) who visit the sick and homebound of our parish, bringing them Communion each Sunday, if requested. These Lay Pastoral Visitors assist Fr. Charles in bringing Communion to the many who are unable either temporarily or more regularly to attend Sunday Mass. These LPV's go directly from the Sunday Mass to the homes of parishioners with Communion. If you or a family member would like to be visited, please call the parish office at 905-655-3286 ext. 101.

**"Fourth Day of Christmas" Dinner**  
At St. Mary Egypt Refuge

Wednesday, December 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.  
Hospitality Days: December 27-29.  
Please see poster on the Church Bulletin Board