



Our Catholic church community is officially called *St. Gerard's Mission*

St. Gerard's Council Members:

*Warwick Bay, Josie Farrell, David Honing, Judith McBride, Michel Paré, Angela Powell,
Eileen Richter, Denise Smith, Diana Taylor*

Issue No. 4 March 1st, 2009 1st Sunday of Lent

As a "Mission" Church, St. Gerard's is affiliated with the Parish of Holy Trinity in North Vancouver. We are very delighted to be able to share the parish clergy, mainly Fr. Jim Comey and Fr. Tom Smith. We are growing as a Catholic Christian Community and we invite you to get involved with our "mission" events. We welcome your input and would like to use this bulletin as a means to keep you connected with the "community".

ANNUAL RETREAT

The 2009 Parish retreat is being held at Rivendell on Bowen Island from Friday evening May 22nd to Sunday morning May 24th. **Cost will be \$200.00 per person** with a \$50.00 deposit due by March 15th, and full payment due no later than May 1st. **Father Hien Nguyen** will lead the retreat; he has been to Bowen quite a few times and is an absolute delight. **Please use the sign up sheet at the back of the church.**

RAFFLE Results

1st Prize: Judith McBride - Bowen Island

2nd Prize: Yvonne Chu - Vancouver

3rd Prize: Brian Honing - Dawson Creek

4th Prize: Anna Richter - Coquitlam

The net profit from the raffle was \$1,610.61. Thank you to everyone who participated!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Fridays of Lent offer an opportunity to enter into the passion of Christ. For those who may be interested, Father has kindly brought a ½ dozen Stations of the Cross booklets for us to use. Please feel free to come and do the Stations on your own or with other parishioners. Please return the booklets to the back counter of the church when you are finished so that others can use them.

AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Footsteps through the desert,
unprotected feet upon the scorching heat of desert
sands,
footsteps leading through the barren
starless night of death,
into sunlit springs of resurrected life.
Forty days of journeying, drawing every nearer,
step by step,
to one whose feet have walked these very sands
before, and now, beside us, leads us on.

Lent is a penitential season during which time we pray especially for those who are preparing for baptism, confirmation, first Eucharist and the seminary. The church calls us to prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Of particular note are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – these are days of fast for people ages 18 through 59, and abstinence from meat for those who are age 14 and older. While all Fridays throughout the year are meant to be days of penitence, people are called upon to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent as far as they are able.

"Giving up" things for Lent is not as important as "doing" something positive which can lead to a lifetime good habit. In other words, what you chose as a "penance" for Lent should be something positive, not negative.

St. Gerard's Catholic Mission



Giving Will Make You Live!!

Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. They are all around us: children and the old, the sick and the suffering, families and individuals, next-door neighbors and people in lands faraway. We easily forget them. Rather than just looking out for ourselves, see those in need, Jesus says. Giving will make you live.

DONATIONS FOR SISTER JO

Just a reminder that we are still collecting donations for Sister Jo in support of her missionary work in Kenya and Uganda. Sister Jo will be back for a holiday again this year and we hope to be able to present her with another cheque. We invite you to donate as you feel called.

FOOD BANK

There is a basket at the back of the church for food bank donations – dry, tinned or packaged foods only. All donations go to the Bowen Island Food Bank which serves the on-island needy.

MASS PARTICIPATION

We invite you to participate in the Mass in a very special way by signing up to read or serve. The new sign-up sheets for March are at the back of the church.

SPRING WORK PARTY: Church Council have noted the following items need to be addressed:

- Fence around the property to be replaced
- Tree maintenance
- Walkway to be repaired
- Front entry slab
- Lighting of the Crucifix
- Lighting on walkway to be repaired
- Finishing the railing in front of the organ.

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on this bulletin, and also your contributions. If you have any announcements or news to share, or want us to include your prayer intentions, please email: StGerards@rcav.bc.ca or josie7@telus.net

PRAYER CORNER

Please share your prayer needs with us so our community can also pray with you. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

~ Pray for the sick, the suffering and the deceased in our parish

*~ Pray for the recovery of Bowen resident **John Fry** as he recovers in hospital from a stroke on Feb. 20th*

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest Your weary ones. Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Pity Your afflicted ones. Shield Your joyous ones. And all for Your love's sake. Amen -...Father Timothy Kavanagh

Lenten Prayer

Lord, I know how much you love me. It's hard for me to feel it sometimes, but I know your love is always with me. Help me to use your love as a way to persevere in my Lenten intentions. I am weak, but I know with your help, I can use these small sacrifices in my life to draw closer to you.