

Missionary Visitor December 11th (there will be a collection)

Jacques Doyon is a priest who belongs to the Foreign Mission Society (Société des Missions-Étrangères). A native of Notre-Dame des Pins, Beauce, he was a missionary in the Philippines, a Christian country, from 1969 to 2007. After his recall to Canada, he worked in the administration of the Community; he is now the general Bursar of his Missionary Community.

Wardens Elections: Congratulations to Gilles Duchesne and Yvon Lebrun who will both continue on another term as wardens for 2012-2014.

Welcome Visitors! All parishioners and any visitors are reminded that there is a wooden box marked **for any donations (including Annual Voluntary Contributions)** located on the back table every Sunday and that envelopes are available to use to ensure tax receipts. New parishioners can leave their contact information to join the parish list. Voluntary contribution 2011 to date: **\$24,120.00 or 72%** of our target.

Catholic Women's League:- Our Lady of Good Counsel - 50th Anniversary On December 7, **1961**, a group of ladies from Candiac, Delson, Laprairie and Ste-Catherine met to form "Our Lady of Good Counsel" council of St. Mark's Parish, Candiac. Our sisterhood of Catholic women has been involved since that very day in Parish activities of St. Mark and now St. Raymond's and the Candiac community at large. Today at Mass we celebrate our 50th Anniversary in thanksgiving for our many blessings and for the ongoing support we receive from our Parish as we continue our journey in a sisterhood of faith, fun and fulfillment.

Catholic Girls' League: The December meeting will be held today after Mass in room 210 starting around 10:30 a.m. All girls aged 9-15 are invited to join in! This month's activity will be making more soup mix gift jars.

Advent Retreat: What Are We Waiting For? The Anglophone Region is hosting an Advent Retreat at: St. Mary's Parish, 125 Grove, Greenfield Park (corner Miller). Sr. Nicole Gregoire, Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa, will lead us in the retreat with video presentations, a time for reflection, sharing and refreshments. Come, join us and bring your friends on
Dec. 5th in the hall from 1:30pm to 3:00pm: **How On Earth Can I Get This?**
Dec. 6th in the hall from 7:30pm to 9:00pm: **Christmas Gift Giving**
Dec. 7th in the church at 7:30 pm **What The Lord Asks Of You: Reconciliation** (communal celebration with individual confession).

Gift of Music Concert on Dec. 11th at 7 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 844 Notre-Dame, St. Lambert. Choirs from the churches in Saint-Lambert will perform and the evening is topped off by a performance by the Saint-Lambert Choral Society. There will be refreshments served after the concert. Come and join in singing the Chorus from Handel's Messiah.

Arts and Crafts Sale: Centennial Regional High School, 880 Hudson, Greenfield Park, Sunday, December 4, 2011 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. 120 artisans. Breakfast and lunch available at reasonable prices!

Saint-Lambert Choral Society: December 4, 2011 at 3pm Christmas Fantasy conducted by David Christiani. Guest choir is the renowned South Shore Children's Choir. Place: St Lambert Catholic Church, 41 Lorne ave, St Lambert. Tickets and information: visit www.chorale-stlambert.qc.ca

Saint Nicholas (d.350?), Feast Day December 6th

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colourful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

Comment: The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need. (<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1221>)