



## ST. DENIS Roman Catholic Parish

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Diocese web site: [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca)

### Our Mission Statement:

**LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, TRAIN DISCIPLES**

### Eucharistic Celebrations:

Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am – Marcel Marin (*Eugene & Yvonne Bazin*)

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am – mass is offered for the **Spiritual Wellbeing of all the parishioners**

Sunday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – Anna Antoine (*Marie-Rose Antoine*)

Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am – Jean Dheilley (*Lucille Dheilley*)

Sanctuary Lamp this week: Gail & Marcel Dufault

God's Share: Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> - \$247.00 (18) + \$0.00 loose + \$20.00 (dd) = \$267.00

Church Cleaning: Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> – Simone Lambert & Yvonne Bazin

<u>Ministries :</u>	<u>February 11<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>February 18<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>February 25<sup>th</sup></u>
Readers:	Judith Robidoux	Lucille Dheilley	Annette Bernard
Offerings & Collection:	Eugene Bazin & Albert Furet	Marcel Dequier family	Gérald Poirier & Guy Dedieu
Communion:	Judith Robidoux	Lucille Dheilley	Yvonne Bazin
Counters:	Michelle & prtnr.	Eugene & prtnr.	Raymond & prtnr.

**Volunteers needed:** reader, communion minister & taxi, for the mass on Ash Wednesday.

**Note:** There will be no imposition of ashes at next Sunday mass. Everyone is encouraged to attend the mass on Ash Wednesday in Haywood at 10 am or in St. Claude at 8 pm.

**Spring Bazaar:** This year will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Save the date.

*Let us pray for all the sick members of our community!*

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)*

*February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

### Pope's Prayer Intentions for February 2018

*Universal:* Say 'No' to Corruption. That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

### Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 14, 2018: Bilingual Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Its official name is "Day of Ashes", so called because of the practice of marking the foreheads of worshippers with ashes in the sign of the cross and with the phrase "*Remember that you are dust and unto dust, you shall return*".

It is exactly 40 days before Easter Sunday (excluding Sundays). It will always fall on a Wednesday – there cannot be an Ash Thursday or Ash Sunday. That is why it makes no sense in giving the ashes on a different day.

Ash Wednesday is observed by most Catholics and some Protestant denominations. If for any tangible reason, e.g. health, work, travel, a Catholic couldn't receive ashes on the Wednesday, he / she should simply continue with the Lenten spiritual observance of fasting, praying and almsgiving.

The Ashes that we receive on this day is not a sacrament. It is a symbol of our readings to repent from our sins, believe in the Gospel message, and to prepare ourselves for a holy death. Lent is a time of grace.

Have a beautiful Lenten Season!

### Father Solomon is leaving us:

Dear parishioners of Saint-Claude and Saint-Denis,

It is with deep regret that we will have to say goodbye to Father Solomon. Father Solomon has suffered health problems since his arrival and will unfortunately have to leave us **after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**. His superiors of the Society of African Missionaries have advised him to return to Africa on convalescent leave among the members of his congregation. However, Archbishop Le Gatt asked him to remain at his ministry in our parishes for the duration of Lent and to celebrate the 2018 Holy Week. With respect to the vow of obedience of his vocation, Father Solomon agreed to continue with us until Easter.

During this period, we are expecting another African priest, Father Gregory Kossy Djiba, who will arrive in Manitoba shortly. Father Gregory will have to follow the diocesan process of enculturation for a period of eight weeks before becoming parish administrator in Saint-Claude and Saint-Denis.

Let us keep Father Solomon in our prayers to grant him a speedy recovery. Let's appreciate him and thank him for the few weeks he will spend with us until then.

*Denise*

### Communion available for all!

Some parishioners are unable to receive communion due to an intolerance to products that contain grains such as wheat. **The St. Claude parish can now offer the option of gluten-free hosts.** This will allow those who have this condition to receive communion.

For these parishioners, they are welcome to help themselves to the gluten-free host from a special container, a host that will have been also consecrated during the mass.

If you know of people who could not take communion for this reason, please share with them the good news! (Only available in St. Claude)

**St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church: Manitou, MB: Come Follow Me: Lenten Youth Retreat – Saturday, March 3, 2018** - All youth, ages 14-29 years, are invited to a day of Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 AM - 7 PM at St Patrick's Parish in Manitou, Manitoba. Retreat spiritual director will be Fr. Paulin Akpapupu. Suggested donation: \$15/per person. To register: Roger or Belita, 204-242-3107.

**Angel Dresses - Manitoba Angel Dresses** is a nonprofit organization that is run entirely by volunteers and donations. Angel dresses are dresses that are made from donated gowns: wedding, graduation, bridesmaids or flower girl and decorated with ribbons and lace. From the donated formal wear is recreated smaller gowns for babies or infants that have become angels much too soon in a prenatal or full-term death by miscarriage, stillbirth or up to a year in age. We also make wraps for babies too small to fit in the gowns.



We are always welcoming donations of gowns, lace, ribbons, beads, small buttons, thread or other decorative notions to be used in creating the gowns or wraps. Any color of these is acceptable as beauty is not defined by color or shape.

These angel dresses or wraps are then donated to local hospitals, birthing centers, funeral homes or wherever else needed for parents who suffer from such losses. There is no cost to the parents and families and it helps soothe their pain and grief as they say their final good-bye.

Here in St. Claude, I have received over 25 wedding dresses and 20 graduation or bridesmaid dresses. To this day, we have donated well over 50 dresses or wraps. I had a volunteer seamstress in Winkler for some time and now a lady from Carman took over the designing and sewing. Presently, Céline Hutlet is our local volunteer who helps us make those beautiful dresses and wraps.

I am sending an invitation to anyone who would love to help, either in making monetary donations labeled to the St. Claude Parish (with tax receipt), or donating notions such as ribbons, lace, etc. or even to donate their time in helping with the sewing, please call me or let me know in person how you would like to help.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated or is thinking of doing that to help. We invite you today, to stop and look at some of the angel dresses displayed on the tables at the back of the church.

Jacqueline Bazin

# Courage

The Gospel this Sunday provides us with a particular image of Christ. We should con-temple these passages and ask ourselves how we can imitate Him. What is most important to Christ is the communion between each and every one of us. God wants his children to be happy and inclusive. Christ's mission is to unite us.

Jesus did not hesitate to question certain established laws. Without renouncing his faith, he took a further step by not adhering to those that excluded people.



Jesus acted responsibly. Have we not transgressed certain laws depending on the circumstances? We may have exceeded speed limits when bringing a friend to a hospital. Jesus was not out for any personal gain: he wanted to bring salvation to everyone.

One very audacious leper approached Christ. He was confident that Jesus would purify him and expressed his faith: *If you choose, you can make me clean* (Mark 1:40). Jesus did something quite astonishing. He extended his hand and touched the leper. With this gesture, Christ contravened the law and demonstrated his solidarity with “excluded” people. Christ assumed the risk when he encountered the leper: he did not back away from another's suffering. Jesus knew his action would bring automatic rejection by the society of his era. He accepted the “living death” experienced by the leper. Christ cured him, gave him back his life, and restored his human dignity.

As we look around, we recognize many different types of exclusion: racism, violence, instability, and poverty to name only a few. When we take Christ as our example, we express our solidarity with the sick, prisoners, the marginalized, and those who are “beaten down” by life. If you wish to encounter Christ, we must not be afraid to reach out to others.

Jesus reminds his followers of what is essential: to love others as ourselves. Christ's teachings encourage us to express our solidarity with others and bring salvation to our Christian communities.

We know that Christ encounters us at various stages of our lives. As we extend our hand in a few minutes to receive the Body of Christ, to whom will we extend it this week?

**Father Yvon Cousineau, c.s.c.**  
Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli