

The Guardian

St. Michael And All Angels

April 2011

Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels!
Special welcome to visitors and new comers!
We hope you feel at home in this community of faith.



Directory

Parish Priest: Rev Michelle Eason
Wardens: Brian Hammond
Debbie Wolowicz
Treasurer: Dominick Merle
Music Director: Sean Mayes
Youth Director: Jaclyn O'Connor

Priest's Office Hours:

Monday evenings from 5pm to 7pm
Wednesday & Thursday mornings from
10 am to noon.
Please drop in during those times or
call the church office for an
appointment.

The Parish Office will be open when
our parish secretary is in on Tuesdays
8.30am to 9.30am Wednesdays &
Thursdays from 9.00am until noon.

Address:

15556 Cabot St Pierrefonds QC H9H 1R5
Phone Number: (514) 626 4205
email: st.michael@videotron.ca
Website: StMikesPierrefonds.com
Bus route #207 Jacques Bizard

Weekly Services

Sundays Holy Communion at 8.00am
& 10.00am

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 7pm

Upcoming Dates:

Wed 13th 11.00am Holy Communion at
11.00am followed by lunch and study of
the Epistle of the day

7.00pm Holy Communion followed by
study "The Five Marks of Mission

Fri 8th 7.30pm Film Amistad (part 1)
followed by discussion

Wed 13th 11.00am Holy Communion
followed by lunch and study on the
Epistle of the day

Fri 15th 7.30pm Film Amistad (part 11)
followed by discussion

Maundy Thursday 21st
7.30pm Tenebrae Service

All night vigil

Good Friday 22nd

2.00pm Good Friday Meditation

Easter Sunday 24th

Holy Communion 8.0am

Holy Communion 10.00am

From the Parson's Quill

"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path."
Ps. 119:105



My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This passage describes God's commands as a light guiding the way. Like when walking through a darkened path we might use a flashlight to illumine the way, so the commandment of God is a light through the path of life. The passage comes from Psalm 119, a Psalm that is a tribute to the merits of God's commands. But this is not in reference to the Ten Commandments only. Throughout the 179 verses the Psalmist expresses how valuable the commandments of God are, how he loves the laws of God and how he will be forever faithful to God's teaching and instruction. Every single verse of that Psalm uses a word that refers to the commands, laws, statutes that the writer has in mind. Depending on what version you read the wording will vary, but each and every one of the verses in this Psalm refers to the commandments of God.

It reminds me of the two disciples distraught over the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus who left Jerusalem and walked to the ancient village of Emmaus. Emmaus was a place of escape. And what started them back on the right track was a further understanding of scriptures. And you will notice that we say, following our scripture readings in our worship services, "This is the Word of the Lord". My prayer in this season of Easter is that God's word becomes as precious to us as a community and as individuals as it is to the writer of Psalm 119, so that we as a parish would be more and more attuned to the ways of God for his church. I invite you to take the time to read this Psalm in one sitting and reflect on it with an open heart.

The theme verse for a recent Synod in one of the churches of the Anglican Communion was "Turn Back, recover your dear early love" from Rev. 2:5 (*The Message*). The passage from Revelation continues with the warning that if that church does not dearly love God, its light will fade away. This is the danger for any church, for any Christian. The Light of Christ that we bear must glow out from a burning ember in the depths of our heart, a burning love for God. Love the Lord your God, Worship Him and serve Him only. It is hard to "command" someone to love. But after reading Psalm 119 quietly and prayerfully it will offer us an invitation to a deeper love for God and His ways.

Lorne joins me in wishing you all Blessed Easter. With love in His Service,

Rev. Michelle+

March 31, 2011

The Power of Prayer

"Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal." These are the words of a plaque that hanged on the wall in my grandparent's living room, and then in my parent's living room after my grandmother passed away. I learned from an early age to get on my knees and pray. I have witnessed my grandmother and mother calling out to God when they needed help believing in Him for everything, and dancing with thanksgiving when God answered their prayers. It happened quite often.

It is a ritual that I have easily adapted over the years. Oh, the joy of answered prayers! It only plunges me deeper into sweet communion with Christ. Matthew 11:38 says, "Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest." What a comforting promise. Sometimes we get overwhelmed with the day to day grind of life. Sometimes things that happen will give us cause for concern, or we know a relative, friend, or neighbour who could use some prayer. We feel alone and helpless and need an extra boost of strength for the day or to carry us through the trying times. And so we remember that Christ says that when two or three are gathered in His name, He is there with us. How comforting to know that there are those whom he has called to share in our life and to accompany us to the throne of grace.

The healing team of St. Mikes is there to pray with you, to stand alongside you, and offer up prayers and petitions to the Father and the Son. And we believe that when we approach the throne of grace with confidence, we receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

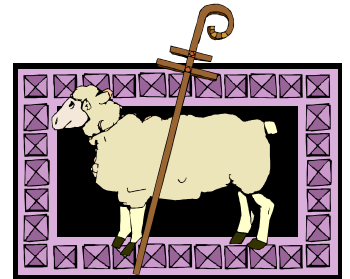


Theresa

The Shepherding Programme

"Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep."
Luke 15:6

Things work better when we start with prayer, so I ask you to pray for Rev. Michelle and the shepherds who have offered their time in God's behalf to tend to His sheep.



Many of us have gone astray; some by neglect, for others, the cares of the world have overtaken them. As a caring community we need to know how we can help them and in so doing show God's love and compassion.

The Parish List has been divided into eight sections, each being led by a shepherd. It is our goal that each member will receive a call so they will know that we, the Church, are there for them. Often people are in need and we do not know and they 'fall between the cracks'. This should not happen.

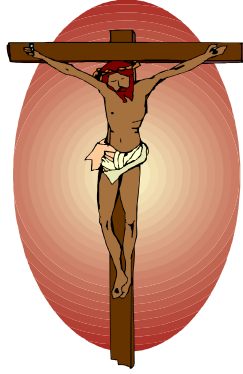
Our goal is to better know those with whom we worship regularly by telephoning, praying and caring for them in small groups. We also reach out each Sunday to those who visit with us.

This is a new ministry for lay people. Anyone having a desire to participate may do so and suggestions are welcomed.

The seeds have been planted, we ask for God's blessings.

In His service,

Barbara



Jesus' Blood Shed on the Cross for Me

A MEDITATION for GOOD FRIDAY

Crown of Thorns

For the healing of my mind so that I may think right thoughts, that is, according to His will. *Believing in and holding on to His promises.*

2 Corinthians 1:20

Nail Pierced Hands

For the cleansing of my hands to better serve Him. *To receive from Him and then pour out.*

Psalm 24:4

Nail Pierced Feet

To remove hindrances or fears so I'll go where, when, and how He leads me.

Submission and obedience

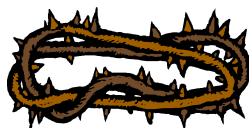
Proverbs 3:6

Pierced Side and Bruised Back

For healing of my body, mind and Spirit unto freedom. *To better serve Him and to bring glory to the Father.*

Galatians 3:13 Isaiah 53:5

Submitted by Louise Young



Two Reflections from Louise

Hooked Rug Face of Jesus

During our recent Vestry Meeting as I gazed into His eyes these thoughts came to mind as if Jesus was saying,

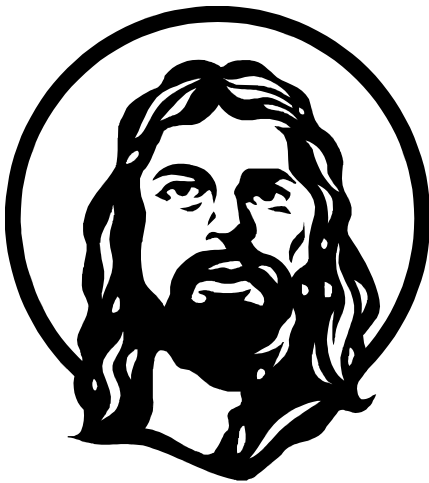
"Are you willing for My will for you? I have plans for you as yet unknown to you. It is only as you step out & dare to risk to be obedient that you will begin to discover what My plans are for you.

So, continue to seek me in prayer & as you 'hear from me' be Obedient & do. Do not fear, be at Peace I am with you."

Please note that delayed obedience is disobedience!

Blessings,
With His
Love,

Louise



A Special Moment with My Lord!

March 8/11

As I gaze, 'stare' at the formations of the snow on the deck, on the picnic table - the perfect 'walls', the curves,

the hollow 'caves'-so very perfect to behold ah, yes, it is in the 'storms of life'(like the winter storm of yesterday) that the Master molds & shapes me into 'something' beautiful to behold!!!!

The details, the intricacies, the perfect symmetry..... how awesome is My God!

Thanks be to God , my Father, Jesus, my Saviour and Holy Spirit, my Guide and Comforter!!!

You speak to me in the works of your hands Architect Supreme, Potter, like no other!

Thank you for the 'storms of my life because it is in them that I experience your Loving, Strong yet Tender hands shaping me so that I become more like Jesus Your Son!

Ah!!!! My Lord and My God thank you for opening my eyes to see You in the shapes of the snow this morning! You are forever reaching out to me desiring to speak with me. Increase my sensitivity to Your Presence that I may embrace Your visits.

Reflection:

Dear Lord, help me to embrace the 'storms of my life'. Because I have tasted of Your Love for me, and because I KNOW that You allow them for my good and for Your Son's Glory, I choose to embrace them!

Alleluia! Praise and Thanks to You!!!!

Just wanted to share this experience with you. Special Blessings to meet your every need.

Love you,
Louise

Are We Listening

While starting to write this piece I was listening to some music, and just stopped staring at the blank page a minute to listen more closely to the words of the song that was playing, this is what inspired me to write this piece.

The name of the song is “Everything Must Change”:

Everything must change; Nothing stays the same; Everyone must change; No one stays the same; The young become the old; And mysteries do unfold Cause that's the way of time; Nothing and no one goes unchanged; There are not many things in life; You can be sure of; Except rain comes from the clouds; Sun lights up the sky; And hummingbirds do fly; Winter turns to spring; A wounded heart will heal; But never much too soon

We all need to make a little room for change whether we desire it or not, I think that's the way God plants the seeds of love, hope and change in us, never throwing at us more than we can handle, (so He says) be it ever so painful at times. These are the trials that help change us a little, make us who we are, help us unfold the mysteries of our Lord and bring us closer to Him. Are we listening?

On the same CD was another song: “If I Could”:

If I could; I'd protect you from the sadness in your eyes; Give you courage in a world of compromise; Yes, I would; If I could; I would teach you all the things I've never learned And I'd help you cross the bridges that I've burned; Yes, I would; If I could; I would try to shield your innocence from time; But the part of life I gave you isn't mine; I've watched you grow; So I could let you go; If I could; I would help you make it through the hungry years; But I know that I can never cry your tears; But I would If I could; If I knew; I'd have tried to change the world I brought you to; And there isn't very much that I

can do But I would; If I could; If I could; I would try to shield your innocence from time

This one has more meaning now than it did when I first woke up this morning. At this point it's difficult to find the words to express what I'm feeling. Love; Loss; Pain; Friendship; God's Work. I witnessed a whole congregation come to the aid of a hurting member, I felt the Love and support of the whole Church Family to help this one person. We can't cry their tears but we can hold them and lift them up in their time of need. Now that's God's Work!!! Will this help change us? Are we listening?

Actually there was a song on this CD that can express how I felt:

When I walked through the doors I sensed his presence; And I knew this was a place where love abounds; For this is a temple the God we love abides here; And we are standing in his presence; On holy ground; We are standing on holy ground; And I know there are angels all around; Let us praise, praise God now, praise him anyhow; For we are standing in his sweet presence; On holy ground; In his presence I know there is joy beyond all measure; And at his feet sweet peace of mind can still be found; For when we have a need he is still the answer; Reach out and claim it for we are standing; On holy ground.

This says it all!!



Lynn

News from your Outreach Committee



Spring is in the air and we are currently working on two important projects coming up. Firstly we need your help in collecting items to make Easter Baskets for the 19 ladies who are living at Auberge Madeline. This is a downtown shelter for women in distress. Some of them are the victims of violence, others are homeless, fighting drug dependencies or are suffering from mental instability.

One thing they all have in common is that they are alone. We have been delivering Easter Baskets to the ladies for several years now and it is something that they really look forward to. We also support them financially each year, whenever possible, with a donation of \$500.00. Please pick up some items for these ladies the next time you are out shopping and leave them in the green box in the Narthex.

Items needed are toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, cosmetics, soap, underwear (sizes L and XL) and shampoo.

Final collection day will be Sunday April 17th.

Our second project is PWRDF Sunday. The goal of this Sunday is to educate the congregation about the work that the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund does around the world and how we as a church community can help. Two important ways are through prayer and through making donations to your Lenten box that each family received at the start

of Lent - perhaps 25 cents for every meal eaten during Lent. We are planning to have a PWRDF lunch and the money raised will be given as a donation to the victims of the disasters in Japan. The tentative date set for this is Sunday June 12th. More details to follow. For more information about PWRDF please log onto www.pwrdf.org.

Finally we continue to sponsor Heidi Caballero in Honduras. She is now 11 years old and her birthday is coming up on June 13th. We receive an annual progress each Spring as to how she is doing. If there is anybody in the congregation who would like to take on the responsibility of corresponding with Heidi during the year please let me know. Heidi speaks Spanish but letters sent in English will be translated for her. Perhaps there is someone in the congregation who is able to correspond in Spanish?

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support of Outreach Projects. YOU make the difference!

Elizabeth



“Whatever you do for the least of these brothers of mine you do for me” Matthew 25:40

Youth Group



If you're in grade six and up:

Friday Night Youth Group
every Friday usually starting at 7pm until 9:30pm

Everything from crazy games to hanging out, but since it's for you and most of you are indeed cooler than me, feel free to let us know what kind of activities interest you. Just come talk to me or send me an email.

You're also always welcome to bring as many friends as you want.

If you're interested in coming to Youth Group you can always just show up. However, weekly emails come out describing what will be going on for each Friday with the where and when details. If you want to have your email added, just come and see me.



If you're in high school and up:

At one point during the service you are welcome to come upstairs and join SMYCH, our St Michaels Youth Church.

Here we have time to talk about and look at different topics that (we hope) you find relevant to modern life nowadays.

Considering the response to "The Gods Aren't Angry", our current theme for the next few weeks is another video by

Rob Bell called "Everything is Spiritual". We're going to attempt to tackle the issue of how science can coexist with spirituality... and what does that word ("spiritual") really mean anyway?

Also, it being a movie, it's easy on the brain considering it's still morning.

What's going on at Youth Group for the month of April

(Please note: these dates and times are always subject to change, so make sure you sign up for the weekly emailing list which gives you all the details)

April 1st: Snakes and Ladders Night

April 8th: MEGA MIND RETURNS

April 15th: Traveling supper

April 22nd: Quiz Night

April 29th: LOCK IN

For any info or questions or comments you can email me at st.mikes.youth@gmail.com

PLEASE feel FREE to contribute ideas for activities that YOU like --- your favorites or even general ideas (e.g. hang out nights vs bigger games)

Jackie

Getting to know **Pat Hammond**

Since that day, February 7th, 2011, I have been discovering more and more things about Pat that I never knew, especially how she had an impact on so many lives. Of course, I knew her faith and love for her Lord were one of the most important aspects of her life, if not the most important. Her immense love for her family was the most evident outward sign of that faith. But outward signs were not limited to care for family. I have now seen more and more evidence of the effect Pat had on other people. So many of you have had quiet conversations or prayer time with Pat and I thank you for sharing some of your personal stories with me. One recently recounted was, "I read Daily Bread because Pat asked me to and now I read it every day".

In going through her library, I found little notes of thanks or carefully chosen "Thank You" cards, in between the pages of so many books. Tucked away in another of her safekeeping areas, I found letter after letter written to her with words that express gratitude, "...thanks for caring" ".....thank you so much for praying for me, it helped greatly" or "... your hospitality shows you really do care, Thanks." "I stuck with it because you encouraged me, thank you." I expect I will find more notes of appreciation

when and if I ever get through her files and books.

Upon hearing of Pat's illness and then her death, greeting cards arrived daily at the house. Cards from family, friends and others I do not know, but all had to say something endearing about my wife. Many of the people may not have a faith, but they certainly knew of Pat's and were not shy about mentioning it in their messages to me, the boys and their families. It is those words that will live with us forever.

If Pat touched you in some fashion over the last 36 years that she was among



you at the parish, cherish that moment. If she prayed with you personally at anytime, you need to know that the prayers did not stop there. I know she kept you in prayer at all times. I don't know who she was praying for

or what the intercession was about, but I do know, and now so do you, that she was a "constant pray-er" and her prayers were always for others.

To you, the family of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Tim, Paul and I say "Thank You". Please accept our deepest gratitude for caring and for the wonderful hospitality shown to the more than a few people who celebrated Pat's life at her funeral. Everything was excellent!

Brian

Before you fall asleep tonight take time. . .

Take time to thank the Lord of life

For all that this day held.

Remember the moments, hear Him say

All of this was just for you today

Take time to look together

At the tears, the toil, the pleasure

At things unfinished, and all that got done

During the light of the daytime sun

Remember the moments and what you will treasure

Remember the moments you'd rather forget

Place them all in the hands of the Lord of Life

Who loves you and holds you in the palm of his hand

He knows your worries, your grief and your joy

Your burdens and troubles he understands

Let his hands hold and redeem them

And then hear Him say sleep in my peace

Rev Michelle