

# St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

*St. Francis de Sales*



## Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – December 26 & 27, 2009

BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

**THERE** is just something more peaceful and serene about Christmas morning Mass that eclipses the excitement and high octane and anticipation of Christmas eve.

Despite the exhaustion of having to arise before my sleep quota to begin again, I have come to recognize the quiet satisfaction of Christmas morning to be the payoff for the hustle and bustle of the night before.

It is not that one is better than the other, it is just a different flavour, and not having kids who wake up every hour on the hour wondering if Santa has arrived and relying on the convenience of a Christmas eve to keep one sane, I have just come to appreciate the slower, more deliberate pace of Christmas morning.

This year, I was called down to the new emergency wing of the Hospital, in the nice new facilities to anoint a parishioner who was dying. The family had been to a Christmas eve service, the one my brother celebrated, and then had to rush to the hospital. I calmed them [saying] that my brother's preaching often sends people to emergency, usually for acute indigestion.

It was a much different experience of Christmas, gathered as family around a dying loved one, sharing stories of Christmases past, but most importantly being together as family. It reminds us all of what Christmas is truly about, being blessed by God to share in the divine love, the ability to love someone to the point of tears.

After I took off the 'stylish' hospital gown, designed for people significantly of smaller frame, I was on my way to mom's to celebrate with my nieces and nephews. I turned the radio off and it was a reflective drive home, and when I arrived, I think I gave each of my loved ones a bit of a tighter squeeze as I wished them a Merry Christmas, and being with them, it was.

- *FR*