

Saint John's Illuminated Bible Visit

By Denise Walley, Holland Catholic Center



Parishioners of St. Gerard Majella Church

From February 2-4, 2018, the Holland Catholic Centre (St. John Berchmans in Holland, Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Treherne, St. Gerard Majella, in Bruxelles and Our Lady of the Cypress, in Cypress River) enjoyed several activities with the sacred Saint John's Bible.

Indeed, a beautiful work of art that entices the viewer to stop, reflect, pray and listen to God's Holy Word of unending love for us.

Throughout the weekend, approximately 250 parishioners were blessed to participate in the planned activities surrounding the arrival of the Book of the Gospels and Acts in our area.



The precious work of art "St. John's Illuminated Bible"

Two Prayer Liturgies, as planned by the Archdiocese, one on Friday and one on Saturday, consisted of a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the arrival of the Gospel in Western Canada 200 years ago, an introduction to the Saint John's Bible, a Lectio/Visio Divina with the Biblical passage of the Gospel of Luke 24:39 "The Road to Emmaus" and an opportunity to come and look closely at the Bible. Parishioners were amazed at the beauty and some were profoundly touched as the Word of God came to life before them.

In addition to the Prayer Liturgies, the Bible was on display for two full days. A day long Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass, along with The Saint John's Bible on Friday, February 2, was a special blessing to all who participated.

The first Prayer Liturgy and Lectio/Visio Divina with The Road to Emmaus was held on Friday evening. Saturday morning began with Mass dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary that was followed by a second Prayer Liturgy.

Many people came forward throughout the day to examine and pray with The Saint John's Bible. Many were in awe of this breathtakingly beautiful sacred work of art that offers the viewer rich symbolism that leads us to reflection and prayer.



Parishioners in Saint John Berchmans Church, Holland

The Saint John's Bible was set up at weekend Masses in Treherne, Bruxelles and Cypress River before being taken over to the Trappist Monastery.

Thank you to the Archdiocese of St. Boniface for providing the opportunity to view, pray with and reflect on God's Holy Word. We gratefully reiterate the words of Pope Benedict as he exclaimed, "This is a work of art ... this is a great work of art ... this is a work for eternity."