

Chrysostom Chronicles

Issue 8, Number 1

A Newsletter from St. John Chrysostom Parish

September 2009

The Blessings and Trials of Community

We talk a great deal in the church about 'community'. One day, I mentioned something about the church being a community and was told, "Huh, that's nonsense. Who wants the church to be a community?"

Communities are full of hypocritical, gossipy, judgmental people. Some people are in and some people are out. I want the church to be a place that I can go and be with God and escape community!"

I must admit, this comment took me aback. I had always thought of community as a positive thing. But there is something we need to hear in this person's experience. Life in community can be both positive and negative depending on many factors. There is no such thing as a gathering of people without 'issues'. This means that by engaging in our school, our neighbourhood and, yes, even our church communities, we open ourselves up to the possibility of being victims of exclusivity, judgement, unkindness and all the other sins of which human beings are capable of perpetrating on one another. But without community, we also rob ourselves of all the caring, nurture, support, love and laughter that human goodness can bring. So, as Christians, we need to strive not simply for community, but for Christian

community. We need to bring the values of Jesus - inclusivity, welcome, compassion and, most importantly, forgiveness - to our schools, neighbourhoods & church.

As a start, we could simply think of one person in our community to whom we find it difficult to be charitable. For the next year, we could focus on trying to be more understanding, kind and forgiving toward that individual.

I believe if each one of us were to do this for one single person, there would be hundreds fewer people for whom community was painful and undesirable. Who knows? We may even find the experience of community more positive for ourselves!

Blessings,
Christine Way Skinner,
Catechist & Editor



what are you waiting for ...

nothing would be done
at all if a man waited
until he could do it so
well that no one could
find fault with it.

- cardinal newman

Listen to your elders

There's many a true word
spoken through false teeth.



Sacramental Preparation

All IMMEDIATE sacramental preparation in St. John Chrysostom Parish is done at the church. The Catholic schools or Sunday School together with the family provides the INITIAL (or foundational) preparation for all the sacraments. If you wish to have your child celebrate one of the sacraments, you will need to register for the appropriate preparation programme in the parish.

Registration Dates

FIRST RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):
Wednesday, October 7th
at 7 pm

CONFIRMATION:
Wednesday, October 14th
at 7 pm

FIRST EUCHARIST (COMMUNION):
Wednesday, November 4th
at 7 pm

BAPTISM:
by appointment.



Have you ever considered becoming a Catholic?

Inquiring Minds...

Each year, a number of people feel called by God to join the Catholic community. To help people discover if God is calling them in this direction, St. John Chrysostom parish offers an inquiry group that meets each week beginning on Thursday, October 1st. This is a non-judgmental, non-threatening, welcoming place for people to come and ask questions about the church. If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact the parish.

PARISH BBQ



Thanks to everyone who made our Annual Parish Welcome Back BBQ a success. We had a larger crowd than ever and fabulous volunteers.



COMING EVENTS ...

It's never too soon to plan for Christmas...

On Saturday, November 21st, come watch the Newmarket Santa Claus Parade on Main Street in front of the parish centre where you can come in and warm up with hot chocolate and delicious food whenever you need to at the CWL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. There are always lots of fun activities for all ages: cookie decorating, book sale, raffles, white elephant & bake sale, and more.



Faith Embodied

St. John's will be starting an exciting new education series in which we will learn how our faith has been expressed artistically in various cultures and in various times in history. Then, we will try our hand at making some art ourselves.

The first of these classes will be Monday, November 16 and 23 from 7pm - 9pm. We will be making clay Peruvian Nativity Scenes. Artist Donna Burwell-Stevens will be joining me to teach the class.

The second class will be in February. We will be making Ukrainian Easter Eggs. Future meetings will include painting Salvadoran Crosses, creating a Stained Glass Window and making a Rosary.

This class is open to anyone from age 14 - 114 years of age! There will be a small fee to cover the cost of supplies and preregistration is required. Please call or email the church to register.

Are You New to the Area?

Welcome to St. John's Parish! We have a very vibrant and active parish. Find out all about us at:

www.stjohnchrysostom.on.ca

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Back-to-School Prayer

Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper, awaiting fresh possibilities. May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.

Thank you for this ruler, for every eraser that tops every pencil. May they help us remember to measure our blessings but never your boundless love for us and to allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.

As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school, help us remember to put on Christ each day, too, and to "clothe the naked" as he asked us.

But mostly, God, help us remember that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher that we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.

- Mary Lynn Hendrickson, At Home with Our Faith



The Parish Team

Fr. Bob Ouellette, Pastor
Fr. Miro Michalik, Associate Pastor
Christine Way Skinner, Catechist
Jean Lashley, Parish Social Ministry
Jean Troy, Parish Secretary
David Jafelice, Director of Music

CONTACT US

Should you need information, please contact the parish by phone at:

(905) 898-4137

or at the website where you will find all sorts of information about the parish, including the email addresses of the parish staff.