

THE CARPENTER'S NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY - 9:00 & 11:00 AM

MONDAY - SATURDAY 9:00 AM

FIRST FRIDAYS - MASS & ADORATION -
7:00 PM



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PASTOR'S DESK

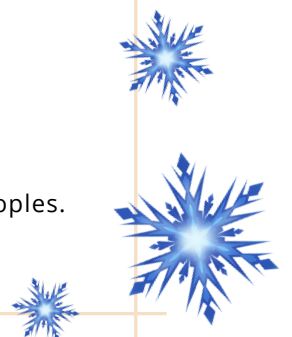
Dear parishioners,
Get set for flight Oshawa 2022. Your pilot is the Divine Master Jesus Himself. For sure we are all in good hands.
Welcome to the new year, dear friends. May his blessings abound in our lives this year and always. May our dreams be realized and may we grow in holiness and greater quest for the Lord.
In a special way, as we begin this new year I want to take time to acknowledge you all for your diverse roles in the year ended, for your support for the parish, and your ardent love of God. I appreciate your generosity and graciousness. I thank the different ministries and their coordinators for the relentless efforts to participate in the mission of Christ and his church. Thanks also for all you will do in your different capacities this year to contribute to the growth and good of the parish community.
As we launch into 2022, I pray the vigour of God to sustain us and the grace of his Holy Spirit to guide us. May our world experience his healing and safety and our plans come to fruition.

Fr. Victor Amole
Pastor

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

Psalms 96: 1-3





GOSPEL INSPIRATION

THE FAMILY: THE CHURCH AT ITS BEGINNING

Written by Fr. Victor

The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state. -Lumen Gentium, 11.

The saying is that “a whole is the summation of its parts”, and the strength of that whole depends on the strength of each individual part. This is so true of the Church of God. The Vatican II Council Fathers recognized this fact and referred to the family as the “domestic church”. It is that unit without which the Church in its wholeness cannot quite function. The family unit is that mustard seed which, planted and nurtured well, produces a blooming and healthy Church.

John Paul II particularly developed this vision of the Council in his detailed attention to the nature and beauty of the Christian family. His understanding of the family as a participation in the salvific ministry of Christ is enlightening. Through this ministry, the human society is built up. “Christian marriage and the Christian family build up the Church: for in the family the human person is not only brought into being and progressively introduced by means of education into the human community, but by means of the rebirth of baptism and education in the faith the child is also introduced into God’s family, which is the Church.”[1] It is interesting to recall that the early Church began its life in meetings at Christian homes and gatherings of families. The coming together of different families began to make up the larger family of God, sharing all things in common. [2] The family of God’s people who come together under the umbrella of the same Father are therefore, even in these days of severe individualism, only recognizable and fully identifiable in the unity of all her individual family units.

Now these individual family units are not perfect units. The United States Bishops’ Conference had reflected and offered succinct words to describe the nature of the Christian family. “A family is holy not because it is perfect, but because God’s grace is at work in it, helping it to set out anew everyday on the way of love.”[3]

No family better illustrates the last point better than the holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. From issues about the paternity of Jesus and the wonderful ways in which he was born which must have given rise to lots of challenges amongst Mary’s contemporaries; to the early life of the new-born babe with whom the holy family had to flee to

Egypt; to the myriad of scenes, maybe a bit confusing for Mary and Joseph, that played out in the early life of this wonderful baby[4], the holy family witnesses to the possibility of holiness in spite of the several upheavals that could abound. The aforementioned challenges to the holy family highlight the several challenges that still beset human families of today.

Perhaps those challenges can be argued to be heightened in our contemporary days. With more fundamental challenges to the nature of the family, divisive thoughts on what makes up a family, the debate on the necessity of the family for the healthy wholeness of the society and other such challenges, there is no gainsaying that the value of the family is passing through a most heated kiln of trial.

Like many other moral dilemmas that we face, and as it is the case with several Christian practices which sometimes come under questioning and fire, the Church continues to echo the mind of Christ on the purpose of the creator and the essence of the family. This is one of those gray areas of human values for which the body of Christ has suffered several blows and criticisms. But I do not think a soft approach to the issue clears away all the difficulties. The truth remains that issues of family life, being the foundational issues from which others are spawned, would continue to generate much attention, deliberation and oftentimes disagreement. It is understandable.

When Jesus, for instance, taught such a knotty doctrine about divorce, it did not go down well with what we could refer to as “the expectation of his day.” Teachings on the family in our contemporary day would therefore continue to have its own furore. But the body of Christ, the Church, must like a mother continue to give direction and moral leadership even as humanity advances daily towards a deeper appreciation of the divine design, and towards a continual understanding of the mysteries of the human person.

In any case, the Scripture sets before us the example of the holy family as a model, for instance in the Lucan text.[5] May we look up to the members of the holy family to teach us the charity with which they lived their lives as a family. May they enlighten us how husband and wives are meant to yield to each other in love and communicate such love to their children. May the holy family of Nazareth be a model for us all.

[1] John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, On the role of the Christian Family in the modern world, (1981), 15.

[2] See Acts of Apostles 4:32

[3] United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Follow the Way of Love*, Pastoral message of the U.S. Catholic Bishops to Families, 1994.

4. For instance the experience of his parents looking for their lost child for the three days only to be asked the heart rending question “why were you looking for me?”, See Luke 3:41-50.

[5] *Ibid*.

UNIVERSAL INTENTION OF THE POPE

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

AROUND THE PARISH

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Many thanks to those who planned, presented and collaborated at our Christmas concert. We thank God for its huge success. I am deeply grateful to the core planners who worked with me to make this dream become a reality. Many blessings on you and your families.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND ADORATION

January 7th, 2022 is the first Friday for the month. As usual we shall have Mass in the morning at 9am and also in the evening at 7pm followed by an hour of Eucharistic adoration while confession is also available. Come let us adore the Lord.

THE PANDEMIC: SOME CHANGING LANDSCAPE

It goes without gainsaying that this is a difficult time. Time was, pre-pandemic, when we were encouraging us to sing in the church. We had to stop that and asked that you do not sing. That ban was lifted sometimes at the end of November and we started having congregational singing again.

Unfortunately, at the direction of the Archdiocese of Toronto and at behest of the guidance of the Province, we are being asked to discourage congregational singing again. It is sure undaunting for us all. Please let us follow all the health protocols so we can get out of this situation as soon as possible. Wear the mask before coming into the church, sanitize your hands and do not congregate before and after Mass.

At this time, virtual meetings are again highly recommended. Unless necessary, and with prior consultation with the pastor, there will be no in-person meetings. Thank you for your kind understanding.

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service for the Greater Toronto Area will be held at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church, 920 Progress Avenue, Scarborough on Sunday January 23, 2022, at 4.00 p.m. All are welcome to attend in person or watch the livestream on Facebook at the link, <https://bit.ly/3DAaxca>. For details, please see the poster at the link, <https://bit.ly/3rNvdLd>.

Join His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. The homilist is Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zargarian (Vicar of the Armenian Diocese of Canada and Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Toronto). This event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office for Promoting Christian Unity & Religious Relations with Judaism and the Greater Toronto Area of Council of Christian Churches.

BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY PRAYER HOUR

The Knights of Columbus, Council 9989, St Joseph the Worker Parish, will be celebrating the beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney with a Holy Hour of prayer and you are invited to join in the celebrations!

Although he lived more than a century ago, Father McGivney's life and work show him to be of particular relevance today. Faced with anti-Catholic bias, Father McGivney directed the Knights of Columbus to the path of authentic civil participation without compromising the Catholic faith.

It is with great joy that the Knights of Columbus around the world celebrate the Beatification of our beloved Founder. Blessed Michael McGivney is a model of holiness whose life and ministry is an example for us all. His beatification is an invitation for all of us to better understand and live out the principles with which he founded the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity and fraternity.

Where: St Joseph the Worker Parish

When: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

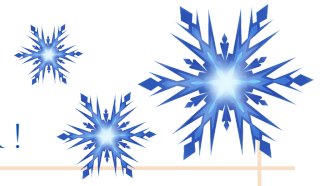
Time: 7 pm



CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

Do you know a bequest in your Will to our Church is an acknowledgment of your returning to God a portion of the gifts He has bestowed on you during your life-time. Charitable bequests can have a favourable impact on your overall estate plan and positively affect gifts you make to your loved ones. Gift of securities too can support your parish. Please call the office to find out more or see <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/social-justice--outreach/development-and-sharelife/home/planned-giving/>

CHAPLAINCY NEWS



THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Faith studies will be starting up again this year. If you have taken one in the past or are new to CCO faith studies, the new year is the best time to jump into rediscovering the beauty of the Catholic faith. Keep your eyes open for more details!

Men's and Women's Groups will be continuing this January. Grow together in a group of like-minded men or women that desire to grow closer to Christ through friendship, prayer and learning. Contact us for more information and to join a group!

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! We entrust this new year of 2022 into the hands of our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph her most chaste spouse and our Lord Jesus. As we began this school year, we declared the theme to be from Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Our anthem still holds strong. Though this year might greet us with the unexpected, we encourage you to take this opportunity to embrace Jesus in the unforeseen. Keeping your eyes on heaven will greatly assist when the growing gets tough. In addition, we are always here for you- to chat, to laugh, to cry, to problem-solve and to help you discern the path Jesus desires for you in this new year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 2022

15 SATURDAY SOCIAL

Our first Saturday social of the year! You won't want to miss it. Stay tuned for more details on how we will be gathering as a community.

21 ENCOUNTER NIGHT

Adoration, praise and worship music, prayer, and confessions. Join us at 7 p.m. sharp for a testimony shared by a special guest speaker!

SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION FOR THE NEW YEAR

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart."

- Jeremiah 29: 11-13

HOW TO MAKE EFFECTIVE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Ever make a resolution out of great enthusiasm, work towards it in first few weeks of the new year and then give up? Consider the following below to help you make resolutions you are (actually) going to keep!

Make reasonable and achievable resolutions. Conquering big things starts with small steps. Concentrate on the smaller tasks and build up to achieving the bigger ones. Smaller tasks help to achieve your goals more consistently as opposed to exerting all your energy in meeting unreasonable goals at the start of the year. If you desire to climb Mount Everest, start by walking everyday.



Take your ideas for resolutions to prayer! Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you see the ways God is inviting you to grow closer to Him this new year. Take time reflecting on the past year and ask questions such as: what virtues do I want to grow in this year, how can I better love God and neighbour, what habits can I develop to take better care of my body and soul this year?



Be patient with yourself. We are all works in progress so don't put too much pressure on yourself to be perfect. The goal is to grow, and sometimes that means accepting our failures, learning from them, and then getting up and starting again! The Lord never gives up on you so don't give up on yourself. Try and try again! The new year is a new beginning and the Lord never tires of giving us a fresh start each day.



Whitby Christmas Market



Christmas Social



Christmas Concert



SAINTS OF THE MONTH

SAINT FEAST DAYS & QUOTES

January 1 - The Solemnity of Mary , Holy Mother of God

January 2 - The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7 -St Andre Bessette

"When you say to God, Our Father, he has his ear right next to your lips."

"There is so little distance between heaven and earth that God always hears us. Nothing but a thin veil separates us from God."

"Put yourself in God's hands; He abandons no one."

January 9 -The Baptism of our Lord

January 12 -St Margaret Bourgeoys

"The more I follow Him without fear, the more He will protect me. The more I do His Will the more He will prove His love for me ."

January 17 -St Anthony Abbot

"The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. He runs away when we make the Sign of the Cross."

January 21 -St Agnes

"Christ has made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him Whom the Angels serve."

January 21 -Blessed Laura Vicuña

"Suffer silently and smile always."

January 24 -Saint Francis de Sales

"Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew."

January 25 -The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle

January 26 -St Timothy and St Titus

"A good life with contentment is itself a great wealth. For we brought nothing with us into this world, and we can take nothing out of it. So if we have enough of what we need, let us be content with that."

January 28 -St Thomas Aquinas

"We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject, for both have labored in the search for truth, and both have helped us in finding it."

January 31 -St John Bosco

"Whatever you do, think of the Glory of God as your main goal."

STORY OF A SAINT

Saint John Bosco

August 16th 1815-January 31st 1888

Patron Saint of apprentices, labourers, schoolchildren and editors.

John Bosco was born in Becchi, Piedmont, Italy to a poor farming family. As a boy he would attract crowds of people by performing magic tricks and acrobatics. Then he would teach them the Catechism. After he was ordained a priest , he opened "oratories"-places of prayer, study and apprenticeship - to keep boys out of prison and off the streets. Fondly called "Don Bosco".John founded the Salesians of Don Bosco , the Salesian Sisters and the Association of Salesian Cooperators to continue this work of caring for the youth.

John's life and work were characterized by ingenuity, a fun-loving spirit , and a deep tenderhearted love for others. He used to go around Turin looking for boys who needed help. One day he came upon a group of boys gambling in the street. He asked if he could play with them. Soon he had won all of their money ! He told them that if they promised to come to the Oratory for Mass that coming Sunday , he will give them back their money . The boys promised, John returned their money, and the next Sunday several of them appeared at the Oratory. By the time of John's death, 250 Salesian houses had been established, serving 130,000 children. Today, all over the world, thousands of Salesians continue the work Don Bosco began.



SANCTITY CONSISTS ON ALWAYS BEING
JOYFUL. ALWAYS BE CHEERFUL, BUT LET
YOUR SMILE BE SINCERE.

-SAINT JOHN BOSCO

FAQS ON THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Pope Francis has launched the Synod on Synodality: a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God's will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023. To learn more about the Synod on Synodality and to share your thoughts, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/synodality.

1. What is a Synod?

The meaning of the term "synod" comes from Greek: walking together on the road. In a synod, bishops from around the world are called by the Holy Father to come together to pray, reflect, and discuss important issues for the Church. It is a process of discernment, of listening to the Holy Spirit guiding the Church. A synod typically concludes with a formal statement that gives guidance and direction for the entire Church.

2. What is the Synod on Synodality?

Pope Francis has called for the Synod on Synodality to be a time of prayerful reflection and discernment on the way that the Church, that is, the laity, pastors, and the Holy Father 'journey together', or walk together on the road. The focus of the Synod is on Communion, Participation, and Mission. It is a two-year process of worldwide consultation, beginning an invitation for people in every diocese to share their thoughts and experiences. It concludes with the Synod of Bishops, who will receive a synthesis of the responses and discern the voice of the Spirit in the Church of the Third Millennium. The Preparatory Document for the Synod states that the purpose of the Synod is "intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission." (PD 32)

Listen to Cardinal Collins on the Synod on Synodality:
<https://bit.ly/CardinalCollinsSynod>



3. When is the Synod?

The synodal process began in October 2021 and will conclude in October 2023. There are three main phases or stages:

- Diocesan phase: October 2021 – August 2022;
- Continental phase: August 2022 – March 2023;
- Universal Church phase: October 2023:
XVI Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops in Rome.

4. Who participates in the Synod?

Everyone is invited to participate in the Synod. The Bishops need to hear from people in all situations so that they can hear the voices of the entire People of God. This means we need to spread the word about our local survey, especially to those who may not hear about it in church or on a parish website.

5. I don't go to church regularly. Should I still participate in the Synod?

Yes! Every voice needs to be heard. Please respond to the survey and tell us about your experiences.

Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Grandparents are a treasure

Pope Francis said that as a child, he heard a story of a family with a mother, father, many children, and a grandfather. The grandfather, suffering from Parkinson's disease, would drop food on the dining table, drop and break bowls, and smear food all over his face when he ate. His son considered it disgusting. Hence, one day he bought a small table, a wooden bowl and spoon and set it off to the side of the dining room so the grandfather could eat, make a mess and not disturb the rest of the family. One day, the Pope said, the grandfather's son came home and found one of his sons playing with a piece of wood. "What are you making?" he asked his son. "A table," the son replies. "Why?" the father asks. "It's for you, Dad. When you get old like Grandpa, I am going to give you this table." (In the American version of the story, the boy was making a wooden bowl). After that day, the grandfather was given a prominent seat at the dining table and all the help he needed in eating by his son and daughter-in-law. "This story has done me such good throughout my life," said the Pope, who celebrated his 85th birthday on December 17, 2021. "Grandparents are a treasure," he said. "Often old age isn't pretty, right? There is sickness and all that, but the wisdom our grandparents have is something we must welcome as an inheritance." A society or community that does not value, respect and care for its elderly members "doesn't have a future because it has no memory, it has lost its memory," Pope Francis added.



HOW TO CONTINUE GIVING

We know that many parishioners would like to continue to donate to the parish on a regular basis during this time. As a non-profit organization, our parish relies heavily on your financial assistance, but especially since we are unable to open for Mass due to the current health crisis. Here are some ways to continue giving:

SECURE MAILBOXES AT THE PARISH

If you would like to make your usual weekly donation or otherwise support us in this regard, we invite you to make a donation at the parish.

We now have TWO secure mailboxes available for our parishioners.

The mailboxes are locked and under 24 hour surveillance so your donations are secure and will be checked daily.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

If you are interested in pre-authorized giving, please contact the parish office to obtain a registration form. Once the form is completed, feel free to email the form along with a scanned copy or photo of a voided cheque to development@archtoronto.org for processing. Contributions would then be withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.

ONLINE GIVING

If you would prefer to donate online, there are various options available:

1. Contribute via credit card as a one-time or recurring contribution
2. Contribute via online banking by emailing your name, address, parish name and municipality (e.g. Durham and Scarborough) to campaign@archtoronto.org, in response to which the Archdiocese of Toronto will email you account information which you can use to set up the Archdiocese as a payee for the purposes of online banking. Your one-time or recurring gift will then be forwarded to our parish.

We thank all of our parishioners for their generous donations during this difficult time.

SHARELIFE

ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as a Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. Over 40 ShareLife agencies serve tens of thousands of people locally and countless more around the world, regardless of religious affiliation. Given the growing needs in our communities, it is crucial we meet our 2021 Parish Campaign goal of \$13.8 million.

By reaching this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues • help victims of domestic violence
- ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten • deliver food to children in developing countries • form priests and deacons

Your support of ShareLife makes these programs possible, among many others. Thank you for living the Gospel by providing for those in need. The remaining collection days for this year is this weekend, October 30th and 31st.

Thank you for sharing life!

THE CARPENTER'S NEWSLETTER

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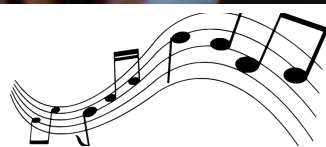
CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are interested in contributing towards this new parish initiative (i.e., the printing costs associated with this publication) please contact the Parish Office. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

If you are interested in advertising your professional services in the Carpenter's Newsletter, please contact the parish office for more details.



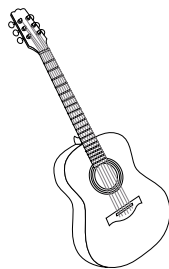
SING A NEW SONG UNTO THE LORD: CALLING FOR CHOIR MEMBERS



It is ironical, given our current practice of not having congregational singing, to talk of forming a choir. But then we are an Easter people, Alleluia is our song. As Christians our vision is always future-oriented, working on our today to make the future better. We therefore need to begin to plan for a post-pandemic time even from now.

Music is at the heart of our liturgy and worship. Our cantors have been doing a great job, but there is always room for improvement. This is why it is my desire as your Pastor to form a choir that will animate our liturgy and assist us better in worshipping the Lord. Please contact the parish office to indicate your interest.

Let us praise the Lord with all we are blessed with, including our voice. It is a wonderful means of prayer as Saint Augustine tells us. See also Psalm 95: 1-11; James 5:13; Psalm 150:6. God bless you.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022 FROM US TO YOU!

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a joyful celebration of the Christmas. May Christ shine forth in our lives. May the splendor he brings us, by uniting to our humanity, light up our days. Amen.