

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 friends in Christ,

Welcome to our October edition of the Carpenter's Newsletter, your one-stop publication for the parish of Saint Joseph the Worker.

As we enter the Fall months, we laud the name of the Lord who keeps us in being and sustains us in his goodness.

I encourage you to reach out to the rest of our brothers and sisters that are yet to come back to Church to know the Church is now fully open, with appropriate health measures in place to keep us safe.

May the Lord bless us. May his name be glorified in our lives now and forever. Welcome and enjoy!

Fr. Victor Amole

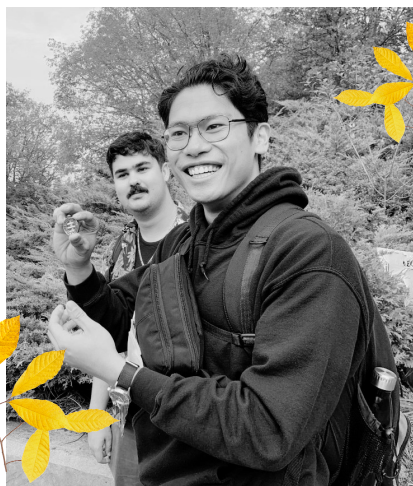
Pastor

SNEAK PEEKS

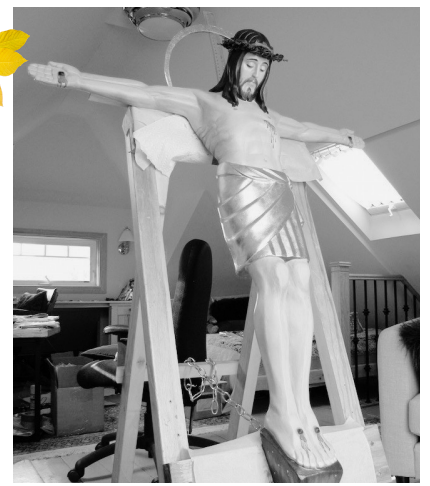
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GOSPEL INSPIRATION

DOING THE FATHER'S WILL

Written by Fr. Victor

*Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.
-St. Francis of Assisi*

Since the beginning of known history there has been a premium placed on 'doing' as different from merely 'saying'. Jesus also supports this value, giving us that illuminating parable of the two sons. The first, being asked by the father to go into the farm and do some work, instantly said yes. But he did not go. The second, equally asked by the father to do the same work, refused. However he later thought well of it and eventually went. Jesus pointed out that the second son did the will of the father, precisely because only he did the required work. Only he fulfilled the will of the father, lending credence to his words by his actions.

Thus to be a Christian in the true sense of the word is to carry out the dictates of the Father as revealed through the Son by the working of the Spirit. Worshiping the Father in truth and in spirit is only possible in a commitment to what he has laid down as his will; rooting for the kingdom of God to come is therefore by consequence a constant abiding, even if gradually, by the divine will. That is clear enough.

There is, however, a grey area to the understanding of this "will of the Father." The problem in our multicultural, hyper-religious world is an interpretation of what constitutes this divine will. There are several arguments in several quarters as to what is right. There are many who hold, in contrast to classical thoughts of individuals like Thomas Aquinas or even contemporary thoughts of seasoned scholars like Servais Pinckaers or William May, that there are no moral absolutes. In other words, we can always find a reason to excuse the contravention of a given natural law no matter how important such a law is. The bottom line of that argument is that situations are basically dependent on circumstances; nothing is objectively wrong or right. It is all about how it all happened and under what situation it did happen. With such an ethical stance, no law can be applied on its face value without thinking of the existing situation of the people to which it applies.

The logical consequence of this reasoning is a multiplication of situations which resemble more of moral dilemmas without any tangible direction as far as such situations are concerned. The question therefore surfaces again, "What is the will of the Father?" And how do we interpret such a will which is revealed to us in the Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition? In the midst of the global confusion about moral issues, particularly within the sexuality ambience, what direction is to be followed?

Those questions are easier asked than answered. In these days, the will of the Father would seem difficult to discern in the light of the many troubling questions arising from a society which has grown essentially self-referent. The situation becomes more compounded when we realize that the definition of that institution which is usually regarded as the better source of interpretation of the Father's will, the Church of God, is today far from being lucid. The different groups within the body of Christ, represented in different ecclesial communities, lay claim to different understanding of the Father's will. The scourge of disunity therefore complicates further an already difficult moral horizon. This has made for the disparate interpretation of the "will of the Father."

In the face of this sort of dilemma and difficulty, it is important to remind ourselves that the early moments of the Church as a united body of Christ were never quite free of such moral quagmires. Take for instance a major difficulty which the early church, as administered by the apostles, faced: the issue of deciding the necessity or otherwise of circumcision. While the gentile converts wanted freedom from this practice, the Jewish converts would not hear of neglecting their valued culture and religious practice. It is easy for us to read this as mere history now, but it was a real moral dilemma for those early witnesses of faith.

As it was in the beginning, so it is now. The Church of God rose up to this moral dilemma of circumcision by giving a rule, inspired by the Holy Spirit, not to burden gentile converts with the obligation of circumcision. That of course could not have been satisfactory to all parties, particularly the zealous Jewish converts. But that was the outcome of the deliberation of the Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit. And by the way, this rule of exception, given by the Apostles and elders in the Church in Jerusalem, became the proceeding of the first ever Council in the Church. The point here is that there is yet the moral voice of Christ speaking through his Church, even in the midst of a cacophony of several views.

That "still voice" does not cease to make its direction known in the guidance it gives to the Church of Christ even today. Moral dilemmas therefore may never end. But the will of the Father would always be made known in that "still voice", which ever animates the Church of Christ as she navigates the turbulent waters of history.

"Doing the Father's will" in our pluralistic society and religiously-divided world would always have to pass the moral crucible of deciphering "what is the Father's will?", a question which cannot possibly receive a consensual answer in the society. It is for such moral crucibles as this that Christ has set up his Church "to teach all nations", not basing her convictions on human reasoning or some popular consensus, but on the directions of He who has promised to be with his Church "to the end of time."



UNIVERSAL INTENTION OF THE POPE

Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.



AROUND THE PARISH

FAITH STUDY: NICENE CREED

This Fall we shall have parish faith study using the novel Nicene Creed study material of Bishop Robert Barron. It will run for 6 weeks. Please stay alert for more information on start times. As our activities begin to open up to in-person gathering, please mark your calendars and let us have a beautiful gathering as a parish.

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are looking forward to offering Children's Liturgy again for our little ones in the parish. The programme will begin Saturday, October 16th during the 5:00 pm Mass in the parish hall for ages 4-8 years old. Health protocols have been put in place including masking, social distancing, and hand washing. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact the parish office for more information.

MISSION SUNDAY 2021

From the moment that Jesus was ascending to heaven and commissioned his disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the whole world (see Matthew 28:19), mission has been the lifeblood of the Church. Every follower of Christ is called to support the missions. Each year in October with World Mission Sunday, the whole Catholic community, not only donates to and prays for the missionary work of the Church, but celebrates and reflects on this essential ministry of the Church. This year, World Mission Sunday takes place on Sunday, October 24, 2021.

4TH ANNUAL PARISH MINISTRY CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 26-30, 2021

Join Michael Ruzicki as he explores Liturgy, Mystagogical Catechesis, and Parish Vitality and how we can live our lives and transform our parishes through a deeper and ongoing commitment to encountering Christ through the practice of mystagogical living. Visit www.archtoronto.org/conference to register and learn more about this and other sessions.

THAT MAN IS YOU "THE FIGHT OF FAITH"

Join us on Thursday, October 7th from 6:00am-7:30am. The topic will be "The Battle of Gideon." with speaker Don Harold. All men are welcome. Registration is free. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

ENCOUNTER

Everyone is welcome to join 'Encounter'; a new initiative by the Chaplaincy which runs every second Friday of the month from 7-9 p.m. Adoration, praise and worship music, confessions and a guest speaker.

Priority will be given to chaplaincy students for confessions*.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The chaplaincy would also like to extend a warm invite to everyone who would like to participate in Theology on Tap which runs on the last Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. except for the month of December, in which it will occur on the 14th. Theology on Tap will be taking place in the parish hall and will feature a guest speaker who will tackle a topic that is relevant to the young adults of today. All are welcome, however priority entry will be given to chaplaincy students.



CHAPLAINCY NEWS

THE LATEST BUZZ

Gospel Reflections: Check out our instagram @oshawacatholic for gospel reflections from our Chaplaincy Team every Sunday!

Wellness Wednesdays: Join Conchita on Instagram and Facebook where she shares best tips and secrets to keeping healthy in body, mind and soul. Every other week online and via our email campaign.

Wisdom Wednesdays: Join Shannon on Instagram and Facebook where she shares the latest resources for keeping up-to-date with theology via books, videos and podcasts. Every other week online and via our email campaign.

Men's and Women's Groups: Eager to journey with a group this school year? Join a women's or men's group to grow in the spiritual life while developing lifelong friendships. Our kick-off event is something you won't want to miss!

Faith Studies: Starting in third week of October, CCO faith studies will be resuming. Journey together in a small group, learn more about scripture and dive more into faith. One hour of commitment per week till December. How can an hour a week change your life?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 2021

8 ENCOUNTER NIGHT

This month, we are honoured to have Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Toronto as our guest speaker. Join us at 7 p.m. sharp in the church for this event.



Club's Fair at Ontario Tech

26 THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join us in the Parish Hall from 7-9 p.m. for an evening of tackling life's big questions.

Martyr's Shrine Pilgrimage



November 2021

6 SATURDAY SOCIAL

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 5 p.m. mass for food, fun, fellowship and games.



September Saturday Social

WALKING PILGRIMAGE POPCORN REFLECTIONS

Thoughts from our students after their pilgrimage to Martyr's Shrine...

I had so much fun going on this pilgrimage. Though it was long, it was really nice to do the walk with Christ and other friends from the same faith. Personally I loved how I could talk with the leaders.. ask them questions and learn new things. I was also happy that I got a chance to praying for my intentions during this walk. Just everything about that day made me happy. I'm so glad I joined this walk. -Priscilla

My pilgrimage to the Martyrs shrine was an amazing experience. The long walk gave me time to contemplate and spend time with my friends. The highlight of the pilgrimage was the mass under the rain. We were all so committed during the mass and the choir was amazing.

-Nora

Near the beginning of the walk I was able to hold the first class relics of Saints Jean de Brebeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, and Charles Garnier. It was very humbling to hear the stories of the Saints and how they persevered to the end while maintaining the love they have for both God and neighbour. What the pilgrimage has put into proper perspective was the fact that I am not alone in my own journey of Faith. I have the Church Triumphant praying over me and the Church Militant walking beside me, a family cheering each other on.

-Jeffrey



SAINTS OF THE MONTH

SAINT FEAST DAYS & QUOTES

October 1 - Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

"When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens, I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth."

October 2 - The Holy Guardian Angels

October 4 - Saint Francis of Assisi

"While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart."

October 6 - Saint Bruno

"While the world changes, the Cross stands firm."

October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

October 9 - Saint Denis and Companions

October 11 - Saint John XXIII

October 14 - Saint Callistus

October 15 - Saint Teresa of Avila

"Be gentle to all and stern with yourself."

October 16 - Saint Marguerite d'Youville

October 17 - Saint Ignatius of Antioch

October 18 - Saint Luke

October 19 - Saint Paul of the Cross

October 20 - Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

"But above all preserve peace of heart. This is more valuable than any treasure."

October 22 - Saint John Paul II

"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."

October 23 - Saint John of Capistrano

October 24 - Saint Anthony Mary Claret

October 28 - Saints Simon and Jude

STORY OF A SAINT

The Saint of the Month is

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

(January 2, 1873 - September 30, 1897)

Patron Saint of Missionaries, France, Russia, florists, gardeners, loss of parents, tuberculosis

Thérèse was born to Saint Louis and Zélie Martin. The youngest of five girls, her childhood was in many ways idyllic, but also touched by profound suffering. In 1877 when she was four, Thérèse's mother died. Greatly impacted, she became sensitive and over-attached to her older sister, Pauline who then entered the Carmelite monastery. The bereft Thérèse fell seriously ill until, miraculously, she was healed after having a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On Christmas Eve 1886, Thérèse experienced another miracle of a deep healing of her extreme sensitivity. Soon after she felt drawn to religious life, but she was too young to enter. However, Thérèse's desire to become a Carmelite was finally granted when she was fifteen years old. She professed her vows in 1890 and took the name of Thérèse of the Infant Jesus and the Holy Face. Her time in Carmel was not always easy, but Thérèse showed quiet heroism in simple ways. In a time when much emphasis was put on individual effort in the spiritual life, Thérèse pioneered a spirituality of trust in God's mercy that she called "the little way". On Holy Thursday night, 1896, Thérèse felt a stream of blood rise to her lips. The stained handkerchief she examined the next morning confirmed her in joy: her Divine Spouse would be coming to take her to heaven soon. Thérèse died of tuberculosis the next year, after a time of deep spiritual darkness that she endured by relying on her trust in God.

"THE WORLD IS
THY SHIP
AND NOT THY
HOME."

ST. THÉRÈSE
OF LISIEUX



I UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL WE ACCOMPLISH, HOWEVER BRILLIANT,
IS WORTH NOTHING WITHOUT LOVE.

-SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

TESTIMONY TIME

The Journey of Faith Behind our Parish Crucifix as told by the Artist, Anne Marie Bardwell

Could I ever have imagined the blessings God had in store for me when I first walked into St. Joseph's Parish nine years ago this month? The gifts of working on both the St. Joseph and Baby Jesus statue (in the Adoration Chapel) and the crucifix (suspended above the altar in the church) far surpass any expectation or dreams I might have had. But Our Lord is love, mercy and a God of surprises. He will use anyone who has even a mustard seed of faith.

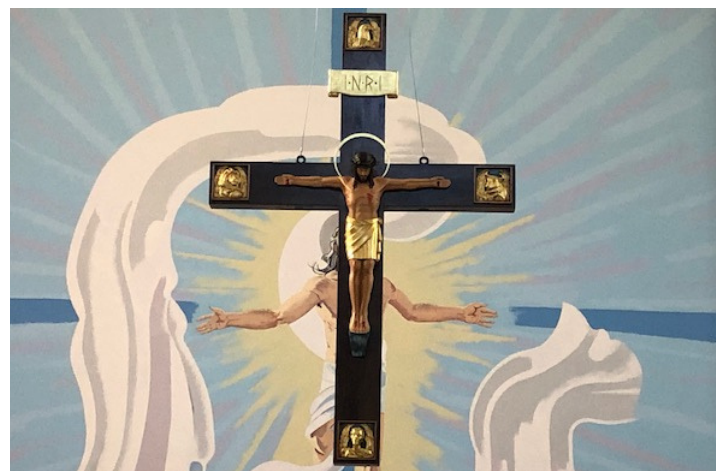
Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the Glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians: 3:20-21)

I believe many of us, when we look back, see the thread/hand of God working in our lives. I find it impossible to trace this journey and not recognize God's providence; how having the St. Joseph and Baby Jesus statue restored and the crucifix present our Church would impact us all in Adoration, our experience of the Mass and grow in our faith. We are all called to faith and stewardship, and He knew I would love doing my portion! Hope and faith can be nurtured when we hear testimonies of God's nearness in our daily lives. There are so many stories and people who make up this journey, but this brief article can't begin to tell a fraction of those. Their contributions are woven into the fabric.

I've spent my whole life as an artist and developed skills, many of which came into play, but God had me doing things I'd never done before. I had never worked with plaster, painted a statue, carved wood, used gold leaf, sculpted/baked clay (other than a couple small things for animation decades ago). Prayer was inseparable from the work. I was continuously talking to God the Father, to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mary, and St. Joseph. Many times, I would say "thank you Lord!" because I had received very specific answers or direction. In one instance, when I was painting Jesus' body, there were several "under paint" colours and I still had the final skin layer to do. I knew the combination of colours I would use, but I didn't have the "exact recipe" and if I erred it would be a big problem. I paused and worked on the footrest. That was on a Friday. On Monday, in morning prayer, I felt a very strong nudge to go to the Chapel.

I said, "okay, but you're interrupting my morning prayers" but then I went. I spent a while in Adoration, came home, sat down, and mixed the final skin layer without any hesitation. I didn't really even have to think about it, and it was perfect! They say "the devil is in the details" but the truth is, it's God, the devil doesn't care. As I worked, scriptures would surface. For example: "He was bruised for our iniquities...by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5) and "God put all things under Christ's feet and gave Him to be the head..." (Ephesians 1:22).

My words can't fully express what it's meant to me to be a part of these projects for God and St. Joseph's Parish. I am deeply grateful to Fr. Eric for his trusting and having faith in me and for sharing the desire to have a crucifix in our Church. Some folks have said, "you must be proud". Truly, I don't feel proud, not at all. I just feel incredibly blessed and amazed that God gave me this special work to do. It is validation of what a loving and merciful God He is. I thank God and, for their prayers and intercession, our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, the Patron of our Church. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, in unity with the Holy Spirit. Amen.



The four Gospel writers are represented by the four living creatures that are spoken of in Ezekiel and Revelations. They are sometimes referred to as "The Tetramorph".

~ Matthew:

Man; Because he speaks about Jesus' genealogy and Humanity.

~ Mark:

Lion; His Gospel emphasizes Jesus' Majesty and royal dignity.

~ Luke:

Bull; His Gospel focuses the Sacrificial nature of Christ's death.

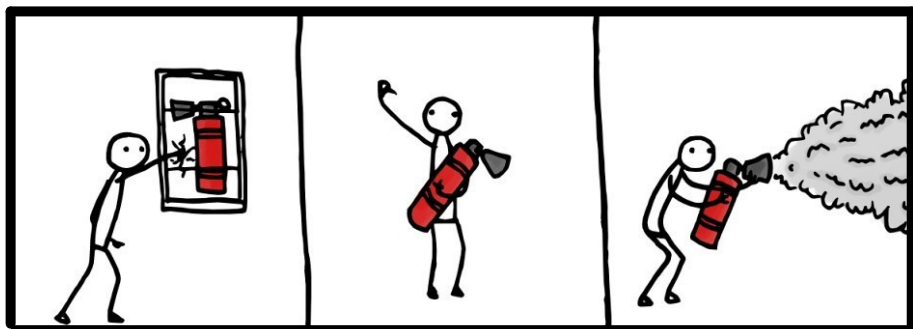
~ John: Eagle; Far seeing as in Revelations.



ANECDOTE OF THE MONTH

From Fr. Victor

The building is on fire! The building is on fire!" Once there was an ecumenical crusade that was being held in a large city. Every imaginable denomination was in attendance for this unprecedented spiritual event.



During one very well-attended event a secretary suddenly rushed in shouting, "The building is on fire! The building is on fire!" At which point: The METHODISTS gathered in the corner and prayed. The BAPTISTS cried, "Where is the water?" The QUAKERS quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings. The LUTHERANS posted a notice on the door declaring that the fire was evil. The ROMAN CATHOLICS passed a plate to cover the damages. The JEWS posted symbols on the doors, hoping that the fire would pass. The CONGREGATIONALISTS shouted, "Every man for himself!" The FUNDAMENTALISTS proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God." The EPISCOPALIANS formed a procession and marched out. The CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS concluded that there was no fire. The PRESBYTERIANS appointed a chairperson to appoint a committee to look into the matter and make a written report. And the secretary grabbed a fire extinguisher and put the fire out

(Taken from The Catholic Digest (September 1992), p. 37.)

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.

ON-LINE 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.

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PARISH STAFF

Rev. Victor Amole,
Pastor

Mary Lou Barrese,
Office Manager

Mike Ethier,
Custodian and Sacristan

Mary Lynch,
Parish Outreach

Shannon Hawkyard,
Campus Minister

Conchita D'Souza,
Campus Minister

CONTACT US

P: 905-432-2300

E: stjosephtheworkeros@archtoronto.org

W: stjosephtheworkeros.archtoronto.org

1100 Mary St. N, Oshawa ON L1G 5G8 Canada

Oshawa Catholic Chaplaincy

oshawacatholic@archtoronto.org

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.

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 who will minister in our parishes

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 the weekend of October 30th and 31st. Thank you for sharing life!