

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



PARISH STAFF

Rev. Victor Amole,
Pastor

Mary Lou Barrese,
Office Manager

Mike Ethier,
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PASTOR'S DESK

Written by Fr. Victor

Dear parishioners, peace and joy be with you!

I am glad to welcome you to another milestone of our parish with this debut of the Carpenter's Newsletter. Many thanks to those who have collaborated to make this edition come out great. Subsequent editions will develop on this. Together as one family of Saint Joseph the Worker parish we shall move forward making Jesus known to the world. May the Lord bless you and all yours, may his goodness follow us all our days. May He bless our Chaplaincy students too and grant them success in their endeavours.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the parish office for extra ways to collaborate with us and support the parish.

May Saint Joseph intercede for us all.

Fr. Victor Amole
Pastor

GOSPEL INSPIRATION

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Written by Fr. Victor

John Paul II's pontificate would always be remembered in the annals of history. Right from the very homily of his inauguration in 1978, the man of God had set a tone for his papacy and the courageous witness he was bringing in for the faithful. His refrain at that inauguration was "Do not be afraid." Little did he know that those words would eventually accompany his ministry as he led the Church of Christ for almost three decades, lending his voice not only to evangelization causes all over the world but to many initiatives that promoted the emancipation of peoples from all sorts of shackles.

"Do not be afraid." We experience several causes of fear in our lives. The society in which we live overwhelms us often with its demands and burdens. Life's journey, desirable as we would want it to be, is often not quite straight, coming at us with its jolts and shocks. Were things left to our own plans and orderings maybe this might not bother us as such, for we would do all in our power to order our days in peace. But often the scheme of things goes beyond our commands and we sometimes become almost helpless. The best of plans and future arrangement sometimes come crumbling in a day, with just one setback of life. Indeed, as it is said, "events mock at human foresight, nothing is certain as the unforeseen." In the events of such circumstances as painted here, what becomes the response of a Christian? How does he go on adhering to values? How does she cope with the so demanding constraints of life and their somewhat fearful consequences?

The history of the people of God in the scriptures is a beautiful illustration of God's support and care especially at times of fear and delusion. Their experiences call the Christian to a "lifting up of the head" for our helper is the Lord of Israel. For instance, the exilic experience of God's people in Babylon was a cause for concern and fear. There was hardly anything more to hope for, the people's heart had waned with fear. But the voice of Isaiah the prophet was never silent in giving the people admonitions of courage and challenging them not to be afraid. His main argument was that there was nothing God could not accomplish. He would make water gush in the desert and streams in the wastelands. He would rescue his people and resettle them in their own lands amidst joy and gladness. Indeed, the prophecy of Isaiah came to pass; the people of God got their liberty from Babylon.

Say to the faint hearted 'Be strong! Do not be afraid.' -Isaiah 35:3

GOSPEL INSPIRATION

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Written by Fr. Victor

Fear could be so crippling that it prevents us from seeing the possibility of a bright future. The shadow of the present can so oppress our sight that it limits our vision of lights in the surroundings beyond the shadow. But a message like that of Isaiah brings relief to our hearts. There is nothing beyond the power of the omnipotent. Nothing is beyond the power of God. Belligerent as fear could be therefore, the Christian must learn to confront its ferocious challenge with a sturdy lance of courage, hope and trust. Reflecting on the crippling effect of fear and the need to shatter its bastions, it is equally important to remember our call to solidarity in facing fear and arduous times. By virtue of our baptism, we are called not only to resist fear and trust in the saving power of Yeshua¹ but also to lend courage to others when their faith is weak. Learning from the very symbol of our faith, the Christian person is a being of hope for whom such an image of hopelessness, torture and death as the cross becomes a symbol of hope, life and redemption. No fear is therefore enough to conquer the courage of the Christian or prevent him from giving a hand of help when the reality of fear threatens the brethren.

In the face of the menace of hopelessness, fear, sorrow, needs, sickness and anxiety, we are called to remember from where the Christian victory emerges. Right from the cross, the least place imaginable since ordinarily it is an instrument of fear. But in the hands of the saviour it has become a source of solace, salvation and peace. As John Paul reminds us, "the power of Christ's Cross and Resurrection is greater than any evil which man could or should fear." Therefore do not be afraid of that seemingly fearful reality. It is not a reality bigger than death. And that bigger reality Christ already conquered.



UNIVERSAL INTENTION OF THE POPE

An environmentally sustainable lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

AROUND THE PARISH

CELEBRATIONS OF THE SUMMER



This summer, we have had much to celebrate! To name a few...

- The installation of the crucifix above the altar was brought to completion at the end of June. Designed and crafted by some of our very own parishioners, the crucifix was a dream come true!
- Many of our children received their First Reconciliation, First Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- We welcomed our new pastor Fr. Victor Amole who was installed as parish priest and Oshawa Catholic Chaplain by the bishop on August 29th, 2021.

WHAT'S NEW



All young adults are 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, confessions, testimonies and fellowship!

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS

The Sacrament of Confirmation was received by Laura Delgado on June 19th, 2021. Both Chaplaincy friends and family were so happy to celebrate this special moment with Laura. Congratulations once again, Laura!



OUR NEW CAMPUS MINISTER

This summer, Oshawa Catholic was introduced to their new campus minister Conchita D'Souza who will work alongside Shannon Hawkyard. If you missed the video on our social media introducing Conchita, here are a couple fun facts about her: Conchita is a newly-wed who met her husband Rafael at the chaplaincy back at her alma mater of UofT St. George. After spending a few years as a Kindergarten teacher, Conchita is excited to jump back into the university community and build relationships with our Oshawa Catholic students!



WELCOME FR. VICTOR

New to the community as well, our Chaplain Fr. Victor Amole was welcomed into the Oshawa Catholic Chaplaincy Team in July! Soccer superstar, published author and moral theology expert are just a few wonderful ways to describe our new Chaplain! We are so excited to continue our growth as a community under the leadership of Fr. Victor and look forward to all the blessings that will come through him.



CHAPLAINCY LUAU

Aloha! Did you hear about Our Summer Social back on August 7th?! It was a hit. Our students were transported to the parking-lot-turned tropical island after the 5 pm mass. Only the best was served: pineapple bubbles, Pita Deli shawarmas and falafels, snacks and ice cream drumsticks! The entertainment consisted of a 30% tropical storm warning courtesy of the humid and rainy weather this summer along with the duo of Shannon and Conchita; our campus ministers, who led some laugh-till-you-cry games with those gathered. The night was packed with so much fun that fellowship led past the sunset hours which led even the mosquitoes joining in the excitement! Overall, our students had an excellent time! Look forward to September's kickoff BBQ for more faith, fun, food and fellowship.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Matthew Galli

Can we get a drumroll please? Our alumni, Matthew Galli has been accepted into St. Augustine's Seminary and is to start his residency as a Seminarian this September. We are so incredibly proud of Matthew and continue to pray for him during this time of discernment and formation.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 2021



18

KICK-OFF BBQ

Join us for our first Saturday Social of the school year. Enjoy some delicious BBQ and fun while meeting like-minded individuals after the 5 p.m. Mass. Open to all students and alumni.

25

MARTYR'S SHRINE

All currently enrolled students are welcome to register for the inter-chaplaincy retreat. Come walk the grounds where the Canadian Martyr's walked while growing in friendship with other university and college students from across the GTA. Spots are limited! Register today by emailing oshawacatholic@archtoronto.org for more information.

28

THEOLOGY ON TAP

All young adults aged 18-40 are invited to join us for Theology on Tap. Our first guest speaker of the year, is our very own, Fr. Victor Amole! Fr. Victor will be sharing best practices on how young adults can stay true to their Catholic values.

FROM OUR CHAPLAINCY TEAM:

Oshawa Catholic is looking forward to welcoming and greeting new students through in-person and online interactions. Exciting things are lined up for this school year including new events and lovely content for beating the back to school blues. Keep your eyes open for online reels on Instagram of practical back to school techniques to help with productivity, focus and health of body, mind and soul. More so, feel free to reach out to us for ongoing support during this school year via our new email address: oshawacatholic@archtoronto.org. God Bless!



SEPTEMBER FEAST DAYS

September 2 – Blessed Andre Grasset

September 3 – St. Gregory the Great

September 4 – Blessed Dina Belanger

September 9 – St. Peter Claver

September 13 – St. John Chrysostom

September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows

September 16 – St. Cornelius and Cyprian

September 17 – St. Robert Bellarmine

September 19 – St. Januarius

September 20 – St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions

September 21 – St. Matthew

September 23 – St. Pius of Pietrelcina

September 24 – Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin

September 25 – St. Cosmas and Damian

September 26 – St. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions

Secondary Patrons of Canada

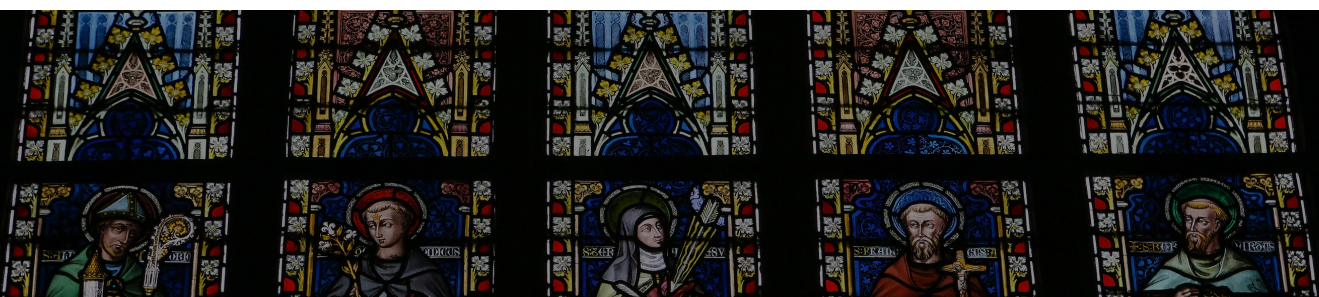
September 27 – St. Vincent de Paul

September 28 – St. Wenceslaus

September 28 – St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

September 29 – St. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

September 30 – St. Jerome



STORY OF THE SAINT OF THE MONTH



ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO)

MAY 25 1887 - SEPTEMBER 23, 1968

FEAST: SEPTEMBER 23

Patron: civil defence volunteers, teens, relief of stress and depression

MY PAST, O LORD, TO YOUR MERCY; MY PRESENT TO
YOUR LOVE; MY FUTURE TO YOUR PROVIDENCE.

"Francesco Forgione always wanted to be a priest, but his poor farming family couldn't send him to school. So, his father left Italy, seeking work in the United States to pay for his son's education. Francesco became a Capuchin and was ordained in 1910. Known as Padre Pio, he had poor health but many mystical gifts. He received the stigmata in 1918, which stirred controversy since some thought he was a fraud. His critics got the Vatican to forbid him from celebrating Mass publicly and from hearing confessions. Though Padre Pio suffered immensely from this, he accepted the Church's decision in humility. He would often say, "Pray, hope, and don't worry," and this summed up his simple yet profound stance in the face of constant criticism and rumors.

In the end, the truth won out, and Padre Pio was permitted to celebrate Mass and hear confessions. He spent countless hours listening to confessions of the many people who flocked to him. He also felt called to help people in their bodily needs, so he raised funds to build a hospital, which opened in 1956. He died praying the Rosary, a favourite prayer he offered constantly. St. John Paul II, who had once gone to him for confession, canonized Padre Pio in 2002."

TESTIMONY TIME

CONFESSIONS OF A NEWLY WED

Written by Conchita Mary D'Souza

Stressful and tiring were the days leading up to my wedding in the month of December in 2020. The year the world was said to have collapsed, was the year that my fiancé proposed to me and we were to get married. While we were excited and happy, longing for our special day to come, we were greeted with cancelled bridal showers, a wedding relocation from one country to another, the new wedding location cancelled due to restrictions, no presider leading up to the wedding, parents who couldn't fly into the country, an invalid marriage license three days before the wedding and more stress from the little details that grew into larger catastrophes. Now while everything seemed to go wrong, there was the sweet man I was engaged to, Rafael, holding my hand saying "let's not cancel, let's get married". And I couldn't agree more. Though it would have been nice to have the external 'fluff', we did not need it for the Sacrament which a pandemic could not steal any beauty from.

Knowing our wedding would be subject to the craziness of COVID, we spent more time preparing for the Sacrament (this is how it should be, I might add). We prepared ourselves with Fr. Michael Gaitley's 33 Days to Morning Glory for our consecration to Jesus through Mary that would be made on our wedding day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We prayed each night together without fail entrusting our wedding day to the protection of Mary. We knew that Mary would take care of us,

for while the devil hates marriages and families and seeks to destroy them, there is nothing more he fears than Mary.



Fully knowing she would care for us, out of gratitude from our musicians' hearts came a song which we composed to sing to her after offering our bouquet of roses at the Marian chapel in the church. Everything and every detail we planned for our wedding Mass came to fruition. Our couple's prayer both in English and Spanish was such an emotional time for both of our families as we were each praying in each other's first language. Rafael and I each took turns praying for our marriage, our family and the sweet children we hope God blesses us with one day. Our live broadcast was a main component for our wedding as Rafael's parents and family could not make it from Colombia. The broadcast went amazingly. The whole setup was put together as a DIY project with Rafael and a good friend. Till today, people ask for the recording to rewatch, share with family and our recording company" contact information! God knew my dream was to have a full church at my wedding, and with over 500 people tuning in online from all over the world together with our friends and family in the church, my heart felt the presence of each one's prayers and support.

TESTIMONY TIME

CONFESSIONS OF A NEWLY WED

Written by Conchita Mary D'Souza

Our presider and officiant for our wedding Mass, could not have been more perfect. My childhood friend who was recently ordained a Catholic Priest two months prior, came to our aid a few days before our wedding day. Having known me for years, his homily was so beautiful complete with a personal touch which left both Rafael and I in tears. His homily was so incredible, that not only did we rewatch it on our honeymoon, it is now used in RCIA and marriage prep classes. Lastly, our most beautiful Marian consecration was my most favourite part of the entire celebration. Our eyes filled with tears, bouquet of roses trembling in awe, we approached and knelt in front of our Queen. And as we made our consecration, we entrusted; what would come to be, a most amazing year to Jesus through our Blessed Mother. And there, with our eyes raised to heaven, our voices echoing in sweet harmony through the grand church amidst a cold and snowy day in Advent, we knew just how much God loved us, to grant us the most beautiful gift of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Pope Francis declared it to be the year of St. Joseph on our wedding day. What we didn't know was that on that very day, Mary introduced us to a the silent and sweet saint, Joseph, who in the first nine months of marriage would grant us: our house in a beautiful town, my driver's license, our family car, my dream job at a parish named after him, amazing career opportunities for Rafael, our small business growth, my dream of becoming a God-mother fulfilled, my husband's Canadian citizenship and a few more miracles in our personal life. In one year, the Holy Family has become strong role models for us. They showed us their humanity to assist us in ours.

Now, you might be asking, what's the secret? Well, there is none. Focus on God, put Him first. The fluff and fancy will fade away, but God will never. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow: merciful, kind, just, loving, that is our King! "Keep your eyes on the things that are above, not earthly things" (Col 3:2) and "He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4). May the saints and St. Joseph, pray for us always.





ANECDOTE OF THE MONTH

From Fr. Victor

Miss Holycheek, the Catholic Sunday school teacher, had just finished explaining the feast of the Assumption to her class. "Now," she said, "let all those children who want to go to Heaven to see their Heavenly Mother raise their hands." All the children raised their hands except little Marie in the front row. "Don't you want to go to Heaven, Marie?" asked Miss Holycheek. "I can't," said Marie tearfully. "My mother told me to come straight home after Sunday school

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. We know that many parishioners would like to continue to donate to the parish on a regular basis during this time.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2021 | ISSUE 1

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CONTRIBUTIONS

This issue was sponsored by Oshawa Catholic Chaplaincy.

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.

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