



Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

and/or as announced

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Check the bulletin or website for the current schedule

COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

Contact the parish office for assistance

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Friday 3:15 p.m., Saturday 4:00 p.m.

and/or as announced or by appointment

PARISH BULLETIN

The SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – July 23, 2017 and

The SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – July 30, 2017

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason

204-832-7175 joanna@johnxxiii.ca

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 sharon@johnxxiii.ca

Head Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Trustee: Albert McMurdie

204-889-6606 mcmurdie@shaw.ca

Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt

204-898-1893 cfp3899@gmail.com

Trustee: Christine Carlyle

204-889-0238 rccarlyl@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Parish Finance Council

Fr. Robert Polz, Christine Carlyle, Anthony (Tony) Keck, Albert McMurdie, Loris Vendramelli

Parish Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee

Fr. Robert Polz, George Brown, Laurette Burch, Sharon Camier, Christine Carlyle, Ken Derendorf, Janine Gaudry, William Gould, Albert McMurdie, Gemma Minerva, Colette Mozol, Rod Olinyk, Marnie Puchniak, Victorina Tualla

FAITH FORMATION: Catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings, September through May, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults. Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information and/or to register.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact the parish office for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert)

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

PARISH CATECHISM CLASSES 2017 – 2018

Catechism classes are scheduled to begin in our parish with an **ORIENTATION SESSION** for parents/guardians and children at **10:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 17th** in the parish hall. Once again we will utilize the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* liturgically-based catechetical program that provides weekly handouts with a short description of the Sunday Gospel plus suggested activities and discussion starters for each age level. In keeping with the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year, children in class and with their families can have fun while learning about Jesus, his Church and the teachings of our faith.

Those who would like their children to take part in catechism classes are asked to submit a completed REGISTRATION FORM for each child as soon as possible so we may better assess the situation and be sure to have the adequate materials required. A catechism registration fee will help defray some of the costs of running our program. Nevertheless, this requested fee should in no way be considered a reason to refrain from enrolling children for whose parents the fee would impose an undue hardship.

As a rule, each Sunday children participating in our parish catechism program gather in the parish hall with their parents/guardians by 10:15 a.m. for some initial prayers and announcements. Then children break into their various catechetical groups and proceed with their catechists to their designated classrooms. Catechetical classes are divided into the following age groups: SEEDS (Preschool), PROMISE (Kindergarten – Grade 1), GOOD NEWS (Grades 2-3), VENTURE (GRADES 4-6) and VISIONS (Grades 7-8). Parents/guardians are asked to return to the parish hall by 11:15 a.m. to be ready to pick up their children.

We are in need of volunteers to serve as catechists and assistants for each designated catechetical group. If you are willing to help in any way, please advise Sharon Camier (our Pastoral Assistant) or Father Robert Polz (our Pastor) as soon as possible. Let us all pray for the continued success of our faith formation program for children.

HOW DO I BECOME CATHOLIC?

Many avenues lead individuals to the Catholic Church. The journey of faith can be a winding road. Whatever path has led you to this time of searching or interest in becoming a baptized Christian or, if already baptized, making a profession into the full communion of the Catholic Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that could be Good News for you in your journey of faith. Our pastor, Father Robert, and our pastoral assistant, Sharon, are considering starting up this fall the RCIA process in our parish. Tentative plans include initial inquiry sessions to be held immediately following Mass on Wednesday evenings. **To help us make preparations for the RCIA in our parish, please let us know if you might be interested in participating.** Please speak with Father Robert and/or Sharon. We have a limited number of packs of leaflets of the series *Understanding Christian Initiation* which we can distribute to those discerning whether they would like to begin participation in the RCIA process.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT

Max and Monique Armstrong, Darrell Aucoin, Joan Brabant, Bill Camier, Frank Clarke, Peter Corcoran, Connie Csizmadia, Phyllis Dreveski, Sylvia Ewaskow, Bonnie Joyce Irish, Angela Kalichak, Debra McEnturff, Dolores and Paul Mulaire, Mak Ntwanga, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, Albin Polz, Phyllis Rogoski, Hank Smith, Rose Stankewich, Marie Stuart, Don Thomas, Jacob Trudel, Maria Helena Viegas, Ted Wood and Helen Yankoski. *Please contact our Pastoral Assistant, Sharon, to have names added to our prayer list. Remember that to have names added and printed in the bulletin we require permission from the person(s) concerned. Thank you.*

PARISH GIVING COMMITMENT

On the weekend of June 11th, a presentation was given at all the Sunday Masses updating the Saint John XXIII community of the Parish's current financial situation. The overview of our temporal stewardship since the departure of the Anglican Parish of St. Chad's in the fall of 2013 has convinced the members of our Parish Finance Council that "Our Parish Community is at a Financial Crossroad". **A special envelope package has been prepared for those listed in our parish database.** Each envelope includes a letter from our pastor, a copy of the presentation given on the June 11th weekend, and a *Parish Giving Commitment Form*. **If you haven't yet done so, please save us some postage by picking up your special envelope package up from the parish office.** After prayerful reflection and in gratitude for God's many blessings, we kindly ask you to make a personal commitment to the Lord and to your Parish by completing and returning your *Parish Giving Commitment Form* as soon as possible, preferably before the end of August.

July 23, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Our sovereign God has no need to defend acts of justice or mercy.

Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

The greatness of God expresses itself in goodness, kindness, and forgiveness.

Romans 8:26-27

Sometimes we have no words to lift up to God. The Spirit knows what to say.

Matthew 13:24-43

Not everything that grows in the field is worthy of the harvest to come.



A BETTER BRAND OF JUSTICE

The familiar symbol for justice is a blindfolded woman. She balances a scale in one hand and displays a sword in the other. This personification of justice can be traced all the way back to ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman goddesses. The blindfold denotes the impartiality of Lady Justice. She doesn't "see" the parties in a case and therefore doesn't distinguish between them. The scale contains the merits of the case, which will sooner or later dip to the side that presents the weightiest evidence. The sword represents Reason, which slices through the fog of unclarity and misinformation; the sword also symbolizes the power of Justice, which punishes the wrongdoer with swift retribution.

For better or for worse, since the time of ancient goddesses, that is how many think of justice. It's an interestingly mathematical proposition, all quid pro quo and even-stein. The personalities don't matter, just the particulars of the case. Through the balancing act of facts and witnesses, people arrive at a conclusion and then the sword falls against the guilty. Fade to black. Justice is served.

Of course you also know it's not that simple. Sometimes, despite the weight of the evidence and the preponderance of witnesses, justice is clearly not served. The guilty party may get off on a technicality that shouldn't matter but, in the cold corridors of logic, becomes the deciding factor. Or maybe the guilty party is determined rightly, but because of extenuating circumstances--mental incompetence or prior abuse--such guilt might seem limited or even expunged. In a blind-justice universe, small factors may loom as immutable ones because of the ruthlessly rational calculus of law. So even when the scales are weighted and the sword falls, genuine justice is far from served.

The Book of Wisdom declares that divine justice is superior to human justice because God adds mercy and clemency into the mix. Justice becomes no longer a matter of adding and subtracting and arriving at a final sum: innocent or guilty. Instead divine justice takes the full measure of the human person, and not only the deed in question, before rendering its verdict. Outcomes may be surprising.

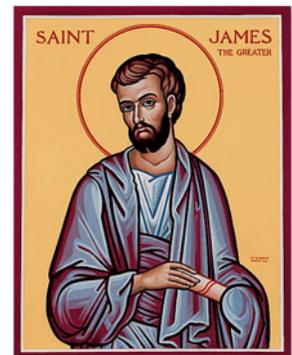
God is the one who searches hearts, Saint Paul says, which is why God allows the weeds to grow up along with the wheat before rendering judgment on the world altogether. Divine justice wears no blindfold. It does not accept collateral damage in the field as the price of doing business. Ends never justify means. When the eyes of justice are wide open and all-encompassing, everything counts and everything matters. Every staff of wheat is potential flour for bread. As such it must be given every opportunity to grow into wholeness and reach its fullness. God's lenient mercy buys you time to outgrow the weeds and produce your harvest.

– Alice Camille

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Feast of Saint James, Apostle – Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Saint James, known as the Greater, in order to distinguish him from the other Apostle Saint James, our Lord's cousin, was Saint John's brother. With Peter and John he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration, as also he was of the Lord's agony in the garden. He was beheaded in Jerusalem in 42 or 43 on the orders of Herod Agrippa. Since the ninth century Spain has claimed the honour of possessing his relics, though it must be said that actual proof is far less in evidence than the devotion of the faithful. The pilgrimage to Saint James of Compostella in the Middle Ages attracted immense crowds; after the pilgrimage to Rome or the Holy Land, it was the most famous and the most frequented pilgrimage in Christendom. The pilgrim paths to Compostella form a network over Europe; they are dotted with pilgrims' hospices and chapels, some of which still exist. Saint James is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I).



July 30, 2017

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon gains a kingdom
and seeks to rule it with an understanding heart.

Psalm 119:57+72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

The law of God is celebrated as a precious gift, a rich treasure.

Romans 8:28-30

Every fragment of our experience
can work toward the good for God lovers.

Matthew 13:44-52

Buried treasure, a great pearl, and sorting angels help describe God's reign.



THE COST OF THE KINGDOM

Do we love the way of God, or simply tolerate it? This is a question I ask myself every time I read Psalm 119. It's the Law Psalm, delineating in acrostic fashion all the reasons why the commands of God are worthy and desirable. Each acrostic spells out a Hebrew word for Torah, including: word, law, commandment, rules, decree, precepts, and teaching. By any other name, Torah expresses the way God wills the world to be. Needless to say, it's the longest psalm and longest chapter in the Bible (176 verses)—like getting 21 poems for the price of one.

Why did someone go to all this trouble to write an epic poem about being a law lover?

Context helps: Psalm 119 is composed after the Israelites return from exile to face the rubble and ruin of Judah's dead cities. There's no wall around Jerusalem to protect the returnees, no temple to assure them God is with them. The people are still obliged to pay taxes to the Persians and can't adopt their own king. They have no crops to gather in, and winter is coming on.

Militarily defenseless, religiously unmoored, occupied, leaderless, and poor. That's a lot of problems to have. How can a long song about God's law help? The writer declares that he "loves" the law, he "clings" to it—which sounds pretty intense. Seriously: What else do the people have to cling to in that grim season? In 176 verses, the psalmist never mentions Moses, Sinai, the Decalogue, or any written book of rules, which is surprising. Obviously he doesn't mean that law, the bunch of rules governing pious moral life in Israel. Instead, he quotes Jeremiah, Isaiah, Proverbs, and Job, all writings that speak of surrendering to God's justice and embracing God's ways, however inscrutable.

Psalm 119, in other words, is saying the same thing that Solomon expresses when faced with a frightening and unknown future: Dear God, show me the way. Give me your understanding, your wisdom. Let me see things as you see them, and guide me forward through this darkness.

Fast-forward to Jesus, teaching his disciples about God's kingdom. When God finally rules over all, what will happen? The short answer is: Things will be done "on earth as [they are] in heaven." What a transformation that will be! Once more, we're invited to enter a realm where we see from God's perspective. We should love this Kingdom vision, cling to it, sell all we have to get it. When the world is falling apart (and when isn't it?), what could be more certain than the way of God? If we saw the divine will for what it is, we would love it. We would rush toward it.

— Alice Camille

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"The Gospel of Jesus is ... the Kingdom himself."

— Origen (185-254)

MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

GREETERS AND USHERS: All weekend Masses require additional volunteers to serve as ushers to welcome our parishioners and visitors. If you are able and willing to help us out, please speak to one of our current ushers and/or contact one the following: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass: Richard Carlyle 204-889-0238; Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass: Lawrence Barton 204-889-1322; 11:45 a.m. Mass: Toni Anciro 204-889-3544. Thank you.

COFFEE WEEKENDS: We are looking for additional volunteers, especially for Saturdays, to assist with preparing and serving coffee and refreshments after Masses on the first weekend of the month. If you are able and willing to help us out in any way, please contact Chris Carlyle 204-889-0238 or email rccarlyl@gmail.com. Thank you.

TWO WEEK SCHEDULE: JULY 23 – AUGUST 6, 2017

As circumstances suggest, the schedule may be subject to change.

Please note that parish staff are taking holidays at various intervals throughout the summer.

Sunday, July 23	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
5:00 pm Saturday	MASS – <i>Dominic and Cecile Capri+</i> , requested by <i>Tannena Korolyk</i>
9:00 am	MASS – <i>Ben Procyshyn+</i> , requested by <i>Phyllis Garet</i>
11:45 am	MASS – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
Monday, July 24	Ferial <i>Parish office closed Monday</i>
Tuesday, July 25	FEAST: SAINT JAMES, Apostle
9:30 am – 12:00 noon	Office open
10:00 am	Al-Anon Meeting (<i>in room 12</i>)
10:30 am	FUNERAL MASS for Stella Marie Ollevier+ <i>Rite of Committal to follow at the Chapel Mausoleum, Assumption Cemetery</i>
Wednesday, July 26	FEAST: SAINT ANNE and SAINT JOACHIM, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Parish office closed Wednesday</i>
6:45 pm	Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm	MASS – <i>Nick and Gladys Gural+</i> , requested by <i>Rick and Cindy Grabowecky</i>
Thursday, July 27	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>
Friday, July 28	FERIAL
10:45 am	LITURGY OF THE WORD at Sturgeon Creek I Retirement Residence , 10 Hallonquist Drive
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Office open
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (<i>in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i>)
Saturday, July 29	MEMORIAL: SAINT MARTHA, Disciple of the Lord
5:00 pm	MASS – <i>Carmen Seguin+</i> , requested by <i>Linus Endacott and family</i>
Sunday, July 30	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 am	MASS – <i>Alan Turner+</i> (<i>birthday</i>), requested by <i>Nina Turner</i>
11:45 am	MASS – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
Monday, July 31	MEMORIAL: SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Priest <i>Parish office closed Monday</i>
Tuesday, August 1	MEMORIAL: SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
9:00 am	Recitation of the Rosary
9:15 am	MASS – <i>Harold Patson+</i> , requested by <i>Doreen Musick and family</i>
9:30 am – 12:00 noon	Office open
10:00 am	Al-Anon Meeting (<i>in room 12</i>)
Wednesday, August 2	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Wednesday – Custodian on duty</i>
10:30 am	LITURGY OF THE WORD at Golden West Centennial Lodge , 811 School Road
5:00 pm	Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank (<i>in room 12</i>)
6:45 pm	Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm	MASS – <i>Alexandra Crozier+</i> , requested by <i>Laurette and Doug Burch</i>
Thursday, August 3	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Thursday – Custodian on duty</i>

Friday, August 4	MEMORIAL: SAINT JOHN VIANNEY, Priest
9:00 am	Recitation of the Rosary
9:15 am	MASS – Tony Gaspur+ and other deceased family members, requested by Gaspur family
9:45 am	Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
9:50 am	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Office open
Saturday, August 5	FERIAL
5:00 pm	MASS – Julien Dusessoy+, requested by Dusessoy family
Sunday, August 6	FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
9:00 am	MASS – Catherine Endacott+ (3rd Anniv.), requested by Linus Endacott and family
11:45 am	MASS including the Baptism of Kyle Michael Goveas – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners

“Providence is the care God takes of all existing things.” — Saint John Damascene (676-749)

“A wise person is out of the reach of fortune.” — Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682)

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE PARISH, THE ARCHDIOCESE AND BEYOND

SERENA NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASS: Serena teaches a comprehensive two hour class on the Sympto-Thermal Method, a scientifically based, highly effective method of Natural Family Planning. The next class is **Saturday, July 29, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Classes are held at the Misericordia Health Centre, 99 Cornish Avenue, Winnipeg. For more information, call or text Serena at 204-783-0091 or email mbserena@gmail.com or check out our website www.serenamb.com

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND MINDFULNESS: We need more than our sharpest minds to solve the problems before us. We need the Spirit. As First Peoples of this land, Indigenous Elders invite citizens of all religious and spiritual traditions to come together for a National Day of Prayer and Mindfulness to pray together in solidarity and unity. The Day of Prayer begins on **August 6, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** at the East Coast of Canada and follows the path of the sun traveling from East to West. Please join us with your moment of prayer, ceremony or mindfulness at 9:00 a.m. local time in your region. For more information see the poster or go to www.turtlelodge.org/event-view/everyprayermatters/

SAINT-MALO CATHOLIC CAMPS: For youth aged 5 to 17 years old. Archery, mountain biking, canoeing, beach time, sports, campfires, music, drama, and also prayer time and spiritual formation. We are the only Catholic sleepover camp in Manitoba offered in English and French. Register online at www.stmalocamps.net There are also job opportunities for those 14 years and older. For more information, please see website online at www.stmalocamps.net or email camps@catholicway.net or phone 204-347-5396

ST. BENEDICT'S MONASTERY AND RETREAT CENTRE: **Fermata** (a musical term meaning hold or pause) is a time to pause before returning to the everyday world of work, study, parenting, grand parenting ... whatever your busy life holds. Fermata Retreat will be held **August 17-20, 2017**. Cost for everything is \$200. Treat yourself to a spiritual holiday at St. Benedict's Monastery and Retreat Centre, 225 Masters Ave., Winnipeg MB R4A 2A1, 204-338-4601. Check out more information on our website www.stbens.ca

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND RECONCILIATION: St. Paul's College presents a new course for Fall 2017 entitled The Catholic Church, Indigenous Peoples, and Reconciliation. This course is open to both registered students at the University of Manitoba and those who choose to take it (audit) without credit. It will be taught by Professor Rheel Cenerini on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. For more information, contact Dr. Daniel MacLeod, email daniel.macleod@umanitoba.ca at the Catholic Studies program.

For other events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, please see information posted on bulletin boards at the north and south entrances of the church, and/or go to the website: www.archwinnipeg.ca/weekly_bulletin.php

PAD / OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2017: Parishioners are encouraged to register for pre-authorized debit. Visitors may use “My Offering” envelopes available at the church entrance. New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register for pre-authorized debit or regular offering envelopes.