

# ST. THERESA'S CHURCH

## ACCENDO

TO KINDLE, ILLUMINATE AND INFLAME



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JULY 2014

### A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JAMES

Dear Sisters and Brothers, we have our second edition of our newsletter, which is a good step on our journey towards a living and active community of faith in Halifax. Our goal is to become a living and vibrant family of Christ here in the midst of Halifax. There are several aspects that we have to address and approach, in order to reach this goal. There are two equally important aspects that we need to work on at the same time, and both are connected with building: we need to build our community, so that we are strong in the spirit as a family of Christ, and we need to build our church building, so that we, as a family, can have a home to celebrate together, to pray to-

gether, and to let Christ come into our midst in our liturgies.

The first aspect, to build our community, is very important, as only as a strong community will we have the means of building our home. We have made progress this year in becoming a family in Christ, but we cannot rest on this success. We have to continue and increase our efforts in becoming active and vibrant. We, as a parish family, can be active and vibrant, regardless if our buildings are in perfect shape or not.

The second aspect, to build our home, we are approaching with all our efforts possible. The first step is to make our rectory more welcoming and

we will do so during several stages during the summer, by painting the entrance stairs, and by replacing the old carpet. Another aspect of our work in this area is that we are looking into possibilities regarding the reconstruction of the main entrance of the church.

As a family we will always need a home to gather in, to celebrate in, and to be active in. We need this home, and, if at all possible, we want to maintain it to the best of our abilities. This is, however, only possible, if we, as a family work together in building our community, and in building our church. I firmly believe that we can do it!



#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Message from Fr. James*
- *Our Spirituality*
- *Happy Birthday*
- *Veronica - Our Sacristan*
- *Congrats Sr. Gemma*
- *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
- *Regular and Upcoming Events*
- *Our History Continued*

### OUR ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IS OUR SPIRITUALITY

The centre and transforming component of our encounter with Christ is our spirituality. But the term spirituality can oftentimes be filled with many different conceptions and notions of what it means to live a spiritual life. One of them is what is called to be "spiritual but not religious". As it is a rather predominant attitude towards spirituality in our day, we have to understand very well what it means to be "spiritual and Catho-

lic", in order to offer an alternative to this widespread notion.

Spiritual and catholic first of all means to be open and looking for an encounter with Christ, and then to live our lives inspired and strengthened by this encounter. At the core of this attitude is our profession of faith: that Jesus Christ is a full human being, who at the same time is fully God. Jesus Christ is the full revelation of God to human-

kind, and in Him can we find our way of approaching God. In fact, Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6).

Our Catholic Spirituality, therefore, is first of all an encounter with Christ, the Son of the living God, as we hear in the confession of Peter in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 16:16). This encounter then transforms us, and we will live our lives in a different manner than before.

To be Catholic also means to discover the many different modes of spirituality, the many different ways how this one way, Jesus Christ, can be experienced and encountered, and how these different experiences can then be put into practice.

In this series of articles we will focus on the different expressions of Catholic spirituality, in order to introduce them and to give us an opportunity to discover the vast treasure of the Catholic Tradition.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



St. Theresa's Parish celebrated the Birth of the Church and our Parish Family on Pentecost Sunday, June 7th and 8th. A reception was held after both Masses.



## VERONICA HACKETT - OUR SACRISTAN



The year was 1950 when Veronica Hartery resigned her teaching career in Newfoundland to follow her heart to Halifax to marry Raymond Hackett in St. Mary's Basilica in October the following year. The ceremony was performed by the young Father James Hayes who later was to become the Archbishop of the Diocese of Halifax.

She and Raymond were blessed with three children, two sons and a daughter. Sadly, in 1975 her husband passed away. In the years following her six grandchildren became her pride and joy.

In 1975 Father Michael Dwyer, Assistant Pastor,

asked Veronica if she would temporarily take on the weekend responsibilities of the Rectory. She has cooked and cleaned for a number of the Pastors of the parish. She soon took up the responsibility of being Sacristan at the Church. A position she still holds today. Since first becoming involved, she has served 8 pastors. She has been in the Sacristy nearly forty years preparing for our Liturgies - be it on Sundays, weekdays or special celebrations. She has taken care of the linens, priest's vestments for Mass, she ensure that the vigil lights are replenished, etc., etc, etc. At Christmas and Easter she puts in an incredible amount of hours making sure everything is

clean, polished and ready for the special Feasts.

She has received several awards throughout her life, having been the recipient of the Papal Citation for her volunteer work over the years. In addition, in 1990 she was awarded the Diocesan Medal of Merit for her outstanding service to the church. She has trained many altar servers, was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and has been a member of the CWL for 40 years.

This special woman exemplifies the true meaning of Christian charity by her deep faith and generous heart – a lady who truly gives of herself in every sense of the word!



## CONGRATS SR. GEMMA!

**COME CELEBRATE  
WITH SISTER GEMMA  
IN HONOUR OF HER  
MAKING PERPETUAL  
VOWS AS A FRANCIS-  
CAN OF HALIFAX**

Please join us to celebrate with Sister Gemma who has given so much of her time and talents to the youth in our parish. It will take place at St. Theresa's church following the 9:30am Mass on Sunday, July 13th. We will play the beautiful game (Soccer) on the front lawn fol-

lowed by BBQ hot dogs, popcorn and cake. If it rains there will be fun activities in the church hall.

**All are Welcome!**

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic adoration is a practice in the Roman Catholic Church, in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed to and adored by the faithful.

The practice of adoration traces its roots to the fact that in monasteries and convents the Blessed Sacrament was an integral part of the structure of cloistered life. One of the first possible references of reserving the Blessed Sacrament for adoration is found in the life of St. Basil, who died in 379.

The Franciscan archives credit St. Francis of Assisi (who died in 1226) for starting Eucharistic adoration in Italy. The lay practice of adoration formally began in France in 1226.

Adoration is a sign of devotion to and worship of Jesus Christ who is present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, under the appearance of the consecrated host. The host is displayed in a **monstrance**, typically placed on the altar.

“The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth. It is a glorious ray of

the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey....” (Saint John Paul 11).

### A meditation Jesus are you really there?

*We come and see an artistic adornment. A host, Is that You? We see Your crucifix, Your image on a cross. It is familiar to us. We identify with that image. It is You, Lord. But are we really kneeling in Your presence? We kneel here and see a representation of You in total suffering - martyred God. Shouldn't we be awed by Your splendor Lord, overwhelmed by Your majesty, power and greatness? Shouldn't we see you as the glorified Lord of Lords, and King of Kings – in a brilliant white light, majestic and beautiful beyond belief? Lord, if we truly kneel before You, and if You are the Creator and we just the creatures, kneeling here in Your presence, shouldn't we be in some massive hall, some great room? I mean, shouldn't there be twenty foot high ceilings, and great columns, and marble floors and walls?*

*Isn't there suppose to be plush carpet and a high throne with a gold chair? Shouldn't there be Heavenly choirs of soft music – an array of angels everywhere? And great choirs singing Your praises?*

*How should we approach You, Lord, in Your hidden presence?*

**I invite you to come and spend an hour in silence in St. Theresa s Chapel and hear what He may answer.**

*The above is taken from Wikipedia Encyclopedia and the booklet, “An Hour with Jesus”, the Riehle Foundation*



Adoration is a sign of devotion to and worship of Jesus Christ who is present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, under the appearance of the consecrated host.

## REGULAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 9:30 am

### Weekday Mass Times:

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am

### Adoration:

Monday to Friday

9:30am until 4:30 pm

- July 8 **Sr. Gemma MacLeod, Perpetual Vows**  
7:00pm at St. Catherine's
- July 12 The Franciscans of Halifax will host a **Photography Art Show and Sale**. There will be music, fellowship and light refreshments. Proceeds to our Education Fund.  
7:00pm in St. Catherine's Hall
- July 13 **Religious Education will celebrate with Sr. Gemma** in honour of her vows.  
Immediately following the 9:30am Mass
- July 18 **Br. Grant McLean, Permanent Diaconate**  
7:00pm at St. Catherine's
- Aug. 10 **Mini Olympics** (more details to follow)



## ST. THERESA'S PARISH

6351 North Street  
Halifax, NS  
B3L 1P7

Phone: 454-8221  
Fax: 454-6117

E-mail: [sttheresachurch@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sttheresachurch@ns.sympatico.ca)

WE ARE ON THE WEB:  
[www.sttheresachurch.ca](http://www.sttheresachurch.ca)



@STTHERESANORTHIS



SAINTTHERESAPARISH6351NORTHST

**WE ARE A FAMILY IN CHRIST**

## History of St. Theresa's Parish continued...

On September 30, 1930, Archbishop Thomas O'Donnell turned the first sod with the newly appointed first Pastor, Msgr. Michael J. Cole with Curate, Father Leo Day also in attendance. The first Mass in the newly completed basement church was celebrated on Christmas Eve 1931 and the present rectory was built in 1937, at a total cost of \$22,000.00.

Following his death in 1948, Msgr. Cole was succeeded by Most Rev. A.B. Leverman, Auxiliary Bishop who was later appointed Bishop of Saint John, N.B. In 1953, Msgr. James Granville was named to replace Bishop Leverman and held that post until 1955. Msgr. William J. Burns, was then appointed Pastor of St. Theresa's and was followed in 1965 by Rev. John Heffler who was appointed the new Pastor. Under Father Heffler's leadership the basement church was converted to the present stone structure.

Following his retirement in 1979 Father Heffler was replaced by Rev. John DeLouchry and under his leadership several structural changes took place including additions and renovations to the present rectory to include offices and additional meeting rooms. A major part of the renovations included a ramp to the church entrance to accommodate the disabled and elderly.

Continued in the August issue.....

## EMAIL ANYONE?

Should you wish to receive your monthly newsletter via email or view all the issues on our website, please let us know by emailing Pat at:

[sttheresachurch@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sttheresachurch@ns.sympatico.ca)



**Congratulations to  
Catherine Pink**  
(our Newsletter name and  
logo contest winner)

**Name** - Accendo - to kindle, illuminate and inflame. Representative of what we are trying to accomplish within our Parish and the Archdioceses.

**Logo** - all inclusive family community. (similar to stick figure family decals)

## GOD WILL PROVIDE

A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man. The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk.

'So what are your plans?' the father asked the young man.

'I am a biblical scholar,' he replied.

'A Biblical scholar. Hmmm,' the father said. 'Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?'

'I will study,' the young man replied, 'and God will provide for us.'

'And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?' asked the father.

'I will concentrate on my studies,' the young man replied, 'God will provide for us.'

'And children?' asked the father. 'How will you support children?'

'Don't worry, sir, God will provide,' replied the fiancé.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, 'How did it go, Honey?'

The father answered, 'He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God!'