

ST. THERESA'S CHURCH

SERAPHIC NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 JUNE 2014

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JAMES

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with great joy that I present this newsletter to you. In this issue we want to let you know about all the things that are going on in St. Theresa's Parish, so that you are well-informed about everything that we, as a parish family, have to offer. The Seraphic News will be published once a month, and are part of our communication efforts with you, our brothers and sisters. It is important for us to keep

you informed about our parish family. We intend our family to grow, and information about the community and the building are key for this future growth.

Our vision is to become a vibrant, active parish, that reaches out to our neighbours, and loves them as Christ has loved us.

This newsletter is going to be the first step towards this project.

I wish you a blessed summer, and hope to see you in



the parish, where we can speak about your interests, and receive your feedback.

Peace and all Good,

Fr. James+

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF PASTORAL COUNCIL

I'm here to let you know that your Parish Council is alive and well, as is our wonderful parish of St. Theresa's.

We got off to a flying start in September with the forming of renewal groups before Christmas: The Senior's Social, Adult Formation and the Youth - Social Justice/Young Mothers' Group. The purpose of these groups is to help bring new life to the parish.

We introduced the Book of

Special Intentions. Parishioners are invited to write their special prayers in these books which are brought forward during the Offertory at Mass. It is our hope that a more personal, spiritual involvement in the Liturgy would be experienced by all.

To help build community, another initiative was for everyone, including our Pastor, to be more interactive and welcoming at the Sign of Peace. This greeting

during Mass seems to carry over to the much appreciated coffee social.

Name tag Sunday is helping us to put names to these faces we don't know. This event is happening once every two months from September to June.

Our Pastoral Council meets once a month. If you are interested in being part of the Council, we encourage you to put your name forward for nomination.

Joanie Langley, Chair

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Message from Fr. James*
- *Message from the Pastoral Council Chair*
- *Spring Clean-up*
- *Building our Community*
- *1st Holy Communion*
- *Message from the Finance Council Chair*
- *Regular and Upcoming Events*
- *Contest of name and logo of Newsletter*



SPRING CLEAN-UP

The family of Christ was very evident on Saturday, May 3rd when over 60 parish members gathered at St. Theresa's for a spring cleanup and beautification of our church home and its grounds.

We beautified outside by raking the lawns, picking up garbage and planting shrubs around the church. Inside, we spruced up things by dusting, washing down the pews, floors and straightening up

books, etc. We ended our event with a good ole-fashioned BBQ.

Thanks to all who participated in the day.



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY, BUILDING OUR SOCIETY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our parish and our community are in front of many challenges regarding our future. Our society continues to change around us, oftentimes with changes that affect our truly human and Christian identity. These challenges are many, and can be found on the smallest level of our society and community up to the largest political discussions taking place around us. The biggest challenge we face is that our society is developing into a society where fear is predominant: the fear of having a job, of having a secure income, of being safe and secure in our lives, of having deep and meaningful relationships that give us hope and

security. These fears, and many more, rule our society, which lead to a sundering of the deep bonds of a community, so that people begin to exist for and by themselves. Identity is no longer connected with being in relationship, that is with belonging to something or someone, but simply reduced to what we, as individuals and as communities, do.

This is where we have to begin to build our community, so that our parish family becomes a visible sign of God's enduring love and redemption in the world. This love and redemption can only be found in welcome, in relationships that endure and that do not change with the wind

of time. This is the first place where we, as Christ's family on earth, have to begin our work. If Christ's love and light shines in our relationships, we will attract many others, as this goodness and love, this light, will always draw those looking for it. Our parish program for the coming years is this: to build a spiritual home for the people looking for God, in our relationships, so that we then can rebuild the physical home that is St. Theresa's. The challenge is ours, and I believe we are ready to take it on, as a family in Christ, whose help will never abandon us.

Peace and all Good

Fr. James+



Lord, I love the beauty of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION



This year we had eight children in our Religious Education Program receive for their first time the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Students in grade two and one in grade four received instruction from Sister Gemma, who used the

new Diocesan program "Be My Disciple" during gatherings that took place biweekly. They worked with their parents at home using workbooks The Sacrament of Reconciliation "Making Things Right" and A Preparation for First Eucharist "Called to His

Supper". Father James and Father Roberto heard the children's first confessions in February and they received their First Holy Communion from Father James on May fourth.

Anne O'Rourke
Religious Education Coordinator

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL

My name is Michael Butler. I am the current chair of St Theresa's Finance Committee. As part of St. Theresa's spiritual family, we all need to know about our financial position as the state of our finances has a significant impact on the activities that we want to do within the Parish. It is no secret that we have financial challenges within our Parish, not the least of which has to do with repairs needed for the church structure.

In the 2013 Annual Report we have had another year of deficit which means we had more expenses than income.

Efforts have been made to try and contain various expenses but like everyone with a home, we continue to face significant costs.

For example the cost of furnace oil is a problem for everyone who has a home to run. Our fuel cost for 2013 totaled \$39,715. That represents 14% of our operating expenses.

Unfortunately our special collections for fuel costs covered less than 8% of the total cost of fuel.

In 2013 we also have slightly improved our weekly collections, we have given generously to the hurricane relief effort for the Philippines for a total of \$5220, and we have continued to work together to raise funds through social activities and other events.

It is these actions of working together for the greater good of our Parish family that makes all of our efforts worthwhile.

Yes, we have financial challenges for which we do not yet have all the answers, although as Christians we do know that God already knows the answers. We do know that we will have to continue to manage our resources responsibly. Our resources include what you

give generously in the form of money, in the form of volunteer service and your prayers as well as the existing church property and community spirit that has been handed down to us from previous generations of parishioners. All of these resources must be managed with a view to improving the health and vitality of our Parish community.

Yes, we have a lot to be thankful for including our challenges which we should embrace rather than fear. Our challenges will make us stronger and more committed to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit so we can share His wisdom, His experience, His knowledge and His love so we can be more inspired to do God's holy work as Christians.

Thank you for your ongoing support and God bless you all!

It is these actions of working together for the greater good of our Parish family that makes all of our efforts worth-while.

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

June 23 **Moral Theology and Responsible Freedom**

- 27 10am - 12:30pm, Pius X Room
Br. Didier Caenepeel, O.P.

June 27 **End of Life Lecture**

Br. Didier Caenepeel, O.P.
7:00pm , Pius X Room No charge

July 8 **Sr. Gemma MacLeod, Perpetual Vows**

7:00pm at St. Catherine's

July 18 **Br. Grant McLean, Permanent Diaconate**

St. Catherine's



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WE ARE A FAMILY IN CHRIST

History of St. Theresa's Parish

The Parish's story begins in 1917 when the Diocese of Halifax realized that consideration should be given to establishing a new parish to serve the rapidly growing northwestern section of Halifax, which at that time was served by St. Patrick's and St. Agnes' Parishes.

Archbishop E. J. McCarthy called a meeting of interested persons for December 6, 1917, the day of the Halifax Explosion; as a result of this disaster the meeting was never held. The only action taken between 1917 and 1930 was in 1919, when land was purchased for the new parish at the present site of North and Dublin Streets, for the price of \$7,200.00

Continue in the July newsletter.....

CONTEST FOR NEWSLETTER NAME/LOGO

Dear brothers and sisters,
As you see our newsletter has a name, a name that just crossed our mind for this first edition. We would like you, our family, to participate in the creation and making of this newsletter. Send us proposals for names for our newsletter, and give us an explanation of the idea. The more ideas we get, the better it is for us, as we then will have to choose the title we will use for the next year, that is until June 2015.

We also would like to ask you to help us design a logo for our newsletter, a logo that carries our parish iden-

tity and our mission within it. Once again the more participants we have, the better it will be, as then we will have to choose the logo we will use for the next year, until June 2015. Send us a drawing, a picture, and let us know about the reason why you chose this drawing, or picture.

Those whose suggestion for a name, and those whose idea for a logo has won this contest, will receive a small prize of our appreciation.

The deadline for this contest is Monday, June 23rd, 2014.

Living Proof

A rich man was lamenting to a friend that people considered him a miser even though he had said that when he died, he would leave everything to charity. The friend said; Let me tell you a story about the pig and the cow.

The pig was complaining to the cow about how unpopular he was. People are always talking about your gentleness and your kind eyes. Sure you give milk and cream but I give more. I give bacon and ham, and they even pickle my feet, still nobody likes me. Why?

The cow thought this over for a moment and then said, It may be because I give while I am still living.



