



St. John's Newsletter

**A Quarterly Newsletter to keep
you
up-to-date on
What's happening in YOUR Parish
Sept./Oct./ Nov./Dec. 2020
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Dear Parishioners: It's time for our second and last Newsletter for 2020. You will notice it is for four months, rather than three. This will allow us to make it quarterly in 2021.

The times continue

to be challenging for all. It is especially difficult for those who live in Retirement or Long Term Care facilities. Many have not been able to visit with loved ones since March, and virtual visits using Facetime etc. are very difficult for any resident who is experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Those who are fortunate to have a loved one on a ground floor have been able to visit at a window, which is a bit better, but not ideal. Also visits in person still require a chaperone, so they also are not ideal as well. Hospital visiting is still a bit complicated, but they are possible. If you are in hospital and would like a visit, you or a family member may call and make a request. Please make sure the day you request the visit you let family members know not to come during that time period, otherwise Father will not be allowed in. If you are in a Care Home or Retirement Residence, Father would be glad to visit, but please check first with staff to see what the requirements are and if a visit is possible. We continue to pray for all of you during these difficult and uncertain times. We also pray for a vaccine and treatment for Covid-19 soon, so life can return to its "new normal."

Attendance at Divine Liturgy is going well, although, of course, numbers are down. We are averaging about 15 to 20 for the Saturday Mass, and about 25-30 for Sunday Mass. Sunday Mass also continues to be livestreamed and is viewed not only by our parishioners, but also people from Australia, England, Croatia, Poland, Ukraine, Peru, the Philippines, Argentina, the United States and from many other parts of Canada. We thank Roy Barton for making this most important ministry available to all.

Chrystine continues to work hard in the office, and Parish Council is doing everything in its power to keep things running smoothly. The kitchen is up and running, and although we are making less product these days, it is a great financial help. I for my part and doing everything I can do to keep us afloat. From the first day of the Pandemic I have been around trying to figure out how to keep things viable along with our treasurer Alan Struk. We are fortunate to have Government assistance with payroll, and this has allowed us to keep most of our staff. The only lay off has been Svitlana, since we are still not able to have a choir participate at services. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all of our cherished parishioners can return back safely and with confidence for Sunday service and our coffee social.

We also look forward to being able to do our many fundraisers that help us keep the parish vibrant, and support many of the worthy causes in our community that we have in the past. Please be assured of our continued prayers and, for the time being wear your mask, practice social distancing and stay safe!

Father Anton.



HOLY FATHER SAYS NOT TO GOSSIP!

By [Courtney Mares](#)

Vatican City, Sep 6, 2020 / 05:45 am MT ([CNA](#)).

Pope Francis implored Catholics

Sunday not to gossip about one another's faults, but instead to follow Jesus' directive on fraternal correction in the Gospel of Matthew. "When we see a mistake, a defect, a slip of a brother or sister, usually the first thing we do is go and tell others about it, to gossip. And gossip closes the heart of the community, disrupts the unity of the Church," Pope Francis said in his Angelus address Sept. 6th. "The great talker is the devil, who always goes about saying the bad things of others, because he is the liar who tries to disunite the Church, alienating brothers and sisters and unmaking community. Please, brothers and sisters, let's make an effort not to gossip. Gossiping is a plague worse than COVID," he told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Francis said that Catholics need to live out Jesus' "pedagogy of rehabilitation" — described in chapter 18 of the Gospel of Matthew — "if your brother sins against you". He explained: "To correct a brother who has done wrong, Jesus suggests a pedagogy for rehabilitation ... articulated in three steps. In the first place he says: 'point out the fault when the two of you are alone', that is, do not air his sin in public. It is about going to your brother with discretion, not to judge him but to help him realize what he has done." "How many times have we had this experience: someone comes and tells us: 'But, listen, you are wrong in this. You should change a

little in this.' Perhaps at first we get angry, but then we are grateful because it is a gesture of brotherhood, of communion, of help, of recovery," the pope said. Acknowledging that at times this private disclosure of another's fault may not be received well, Pope Francis pointed out that the Gospel says not to give up but to seek the support of another person. "Jesus says: 'If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses,'" the pope said. "This is the attitude of recovery that Jesus wants from us," he added. The third step of Jesus' pedagogy of rehabilitation is to tell the community, that is the Church, Francis said. "In some situations the whole community gets involved." "Jesus' pedagogy is always a pedagogy of rehabilitation; He always tries to recover, to save," the pope said. Pope Francis explained that Jesus expanded upon existing Mosaic Law in going on to explain that community intervention may be insufficient. "It takes a greater love to rehabilitate a brother," he said. "Jesus says: 'And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.' This expression, seemingly so scornful, in reality invites us to put the brother in God's hands: Only the Father will be able to show a greater love than that of all brothers and sisters put together ... It is the love of Jesus, who had embraced the tax collectors and Gentiles, scandalizing the conformists of the time."

This is also a recognition that after our human attempts may fail, we can still entrust our brother who is in error to God "in silence and prayer," he added. "Only by being alone before God can the brother face his own conscience and responsibility for his actions," he said. "If things don't go right, prayer and silence for the brother and sister who is wrong, but never gossip." After praying the Angelus, Pope Francis greeted pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, including the newly arrived American seminarians living at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and women with multiple sclerosis who completed a walking pilgrimage from Siena to Rome along the Via Francigena. "May the Virgin Mary help us to make fraternal correction a healthy practice, so that in our community's ever new fraternal relationships, founded on mutual forgiveness and above all on the invincible

power of God's mercy, may be instilled," Pope Francis said.

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, Sir," the new recruit replied. "Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."



ST. JOHN'S IS GETTING A MUCH NEEDED NEW ROOF:

After two years of putting off the roof replacement between the Church and Hall, it has become necessary to replace the roof now, before any serious damage results and since costs just continue to rise. The replacement of the roof will cost 50,000.00 with additional expenses being incurred for a crane rental to lift the heating and air conditioning units so the work can be done properly and then the units reinstalled and all the ductwork being properly wrapped. This is estimated to cost about another 10,000.00 bringing the total repair bill to about 60,000.00. Because we have such a capable treasure in Alan Struk, we did have money put away for a rainy day, therefore it will not be necessary to borrow or ask the Eparchy for financial assistance. We will over time have to top up this rainy day fund, and are confident that once things return to normal we can accomplish this goal. Thanks all for your support!

A message from Bob Oleksiw, Pastoral Council Chairperson



Dear members of St Johns

It has been several months since our last correspondence and we have decided to send out another letter to our beloved parishioners. I hope that you and your families are safe and healthy and have

been able to find some peace in these uncertain times.

As no one knows when things will return to what we remember, we continue to follow the following protocols:

- Pre-registration for attending mass is still required in order to maintain the 50-person limit and to track any potential positive contacts.
- Temperatures are taken, recorded and used to verify entry
- Wearing masks and using the supplied hand sanitizer is required before entering the church.

Mass times are as before, Saturdays at 4:15pm and Sundays at 10:00am. Sunday services continue to be streamed online and Monsignor Anton has been able to share our faith 'digitally' to those unable to attend in person. We continue to be viewed by hundreds of people including many from out of the country sharing the love of God with all. Special thanks to Roy (and his sons) for managing the live video links, purchasing necessary equipment. Live streaming will continue, as it allows people to view our masses in the safety of their homes if they are not yet comfortable attending in person or away on holidays.

Some have asked why they do not see Fr. Basil on the live streams, it is not because he is camera shy, but health & safety protocols allow only one clergy member at the altar at a time. He is in attendance but physically distant from Monsignor Anton.

Our office is running at full speed with Chrys handling our daily operational needs. She reports that donations are coming in through many different channels and automatic debit is gaining popularity with our parishioners. We still do have ongoing operating costs that must be covered, and thanks to all who have helped over the past few months, we have been able to keep things going. For those who are interested in signing up for direct deposit; please reach out to Chrys and she can set you up.

We remind all that if you need to attend the office, please make an appointment ahead of time, walk-ins are not permitted!

Alan our Treasurer continues to monitor our income & expenses and manage funds to serve our parish in its best interest. Things seem to change daily and he is keeping on top of all the updates. We will be incurring a large unexpected expense for a roof repair that will be undertaken shortly and will result in the total updating of our roofing surfaces. This should conclude all our roofing needs for the distant future. We were not sure if we could afford this upgrade but potential water damage costs and future increases to repair materials made it necessary to attend to this repair now.

Our indoor and outdoor maintenance crews are working hard to keep our facilities looking beautiful and in good repair. Anthony continues to keep us all safe by ensuring the surfaces are not only clean but disinfected as well. The very hot weather and little rain challenged our outdoor landscaping crew this year, but they have done a wonderful job to keep things green and blooming.

Additional updates include:

- The kitchen has been selling food as fast as it can be produced, our products have been modified to allow fewer people to make quality products and still produce a profit for us. Thanks to the kitchen team for being flexible in their ways and being open to wearing the proper PPE
- Plexiglas panels and distancing signage have been working well in the store area and make for limited personal contact with buyers
- Touchless faucets for hand washing have been installed in store and kitchen areas
- Automatic door openers are being used to limit touching surfaces to gain entry and exit both the church and store areas
- we are unsure when they can resume
- including our own church events.

- Refunds were issued for event bookings that were scheduled for later this year as As a church family we have the strength and ability to work through these unprecedented times and once again gather in prayer and fellowship. Council and Monsignor Anton meet regularly to discuss parish issues and are working for all our best interests.

Please forward any questions, concerns or comments to myself or Father Anton for discussion (i.e. concerns about attending masses or volunteering in the kitchen). We will continue to send updates as things evolve.

Please stay safe and pray for those who need help during these unusually difficult times.

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC...

Dear Lord, May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we, who have no risk factor, remember the most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health or paying their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools are closed, remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of Jesus to our neighbours. Amen.