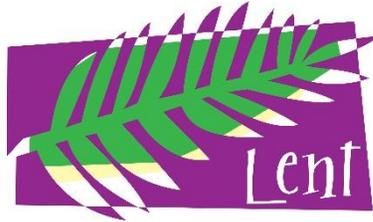


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



St. Paul's Lenten Adventure - March 24

Join us in the St. Paul's Parish Hall on **Saturday March 24, from 4-5:30 pm**, for an inter-generational (all ages) "*Lenten Adventure*." Crafts, Colouring, Games, Singing, Story-time & Supper are all on the agenda as we get ready to share in the

excitement of Palm Sunday, the self-giving love of Good Friday, and the joy of Easter. This event is free and open to everyone, but in order to help us prepare ***please register by Thursday March 21*** and let us know how many in your party are planning to attend.

Palm Sunday Parade - March 25 at 10 AM

Come celebrate the start of Holy Week with us on Palm Sunday with a parade! Our Sunday School class will be all dressed up in Bible-inspired costumes, waving our palm branches and singing... and we would love for you to join us. Anyone interested in joining in on the parade is invited to come to Church a little early (around 9:30 AM) to pick out your costumes and get ready with us. (If you could also let us know ahead of time, that would be great so we can make sure to have enough costumes ready.)

Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser - "Beard Challenge" Extension

Thank you to everyone who supported our parish team in the recent Coldest Night of the Year - Walk for Homelessness. As donations are still able to be accepted until March 31, 2018, our Family & Youth Minister, Rob Montgomery, is *extending* his challenge a bit further: If our team can raise a total of \$1,800 by March 17, then his beard will be shaven in a manner chosen by our top donor. Many thanks again to everyone who offered their support for this very worthy cause on our own doorstep.

<https://cnoy.org/donate>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some Recent Sunday School Changes

- ❖ Sunday School kids now *start off* Sunday mornings downstairs in their class.
- ❖ Children ages 3+ can be brought downstairs beginning at 9:50am.
- ❖ Parents with younger children are free to use our Nursery Room at any time, and any child is welcome to remain in the service if they would like.
- ❖ Parents are encouraged to come downstairs during the Offertory hymn to accompany their children back upstairs for Eucharist with the rest of the congregation.
- ❖ This change will mean that for most weeks, there will be no Children's Talk during the service, however...
- ❖ At least once a month, we will be planning to have our children stay with us for the entire service. On these weeks, a Children's Talk will be offered, and there will also be other resources and opportunities meant to help our children to experience and engage in the service.

PARISH NOTES

"You Can Come Home Again."

Today, the New Dawn Players will be visiting with us at the 10 a.m. Eucharist. They will be presenting their version of the story of the Prodigal Son. The New Dawn Players exists as an outreach ministry incorporating the talents of persons with varying abilities. The founders of the New Dawn Players were the same people involved in founding L'arche Saint John. Though supportive of each other, they are separate entities. They are led by volunteers who provide transportation, costuming, and coaching. Last year, they performed the story of the Wedding at Cana.

Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday in Lent is traditionally referred to as Mothering Sunday. Historically, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.) And most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children being given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift. The Fourth Sunday in Lent is also called Laetare Sunday (from the Latin for 'rejoice') and also Refreshment Sunday. It is a day when the rigours of our Lenten penance can be relaxed. The food item specially associated with Mothering Sunday is the simnel cake. The cake is sometimes made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) The name 'simnel' probably comes from the Latin word *simnel* which means a fine wheat flour usually used for baking a cake. There's a legend that a man called Simon and his wife Nell argued over whether the cake for Mothering Sunday should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after both of them: SIM-NELL.

Flowers for Easter

Anyone who would like to make a donation toward the cost of Easter flowers in memory of a loved one is asked to contact the office at 847-1812. Your donation may be placed in the Sunday offering plate marked "Altar Guild - Easter Flowers" or dropped off at the office.

Speaker from One Change at Coffee Hour Today

Barry Galloway, Executive Director of One Change, will be with us this morning at Coffee Hour. He will be speaking about the work being done in the North End of Saint John that addresses such issues as crime, poverty, unemployment, poor health and lack of education. There are handouts on the lobby table if you would like more information to take with you.

Documenting Memorials

We are planning to record all the things that have been donated to our church in memory of a loved one in the past fifteen to twenty years. If you have donated or know of something that was given, please send the details to Pam Iype by email (pam_iype@yahoo.ca) or write it out and drop it in the office. We do not want anything or anyone to be left out.

Coffee Schedule

The Mission Within Committee will be preparing a new coffee hour volunteer schedule soon. If you would like to be added to the rotation to help with coffee hour 2 or 3 times a year, please call Pam Iype at 847-2559 or email her at pam_iype@yahoo.ca.

Lenten Challenge

At our last diocesan synod, the Bishop strongly commended the book "*Surprise the World*" to be read by everyone. This punchy little book encourages parishes to be intentional in the way they live the mission to share the gospel. I would like to challenge you all to read this book during Lent and to start to think about ways that we, as a parish, can be more mission-centred. Then, after Easter, we can meet and discuss the future shape of our shared ministry at St. Paul's. *We have just 30 copies, and they have been in circulation for a couple of weeks. If you have a copy and are finished reading it, please pass it on to a Parish friend or neighbor, or bring it in to the lobby or narthex to be picked up by another.*

Study Series: Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues

The seven deadly sins are those great spiritual roadblocks that inhibit the growth of our relationship with God and one another. In this study, we will learn how we can be trapped by pride, envy, anger, sloth, gluttony, avarice and lust - and more importantly, how we can counter-act these by practicing the 'seven lively virtues.' This five part weekly study series, led by Fr. Paul, continues on **Tue, Mar 13, 7:30 p.m.** It's not too late to join us.

It's Almost Time to Make Palm Crosses!

Palm crosses for Palm Sunday will be made on **Fri, Mar 23 at 10.00 AM** in the Church Hall. You can learn to make the crosses and enjoy the camaraderie of the people helping out. Come and join us, the more the merrier!

A Thank You Note to the Spring Cleaners

Our spring cleaning project last week was a success. We have recovered a lot of space downstairs and the work has begun to create a boardroom style meeting space. Thank you to Lew Hounsell, Ted Sayre, Fr. Paul, Katherine Grant and her brother Hazen. What a great job you did!



Calling all Bowlers!

Parish teams are now being formed to compete in an Annual Bowling Tournament. The goal is to raise funds for the food banks of this area. Our neighbouring parishes have put together teams (sometimes more than one) and have challenged us to do the same. The tournament is on **Apr 21, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.** at the Kennebecasis Valley Bowling Lanes. The entry fee is \$20 per competitor. Teams can also solicit sponsors. If you are interested in forming or taking part in a parish team, please speak to Fr. Paul.

The Parish Prayer Chain

The Parish Prayer Chain meets on a monthly basis and is looking for new members. They welcome people to call with specific prayer requests which are handled in a confidential manner. If interested in joining this group or for additional information please call the church office or this month's contact person **Liz Reid @ 847-7642**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation (also known as Penance or Confession) is available by appointment and can be easily arranged by contacting Fr. Paul. For those unfamiliar with the rite, it can be found starting on page 166 of the Book of Alternative Services.

Pastoral Visitation

Anyone wanting a home visit, or wishing to discuss prayer, spirituality, or any other pastoral need, please take the initiative and contact Fr. Paul.

Parish Prayer Calendar

We're happy to present a new resource for prayer in our parish. Copies of our new Parish Prayer Calendar are available at the entrances. This calendar provides two prayer intentions for each day, encompassing groups and ministries within our parish as well as in the wider community. It is hoped that we can, in the midst of our busy lives, take time each day to add these intentions to our personal prayers. In this way, we will know that we are united in prayer with our friends and neighbours.