Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit 1 Church Family....3 Locations

~ St. Elizabeth Seton ~ St. Francis of Assisi ~ St. John Vianney ~

Parish Office: 4 Beaver Bank Road, Lower Sackville, NS B4E 1G3

Phone: 902-865-2112 / Fax: 902-864-8645

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 3:30 pm / After hours emergency: 902-865-6133 Email: karen@holytrinityns.ca Website: www.holytrinityns.ca Facebook: Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit

December 3, 2017 (Year B)

Pastor's Reflection

This weekend is the First Sunday of Advent and the start of a new Liturgical Year and it feels like a new year, a new beginning, a new start. As Pastoral Administrator, here at Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit, I am really excited about what the Lord has in store for us.



I truly believe that God has amazing things in mind for this parish.

For that to happen, we need to know our identity (who we are), and our mission (what we are called to do). I used the analogy of the movie "Moana" in my homily last weekend. I hope you have the chance to watch that movie through the lens of what you have heard in my homily. **Our identity is to be a missional church and our mission is to make disciples.** People often see the Catholic Church mainly as a provider of sacraments, but that is not the primary thing that the Church is called to do. Our primary task, or mission, is to make disciples. The sacraments are meant to help us towards personal holiness and towards our mission.

To help us grow in our missionary identity, we have signed up to be part of the Divine Renovation Network (DRN). We are now one of the 25 parishes in the US, Canada, England and Australia that Fr. James Mallon and his team are coaching. The goal is not to become another St. Benedict Parish; we have our own unique identity as a parish. The goal is to apply the principles that have made them successful in reaching fallen away Catholics and unchurched people with the saving message of the Gospel; to make them disciples equipped to share the mission of the Church. In Mt 7:17 Jesus said, "Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." The Lord wants his church to bear good fruit and we want to be healthy and fruitful. And we know that healthy and fruitful churches are the ones that are making disciples.

For us to make missionary disciples, we need to have a healthy culture, and a healthy culture is a product of good values. The three values that I would like to see in this parish are: *Leadership; Evangelization; and Obedience to the Holy Spirit.* I will be focusing on the first value, which is leadership, in this article. I will discuss the other two values in future bulletins.

Leadership is very important if we want to see renewal happen in this parish. This is why, in the past few months, we have made changes so that the priests would have the time to lead. As priests, we are not just called to administer sacraments, and preach homilies, although those are very important aspects of our priesthood. We are also called to lead this parish into mission. All three are important, but leadership is often given little time or attention. Just as providing sacraments and preparing homilies takes much time and attention, as they rightly should. So too does good leadership.

One of the most important tasks of a leader is to provide a vision. What is a vision? Bill Hybels, in his book "Courageous Leadership," defines vision as a picture of the future that produces passion. That is what I hope to bring here: a picture of the future of this parish that produces passion in all of us. How important is this to God? "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18) That's the opposite of being healthy and fruitful. It's very important that we have a vision.

This is not a task I have to do on my own. A leader must not lead by himself or herself but should lead out of a team. There is no such thing as a well-rounded leader but there is such a thing as a well-rounded team. I need to surround myself with people who have strengths that will offset my weaknesses. This is the main reason why I had to dissolve the Tactical Leadership Team (TLT) and form a new leadership team called Holy Trinity Leadership Team (HTLT). At present, the HTLT is composed of myself, Fr. Bryan and Catherine Kidson. We are still praying to God to reveal to us who the 4^{th} and the 5^{th} person should be. I had to dissolve the former Senior leadership team (SLT) because I don't have a direction for that group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the SLT and TLT for all their hard work and contributions to the parish.

To lead takes time. To pray about, develop, present, and implement a vision takes time. This is the reason why we continued with the summer Mass times. Going back to the 6 Masses, Fr. Bryan and I would have to preach every weekend and a lot of extra time would be devoted to preparing homilies. We have intentionally made time now for strategic and staff meetings, as well as meetings with the Divine Renovation Team. Because of our frequent meetings, this oftentimes is perceived as the priest not being accessible or not having time for the parishioners. I do hope that you understand that we are trying to find a balance of having time to lead and also to be there for the needs of the people.

We need to remember also that we are a very large parish with more than 900 parishioners and it is impossible for two priests to provide for all of the needs of the people. This reminds me of the story in Exodus 18 where Jethro, the father in law of Moses, saw how Moses was ministering to his people from morning to evening. This is what he said, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." He suggested to Moses that he should choose capable men to help him lead. That is what Moses did. This is the same also in this parish. Fr. Bryan and I will not be able to minister to you all, in all circumstances. Like Moses, we need to raise up leaders who can help us lead, to minister, and to care for the day to day needs of our people.

I would like to thank all of you for the patience that you have shown in the continuation of the summer Mass times. I know this has been very difficult for some of you and yet you have shown that you are willing to sacrifice so that renewal can happen in this parish. Another sacrifice that I would like to ask of those that attend SJV, to those who are physically able, is to park at one of the other parking options we provided. This will help decongest our parking situation at SJV and have parking for the elderly and those families with small children. I have instructed the priests and staff not to park at SJV. I hope ministry leaders will follow suit. Another sacrifice that I would like to ask is for those sitting in the pews, if you could sit towards the middle in order to save seats for the latecomers.

I am really excited about what God has in store for this parish. With time to lead, the help of the Divine Renovation Network, and your committed support, as long as we work together, we can be the disciple making church that God really wants us to be. I really look forward to seeing us become a healthy church bearing good fruit.

I also ask that you keep me, Fr. Bryan and the staff in your prayers as we embark on this great, but difficult, journey. Please know that we are praying for all of you as well.

Fr. Ken Lao, CC Pastoral Administrator

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS

MASS CANCELLED on Thursday, December 7th at 9 am at St. John Vianney as both Fr. Ken & Fr. Bryan will be attending a priests' retreat with the Archbishop that day.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION - A number of priests will be available to hear individual confessions on *Saturday, December 9th from 10am - 2pm* at St. John Vianney.



MASS AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ~ During Advent, Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 6^{th} , 13^{th} and 20^{th} at 7 pm at St. Francis of Assisi.

ADVENT FOLDERS will be available in foyer at all three churches if you would like to use them.

'BE AN ANGEL' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



BEGINS THIS WEEKEND ~ Help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul respond to requests for help received during the year from families living in poverty in our

community. Your donations will be used to keep the lights on, the house warm, prescription meds available or to help with an emergency situation. Envelopes will be available in the foyer. Tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$10 or more. See the bulletin insert for information. God Bless.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS If you would like to give a donation for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please place your name and parish, their name and amount offered and place it in an envelope in the collection.

PARISH OFFICE \sim will be closed over the Christmas holidays reopening on Tuesday, January 2^{nd} . During that week, daily Mass will still take place on December 27, 28 and 29^{th} at 9 am at St. John Vianney.

CHRISTMAS 2017 MASS TIMES

Saturday, December 23rd

4:30 pm St. John Vianney

Sunday, December 24th

10 am St. John Vianney 12 noon St. Elizabeth Seton

NO MASS IN AM AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Christmas Eve Services

4 pm St. John Vianney 6 pm St. Elizabeth Seton 8 pm St. Francis of Assisi 11 pm St. John Vianney

Monday, December 25th

9 am St. John Vianney 11 am St. Elizabeth Seton

NEW YEARS

Saturday, December 30th

4:30 pm St. John Vianney

Sunday, December 31st

8 am St. Francis of Assisi 10 am St. John Vianney 12 pm St. Elizabeth Seton 4:30 pm St. John Vianney

Monday, January 1st

9 am St. Francis of Assisi 11 am St. Elizabeth Seton

PRAY SERIES. Join us this Advent for a 21st century way to prepare for the coming of Christ. Check out our *Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit Facebook Page* and *Twitter* account each day for a devotional reflection and scripture from Alex. We hope that this new Advent practice for our parish helps to guide your journey to the manger this Advent season. Starting Sunday December 3rd and continuing until Christmas.



Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit Page



@HolyTrinityHTPU

FAITH FORMATION

ADORATION REMINDER ~ please feel free to drop in to Adoration which takes place every Wednesday from 9:30 am - 10 pm in the Chapel at St. John Vianney. If you plan to come after 4 pm, please stop into the office and pick up your 'Adoration Pass' prior to. We are in need of volunteers from 12-1 pm. If you're able to help out, please contact Karen. Adoration takes place as well on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 am. All are most welcome!

PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE HOLY **LAND—ADVANCE NOTICE** ~ If you have a desire to see the Holy Land, this may be your opportunity. Fr. Simon Lobo, Saint Benedict Parish and Fr. Bryan Sabourin, are the planned spiritual leaders on this Pilgrimage. The itinerary praverful has carefully arranged been with full consideration to the ministry of Christ as opposed to merely a tour of the Holy Land. This Pilgrimage is planned for 12 days in October, 2018. For information, e-mail send to bsime@privatelabeltravel.ca with "keep *me informed*" in the subject line.

URGENT Are you a tradesperson and have some time and skills to donate to our church? *WE NEED YOU!* Due to the age of our buildings

and in an effort to keep costs in check, we are in need of

We NEED you. Can you HELP?

some help in plumbing, electrical, furnace and heating, construction and drywall, painting, general cleaning and dusting and gardening. There a number of small projects currently waiting for people to help. For more information, please contact Catherine at the Parish Office @ ext. 23 and we will put you into contact with the Management Committee of the church you can help at. Thank you in advance! *Many hands make light work!*

CWL REMINDER - Nomination Forms are available in the foyer at each church.

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE NOT CONNECTED TO THFIR **CHRISTIAN** FAITH? the Christmas Masses, we see the Body of Christ in our community in its fullness of life and participation. We rejoice in their presence and we long for them to with our reconnect faith community. ALPHA is a way for people who have questions about the meaning of life and the relevance of Jesus to be encouraged in conversation to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment.



ALPHA helps to transform the lives of those searching for answers. Maybe there are some family members or friends that you could invite to attend. Our next come and see what Alpha is about is on **Thursday January 11**th at 6pm at **St. Elizabeth Seton Church**. Invite your family and friends and join them on their journey. There is more information on our website and drop us a line at alpha@holytrinityns.ca.



~ Meet Our Staff ~

Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Ken Lao CCext 0				
Associate Pastor : Fr. Bryan Sabourin Cext 0				
Deacon:	Rod Rowlands	ext 0		
Administrative Secretary:				
	Karen Smith	ext 0		
Finance:	Marlene Bellefontaine	ext 21		
Dir. of Ministries, Comm & Evangelization:				
	Catherine Kidson	ext 24		
Coordinator of Family Faith Formation:				
	Alex Craven	ext 23		

SUNDAY, THE DAY OF THE LORD				
Saturday	4:30 pm	St. John Vianney		
Sunday	8:00 am	St. Francis of Assisi		
Sunday	10:00 am	St. John Vianney		
Sunday	12:00 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton		
WEEKDAY MASSES				
Tuesday	7:00 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton		
Wednesday	9:00 am	St. John Vianney		
Thursday	9:00 am	St. John Vianney		
Friday	9:00 am	St. John Vianney		

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 6:30-6:45pm St. Elizabeth Seton Wednesday 8:30am-8:45am St. John Vianney Saturday 3:45-4:15pm St John Vianney or by appointment at any of our three Churches.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday at SJV following 9 am Mass and concludes at 10 pm with Reposition Thursday & Friday at SJV following 9 am Mass concluding at 10:30 am

PRAY THE ROSARY

Tuesday 6:30 pm St. Elizabeth Seton
Wednesday (Pro-Life) 8:00 am St. John Vianney
Thursday & Friday 9:40 am St. John Vianney
On Friday, recited for Peace in the World, as per Pope Francis'
Saturday 9:00 am St. John Vianney
(Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle with Rosary)

MINISTRY OF CARE & COMPANIONSHIP AND HOMEBOUND: If you know someone who is seriously ill, in the hospital or homebound that would like a Parish Visitor or to receive Communion, please contact the Parish Office.

GOT LIFE QUESTIONS? RCIA might be just for you. Come journey with us as we explore the meaning of life and the Catholic spirituality. Contact Anne Marie Reid at reid.am@bellaliant.net to find out more about the R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Program.

PLANNING TO BE MARRIED in the Catholic Church? Congratulations! Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance in order to have time to prepare. For more information, check out our website under Faith Formation – Sacraments.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact Liz Connolly at 902-865-9214 at least three months in advance. A preparation session will be arranged for you.

HEARTS ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP invite you to join them on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton (weather permitting). For more information, call Ethel at 902-864-4927.

WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS take place on Thursdays from 10 am – 11:30 am; therefore, the Parish Office will be closed during those times.

NO SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE! Please refrain from wearing perfume/cologne to Mass. Thank you!

WOMEN'S FAITH SHARING STUDY GROUP will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am at St. Elizabeth Seton. Newcomers are most welcome. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

MEN'S "GYM" HOUR – God, You, Me – will take place every Friday at St. Benedict Parish in Halifax from 6:45 - 8 am. Come heighten your spiritual journey as we share our stories, Praise and Worship music and enjoy fellowship. Coffee will be provided. All men are welcome! Contact Peter Covert at 902-478-5951.

BEACON HOUSE MONTHLY REQUESTS: Baby food, Canned corn, Canned meat, Granola bars, Fruit cups, Canned pasta sauce, Diapers, Boxed cereal, Boxed stuffing mix, Chicken or beef broth.

BEACON HOUSE CHRISTMAS BOX REQUESTS:

St. John Vianney – bags of sugar; St. Elizabeth Seton – pancake mix; St. Francis of Assisi – apple/orange juice (1 litre).