

**Pastoral Staff:**

Fr. John N. Burchat, *Pastor*  
Fr. Peter G. Proulx, *Associate Pastor*  
Ms. Anda Sprudz  
Deacon Michael Doherty  
Deacon Christopher Barrett

**Office & Property:**

*Office Admin:* Ms. Cheryl Peters  
*Custodian:* Mr. Rob Hicke

***Closed to the public  
for now.***

*Phone and email  
are checked regularly.*  
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**St. John Chrysostom Parish** *(est.1867)*

**295 Albert St., Arnprior, ON K7S 2M7**

*Home of the Arnprior & District Food Bank 613-668-4462*

[www.saintjohnchrysostom.org](http://www.saintjohnchrysostom.org)

[www.pembrokedioocese.com](http://www.pembrokedioocese.com)

## ✠ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

January 31, 2021

**70 DAYS UNTIL EASTER!** On this Sunday, we begin our countdown for the Season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17 when we enter our 40 day preparation for the Paschal Triduum and Easter. Please be sure to pick up your free copy of the *Word Among Us* at the entrance of the church or office mailbox for devotional reading during the Lenten Season.

**MASSES WITH 10 PEOPLE CONTINUES** as permitted under the current restrictions regarding essential travel even though places of Catholic worship have not been the focus of any outbreaks. Nevertheless, along with the stay-at-home order, we make every effort to overcome this ever-expanding pandemic which threatens, in particular, the most vulnerable in our society.

Parishioners can request to attend a “private” Mass while following the mandatory protocols for self-screening, hand sanitizing, social distancing and face masks.

If you would like this opportunity to attend Mass, please email (or call) the parish office giving your name, phone number and number of people in your household who desire to attend. *Please indicate if you are only able to get to Mass on the weekend because of work schedules.* You will be contacted in advance by phone to receive an appointment time and confirm attendance.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains in place.

## Jesus: the Word of God

*From an Angelus Address by Pope Francis; February 1, 2015.*

This Sunday’s Gospel passage (cf. Mk 1:21-28) presents Jesus who, with his small community of disciples, enters Capernaum .... straight to the Synagogue and began to teach. This reminds us of the primacy of the Word of God, the Word to be listened to, the Word to be received, the Word to be proclaimed. His primary concern is to communicate the Word of God with the power of the Holy Spirit. And the people in the Synagogue were astonished, because Jesus “taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes”

What does “with authority” mean? It means that in the human words of Jesus, the power of the Word of God could be felt, the authority of God, who is the inspiration of the Sacred Scriptures. And one of the characteristics of the Word of God is that He does what He says. For the Word of God corresponds to his will. We, on the other hand, often speak empty, shallow words, or superfluous words, words that do not coincide with the truth. Instead, the Word of God corresponds to the truth, it is united to his will and fulfills what He says. Indeed, Jesus, after preaching, immediately demonstrates his authority by freeing a man, in the Synagogue, who was possessed by a demon. The very divine authority of Christ provoked the reaction of Satan, hidden in that man; Jesus, in his turn, immediately recognized the voice of the evil one and “rebuked him:.... ‘Be silent, and come out of him’” With the power of his word alone, Jesus frees the person from the evil one. And once again those present were amazed: “He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him”. The Word of God arouses amazement in us. It has the power to astonish us.

The Gospel is the word of life: it does not oppress people, on the contrary, it frees those who are slaves to the many evil spirits of this world: the spirit of vanity, attachment to money, pride, sensuality.... The Gospel changes the heart, changes life, transforms evil inclinations into good intentions. The Gospel is capable of changing people! Therefore it is the task of Christians to spread the redeeming power throughout the world, becoming missionaries and heralds of the Word of God. This is also suggested by today’s passage which closes with a missionary perspective, saying: “his fame” — the fame of Jesus — “spread everywhere, throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee” (v. 28). The new doctrine, taught by Jesus with authority, is what the Church takes to the world, along with the effective signs of His presence: the authoritative teaching and the liberating action of the Son of God become words of salvation and gestures expressing the love of the missionary Church. Always remember that the Gospel has the power to change lives! Do not forget this. It is the Good News, which transforms us only when we allow ourselves to be transformed by it. That is why I always ask you to have daily contact with the Gospel, to read it every day: a verse, a passage, to meditate on it and even to take it with you everywhere: in your pocket, in your bag.... In other words to nourish yourself every day with this inexhaustible source of salvation. Do not forget! Read a passage of the Gospel every day. It is the power that changes us, that transforms us: it changes life, it changes the heart.

**SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN:** Any scheduling for First Holy Communions and Confirmations are postponed until after the lockdown is over but parents are encouraged to continue to prepare their children. In the meantime, our catechists will continue to check in with their families by email.

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES:** While the parish office is closed to the public, we will still be responding to phone inquiries. Fr. Burchat will still be responding with the Sacraments when requested for the dying.

**CONFESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT:** Fr. Burchat will continue to provide the opportunity for a prudent and appropriate arrangement for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the case of emergency (i.e., for the dying or for those who in conscience discern that their sins are of serious moral gravity). Please leave me a message in my private phone mailbox or at [jnburchat@yahoo.ca](mailto:jnburchat@yahoo.ca).

**SUNDAY OFFERINGS:** *During the lockdown, totals will be given at the end of the month.* Thank you for your continuing commitment during these difficult times. **Sunday Envelope Offerings can be put through the mail slot on the parish office door.**

**BELLTOWER COLLECTION:** The amount of \$7,008.00 from the month of December was recently sent to the Chancery Office in Pembroke.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Why not use direct deposit for the sake of convenience and for the continual support of our parish? Just call the parish office to set it up! We have 53 parishioners who have chosen this option.

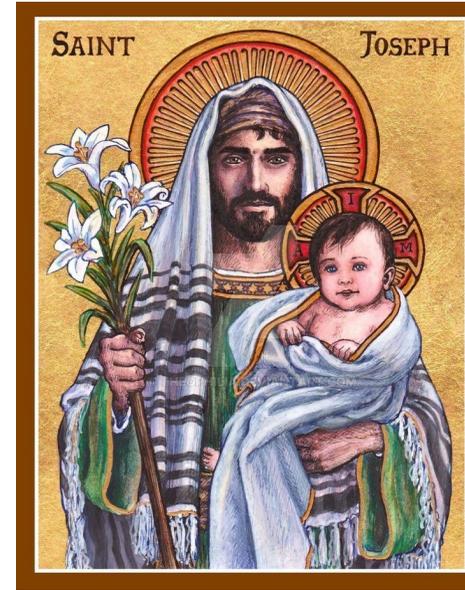
**2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES & SUNDAY MISSAL:** Are in the church or please call the parish office so we can leave them in the outgoing mailbox outside the office. Please also pick up your free copy of a Sunday Missal which will be of aid to personal and family celebration of the Lord's Day and Feast Days during the pandemic.

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The members of the committee met in person this past week and reviewed the revenues and expenditures for the past fiscal year 2020; a 2020 Financial Report for parishioners; and an Update for the Church Exterior Restoration Project. Thank you for your contributions throughout 2020 despite that it was a year eclipsed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and its many repercussions. Because of your commitment and generosity during the pandemic, our financial report is generally positive.

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:** You will receive the Financial Report and Update when the charitable donation receipts are mailed out this month. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity and financial commitment to the parish at a time when there are many economic and financial restraints imposed upon so many.

## Year of Saint Joseph

*From the Apostolic Letter Patris Corde (With A Father's Heart)  
by Pope Francis; December 8, 2020*



**Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,  
whose power makes the impossible possible,  
come to my aid in these times  
of anguish and difficulty.  
Take under your protection  
the serious and troubling situations  
that I commend to you,  
that they may have a happy outcome.  
My beloved father, all my trust is in you.  
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,  
and since you can do everything  
with Jesus and Mary,  
show me that your goodness  
is as great as your power. Amen.**

I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Mt 12:34). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all. Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.