

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

Office Hours:

Tues., Wed., Thurs.
 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
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Happiness, Fullness of Life, Eternal Life

From an Angelus Address by Pope Francis; October 11, 2015

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

www.pembrokedioocese.com

✠ **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time** ✠

October 10, 2021

PARISH HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL: Next Sunday we would have normally been conducting our annual Parish Harvest Festival. We are hoping that with this extraordinary appeal to your generosity, we might be able to offset the loss of \$25,000 that would have normally been raised with the dinner and raffle draw. Please use the Harvest Festival envelope that is supplied in our Sunday box of envelopes, or the ones that are at the entrance of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity as we make this appeal to all registered parishioners.



THANKS BE TO GOD! Do you and your family say "Grace" before meals? This Thanksgiving Weekend in our civil calendar provides a wonderful opportunity to be renewed in saying a short prayer of blessing and thankfulness before every meal.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: Parents who desire that their children receive these Sacraments will be responsible for teaching their children at home and will also be assisted by parish catechists. To register, first speak to Fr. Burchat in person after any Saturday/Sunday Mass. Parents must feel that it is "safe" to return to regular attendance of Sunday Mass and commit to do so.

Today's Gospel is divided into three scenes, punctuated by three gazes of Jesus. The first scene presents the encounter of Jesus with a young man who asks: "what must I do to inherit eternal life", in other words, happiness. "Eternal life" is not only the afterlife, but is a full life, fulfilled, without limitations. What must we do to achieve it? Jesus' answer restates the commandments that refer to loving one's neighbours. In this regard the young man has nothing to reproach; but clearly, observing the precepts is not enough. It does not satisfy his desire for fulfillment. Jesus perceives this desire that the young man bears in his heart; for this reason his response is expressed in an intense gaze filled with tenderness and love. Jesus offers him a practical proposal: to give all his possessions to the poor and follow Him. That young man's heart, however, was divided between two masters: God and money, and he went away sorrowful. This shows that faith and attachment to riches cannot coexist. Thus, in the end, the young man's initial enthusiasm is dampened in the unhappiness of a sunken condition.

In the second scene the Evangelist frames the eyes of Jesus, and this time it is a pensive gaze, one of caution: "[Jesus] looked around and said to his disciples: 'How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!'" (v. 23). To the astonishment of the disciples, who ask him: "Then who can be saved?" (v. 26), Jesus responds with an encouraging gaze — it is the third gaze — and says: salvation, yes, "with men it is impossible, but not with God!" (v. 27). If we trust in the Lord, we can overcome all obstacles that impede us from following him on the path of faith. Trust in the Lord. He will give us strength, he gives us salvation, he accompanies us on the way.

And thus we arrive at the third scene, that of Jesus' solemn declaration: Truly, I say to you those who leave all to follow me shall have eternal life in the age to come and a hundredfold now in this time (cf. vv. 29-30). This "hundredfold" is comprised of things first possessed and then left, but which shall be restored and multiplied ad infinitum. In divesting oneself of possessions, one receives in exchange the comfort of true good; freed from the slavery of things, one earns the freedom of serving out of love; in renouncing possessions, one acquires the joy of giving. As Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (cf. Acts 20:35).

The young man did not allow himself to be conquered by Jesus' loving gaze, and thus was not able to change. Only by accepting with humble gratitude the love of the Lord do we free ourselves from the seduction of idols and the blindness of our illusions. Money, pleasure, success dazzle but then disappoint: they promise life but procure death. The Lord asks us to detach ourselves from these false riches in order to enter into true life, the full, authentic, luminous life. Have you felt Jesus' gaze upon you? Do you prefer the joy that Jesus gives us or the sadness of heart that worldliness offers us?

St. John Chrysostom

Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

October 13 - 15

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| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | +Ambrose Holmes <i>by Judy Holmes</i> |
| Thursday | 9:00 a.m. | +Julia Prince <i>by Laura Egan</i> |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. | St. Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor +Mary Nanne <i>by The Knights of Columbus</i> |

✠ Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

October 17, 2021

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| Saturday | 3:45 p.m. | <i>Confessions</i> |
| | 4:30 p.m. | +Steve Blais <i>by Bonnie Blais</i> |
| Sunday | 9:30 a.m. | Intentions of the People (<i>Missa pro populo</i>) |

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- that on this Thanksgiving weekend, we thank God the Father for all that he has done, especially for the gift of his Son, Jesus, for the beauty in nature, and the joy of friends, and family;
- the peoples of our country, legislators and healthcare practitioners: that they would choose life and not death regarding euthanasia, assisted suicide and abortion;
- that as our Country and Church remember the truth of past and present injustices towards First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, may we also recommit to ongoing reparation, reconciliation and the path of friendship;
- parishioners who are sick; and those who have died, especially: *Sylvia Desarmia* and *Jackie Heath*.

CHURCH ACCESS: remains open for personal prayer Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. At this time, for security reasons, access is now only by the side door.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL FOR MASSES AT SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: Even as we return to some “normalcy” for our Masses (i.e., limited singing, processions, etc), face masks and social distancing are still mandatory in our church at this time. When necessary for easier breathing, masks can be lowered below the nose but only when you are socially distanced from others and in your own pew. We ask everyone to show charity by complying and when instructing visitors.

SUNDAY OFFERING: October 3 - \$5,450.00. Thank you for your continuing commitment during these difficult times of pandemic and testing of faith. **Sunday Envelope Offerings can also be put through the mail slot on the parish office door.**

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 55 parishioners who have chosen this option.

CHURCH EXTERIOR RESTORATION COLLECTION: This monthly appeal uses a special envelope and collection dedicated to the Church Exterior Restoration Debt. The amount of \$6,199.25 from the month of September was recently sent to the Chancery Office in Pembroke.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT: The 12th Annual Women's Fall Retreat, "Be Encouraged", will be held by Zoom on Saturday, October 23, 2021, from 9am - 3pm. Women of all ages are invited to a day of encouraging talks, inspirational music, breakout sessions, and Mass celebrated by Fr. Brian McNally. Laura O'Reilly, from the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, will again be the speaker. For more information and to register, please go to www.womensfallretreat.com. The cost for the day is \$30. Further queries can be directed to Diane Melanson-Howe (613-992-4693).



Catholic Women's League

Nancy Black, *Madame President*

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, November 3 @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall*

Bake Sale: While there will be no Pie Sale this year, there will be a bake sale on December 11/12. More details to follow.



Knights of Columbus

Bob Lee, *Grand Knight*

www.kofc2082.org

Business Meeting: *Monday, November 1 @ 6 p.m.*

Executive Meeting: *Monday, October 25 @ 7 p.m.*

Council 2082
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