

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

PASTOR'S CORNER

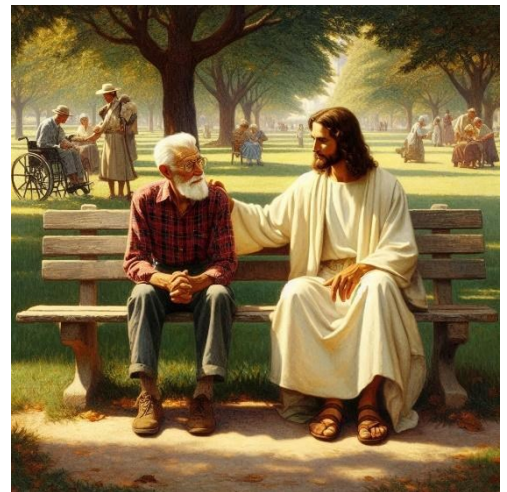


The end of the year reminds us that we are all getting old. But I want to remind you of one very important truth regarding the inevitable. Recently, I came across the following reflection:

"My name is Joe, and I am old." I know, I know. Some of you think I'm bragging. And maybe I am. But even though it has a few drawbacks and as some have said, "Growing old is not for sissies," there is much to be said for the golden/silver (leaden?) years. You have lived through many decades on this planet, you have seen things that few around you have experienced (and have the scars to bear witness), your lessons learned are solid and sure, and your reasoning powers have not abandoned you. You have much to offer, senior saint. Psalm 92:12-15: "The righteous one will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." These four verses are keepers, such memorable lines.

Godly old people are fruitful, youthful, beautiful, truthful. Let's take those one at a time. Fruitful: Bearing fruit in old age. God's senior saints often have energy, will hopefully have the resources, and always have the experience which can bless so many who are coming behind them. But they must not allow themselves to be put on the shelf. They have so much to offer. Look around to see who you can bless. Some of the oldest people I know are full of life, happy in the Lord, overflowing with love and laughter, fun to be around. They are still learning and growing and serving. They are the most positive, upward-looking people ready to tear down this old building and construct something for the future.

Now, when you have arrived at this stage in life, senior disciple, do not keep your wisdom to yourself. Tell your story, old-timer. The rest of us need to hear it. I know, I know. You're saying, "But they don't want to hear it. They don't have time." It's true that they are rushed and don't have long attention spans. Anyway, remember to tell them the good and the bad, the bright and the dark, for by giving the downside, you make the upside authentic. By telling the upside, the great things, you give hope to those going through the valleys. So tell us what you have learned in life. Tell us what you got right and what you wish you could do over. Have fun. Laugh. After all, you're full of sap, spiritual senior. Let me finish with this thought. I've heard many variations of this line: *The face you have at age 1 or 12 or 33 is God's gift to you; the face you have at age 75 and up is your gift to God. Do you agree?*



P.S. Personally, as I age I realize more and more how much I have received and how little I have given. But the scriptures often remind me, *"This is not from you; it is the gift of God."* This is why we constantly need to thank God for the blessings we receive, and for the blessings we are to others.

Fr. Slawek

DECEMBER 29, 2024

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS

Reception of Holy Communion

It has come to my attention that some people, receiving on the hand, carry the Sacred Host back to their seats. This is forbidden. Please be sure to consume Jesus, truly present in the Sacred Host, right after you receive Him. You must consume the Host in the front of the church, right after receiving. There are people who wish to steal consecrated Hosts for the sake of rituals. If you see anyone walking away without having consumed the Sacred Host please alert one of the Ushers, the Sacristan—Anthony or Fr. Slawek.

Marriage Prep Course St. Barnabas Church—10 Washburn Way

Starting January 23, 2025

7 Consecutive Thursdays/ 7p.m.—9 p.m.

Register online at: <http://form.jotform.com/stbarnabasto/MARPREP2025>

Or go to our website at <https://stbarnabasto.ca>



ARE YOU MOVING? OR HAVE YOU ALREADY MOVED?

Please contact the parish office so your records can be updated. Thank you.

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Assigned envelopes are available for pick up at the back table in the church. New envelope can be pick up from the Parish office during office hours.

Please use 2025 envelopes starting Jan. 1. Print your full name, address, phone number and donation clearly on the envelope for the month so the Parish office can record the number to your name.

If you have a change of address please list it on your envelope or notify the office.

YOUR HEALTH

As cold and flu season approaches, to ensure the health of the entire community, parishioners are encouraged to stay home from Mass and parish functions if they are experiencing symptoms of the flu virus, colds, etc. Respect and concern for the common good takes precedence. Thank you for your cooperation! To minimize risks please use the hand sanitizers that are located at each entrance!

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 31

9 a.m. NO MORNING MASS.
6 p.m. New Year's Eve

Wednesday, January 1

9 a.m. New Year's Day
11 a.m. New Year's Day

Thursday, January 2

9 a.m. NO MORNING MASS.

Friday, January 3

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

Saturday, January 4

4:30p.m Intentions for Duli Amarasingha

Sunday, January 5

9 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Intentions of thanksgiving for Eugene & Rose Li.



COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL Resumes

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

After the 9 a.m. Mass
in the Parish Basement

SUNDAY MISSAL

Are available for purchase from the parish office.

Cost \$ 6.00

Monday -Thursday
8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Limited quantity available

