

St. Patrick's Church Restoration Society
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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Feb. 12th, 2017



St. Patrick's Church

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Hosted by the Serra Club of Halifax you are invited To pray for vocations, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament February 12, 2017, 2-3 pm St. Theresa's Church North St. Halifax.

Barat Spirituality Centre - 1455 Summer Street, Halifax, NS B3H4L6. Day of Stillness Tuesday, Feb.14. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Facilitated by Donna Dolan, RSCJ; This will be a day to be at home with God. Each of us can recognise the experience of being at home. Knowing what it feels like at best, we can recall this as a fruitful way of entering into prayer. The day will include time for private prayer, liturgy, and an opportunity to meet with a spiritual guide. Please bring a bag lunch, beverages provided. Please register by Feb. 12.

2017 Lenten Series: Lent is on its way! We will once again release a Lenten Series to help us prepare for Easter and to continue in our pastoral planning process. This year's series will focus on formation, one of our three pastoral themes. With the help of feedback and suggestions from all of you across the Archdiocese, this year's four part series features an updated format to make it easier to participate in the series and share the content in small groups.

The Friends-of-L'Arche Halifax group will meet for their monthly gathering on Sunday, February 12th from 1:30 to 3:30 in St. Agnes Hall, Mumford Road, Halifax.

The Halifax Concert Band with conductor David Staples and special guests, The Halifax Trombone Summit will present **A Valentine's Day Concert, Tues., February 14, 2017** at 7:00 pm in The Bella Rose Arts Centre (Inside Halifax West High School, 238 Thomas Raddell Drive). Advance tickets \$10.00 General Seating call 902-457-3239 or online @bellaroseartscentre.com or from Band Members. Tickets will be available at the door for \$12.00 no charge for children 12 and under.

Weekend of Grace for Women - Register now for the 11th Annual Weekend of Grace for Women, with Keynote Speaker Michelle Moran, to be held April 28th, 29th, and 30th, 2017, at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia "...You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses..." - Acts 1:8 Attendance through pre-registration only and registration. Visit www.weekendofgrace.com or call (902) 405-9613 for more information .

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"So many choices, so little time"

In matters of discipleship Jesus does not allow ifs, ands, or buts. "Say 'Yes' when you mean 'Yes' and 'No' when you mean 'No.' Anything beyond that is from the evil one."

In the first reading from the Book of Sirach we are given a radical choice. It is a choice between life and death, and whichever one we choose will be given us (but it is our choice. God created us; he knows our hearts and our minds, our desires and our thoughts but He still leaves the choice to us.

In the second reading when Paul writes to the Corinthians, he urges the wisdom of the spiritually mature. But he comments that it is surely not the wisdom of his age, "none of the rulers of this age understood this." Likewise today, I am not convinced the rulers and leaders of our age possess the wisdom of the spiritually mature. In Paul's age they crucified Jesus. In our age we are trying to eliminate God and Jesus from society. To Paul, the revelation of Jesus represents, "what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him."

How different would our own Eucharists be if we took Jesus seriously? The resentments we hold against our parents, our children, our spouses, and our neighbors would have to dissolve before we would approach the altar, lest we receive the sacrament unworthily. Perhaps that is why our Communion is aptly prefaced by the sign of peace. Just as we ask God, "Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your church," so also we who have sinned against each other must see with the eyes of faith and forgive.

Journeying through the gospels is no easy trip. It's a "dangerous, plummeting, careening journey." Forgiveness and mercy go against our nature and against our culture. Anyone who talks, writes, or preaches about the gospel in a way that leaves us unchallenged or bored just isn't doing the work.

We may think our faith is just another "amen" to the wisdom of our age. Well, if we think that, we just don't know what our faith is about. Our "Yes" to Jesus must be "Yes" and making the choice for good; our "No" to sin must be "No" and rejecting the evil. God Bless.

Deacon Art

