

OMPH PARISH PRESS

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

September 2013

Believing and Growing In Faith



Welcome Back! It's hard to believe that the summer is over and we've headed back to the classroom! I hope that you had a restful and enjoyable summer. As Pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Parish, it gives me great joy to bring you greetings at the beginning of this new school year.

As many of you know, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish is intimately involved in the life of English Catholic Central School on an ongoing bases throughout the school year. We believe that it is important to have a strong school, parish, and home relationship and we are committed to living out this partnership in real and tangible ways. Throughout the year, we will be communicating with you on a regular bases and look forward to developing and deepening our relationship with your son / daughter and your family.

As we begin the new school and pastoral year I'd like to use this first newsletter to update you on some of the fall programs and initiatives that will be taking place.

As with last year, one of the focal points of this year both at school and in the Parish will be the "Year of Faith."

Last year, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI declared that a Year of Faith would be celebrated from October 11, 2012 through November 24, 2013. He desired this Year of Faith to be a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith.

The launching of the Year of Faith marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Throughout this fall we will find ways in our school and parish (and hopefully your home) to celebrate the gift of our Catholic Faith, learn more about it and deepen in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Parish will be hosting a number of workshops and programs to help you grow in your faith and become a more active member of our Church Family. I hope that you will take advantage of some of these opportunities.

UPCOMING SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

One of the great gifts that Jesus left to the early Church and by extension to us are the sacraments. The sacraments are special gifts, given by Jesus, to help us live holy and happy lives. They help us draw closer to God and lead more fulfilling and enriching lives.

Just as there are various stages that we journey through life, so too there are various stages that we journey in our sacramental lives. The school, parish, and home play a special role in the sacramental journey of your child(ren).



BAPTISM

is the first of the sacraments of the Church. In and through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are

washed clean of original sin, made members of God's Family, and the doorway through which the other sacraments are received.

We will be offering a preparation course for parents who wish to have their child baptized in the Catholic Faith. Preparation consists of three evening sessions spread over a three week period of time. The next session will begin on **Monday, September 16th at 7:00 P.M.** and parents should register, by calling the Parish Office (705-647-5035), as soon as possible.

Children who wish to receive the other sacraments of the Catholic Church must be baptized first. As well, in the future if they wish to be a godparent or have their children, one day attend a Catholic school, they must be baptized beforehand.



RECONCILIATION

is the privileged means for followers of Jesus to receive the gift of forgiveness and healing from their sins.

Children in grade three and up are invited to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the fall.

Preparation consists of three parent meetings, an at home parent-child workbook, participation in our weekly children's program at Sunday Mass, and a retreat afternoon for candidates. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is received during the Advent Season.

All parents who wish to have their child make their First Reconciliation this year must attend an important parent meeting on **Thursday, October 3rd at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall.**



EUCCHARIST or communion is the opportunity to receive Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Children who have made their First Reconciliation are invited to prepare in the winter months to receive the Body of Christ.

Preparation consists of two parent meetings, an at home parent-child workbook, participation in our weekly children's program at Sunday Mass, and a retreat afternoon for candidates. The Sacrament of First Eucharist is received during the Easter Season.

All parents who wish to have their child make their First Communion this year must attend an important parent meeting on **Thursday, October 3rd at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall.**

CONFIRMATION

is the final Sacrament of Initiation within the Church.

It is celebrated every second year with students in grade seven and eight. As we celebrated Confirmation in the spring of 2013, the next program of preparation will begin in the fall of 2014 with the sacrament being

celebrated in spring 2015 with Bishop Poitras.



Preparation consists of one parent meeting, a series of small group meetings for the candidates, community service hours, participation in Sunday Mass, and a retreat afternoon for candidates.

Further details will be shared next September with candidates and their parents.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? NOT CATHOLIC? WANT TO LEARN MORE?

We will be hosting an information evening on **Tuesday, September 24^h at 7:00 P.M.** in the Parish Hall for anyone interested in joining the Catholic Faith. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a process for those who have never been baptized or have been baptized in another Church and wish to become Catholic and for Catholics who wish to deepen their faith. All are welcome! There is no commitment required after the first meeting and no strings attached!

COMING SOON TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU!

CURIOUS ... about Catholic things???

HUNGRY ... for some spiritual nourishment???

RESTLESS ... to be more fully alive???

SEARCHING ... for people like yourself???

TRY ... Practice Makes Catholic!

Practice Makes Catholic (PMC) is an adult education initiative that is being sponsored by the Formation Team of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish.

The series consists of five sessions **beginning Monday, November 11th at 6:00 P.M.** in the Parish Hall (81 Maple Street).

The evening begins with a simple meal and then a presentation on a topic of faith to help participants grow in their understanding and appreciation the Catholic Faith.

In Practice Makes Catholic we will address the al important "why" of many Catholic practices by articulating five key characteristics that form our Catholic identity. These characteristics are:

- A Sense of Sacramentality (Nov. 11th)
- A Commitment to Community (Nov. 18th)
- A Respect for Human Life (Nov. 25th)
- A Reverence for Scripture & Tradition (Dec. 2nd)
- An Attitude of Faith & Hope (Dec. 9th)

Participate in all five or come when you can! Register at 647-5035.

INTERESTED IN BEING AN ALTAR SERVER?



We are looking for boys and girls, grade four and older, who are willing to become altar servers. We will teach you all you need to know to do this special job in our liturgies. If

you are interested, please speak to Fr. John before **September 27th**. Training will begin in October.

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME PROGRAM

We offer a children's program (for children from JK until grade three) each Sunday during our 11:00 A.M. Mass. The children are dismissed downstairs just after Mass begins and return at the time of the offertory procession. During their time together they hear the gospel read at their level and work on an activity or craft based on the theme of the gospel. This is a great way for children to learn more about their faith and gives parents an opportunity to participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Word.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AVAILABLE

Does lack of transportation prevent you or a loved one from participating in one of the many liturgical, educational or social activities at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish? If so, call the Parish Office and we'll be happy to arrange a ride so that you can participate. Contact us at 705-647-5035.

MINISTRY FAIR

Want to check us out? Want to know more about us? We are hosting a Ministry Fair on **September 29th** in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Masses. Each Parish group will have a display. Come and learn more about our vibrant and alive faith community. All are welcome!



Find us on
Facebook

Check our facebook page at [facebook.com/OMPH.NL](https://www.facebook.com/OMPH.NL) and stay up to date on the latest happenings in the Parish.

If you would like to receive the weekly e-bulletin simply email omphoffice@gmail.com. Stay in touch with all the latest news and events.

Our website also has a host of other useful information and links. Check out the website at www.ourmotherofperpetualhelp.ca You can also access past homilies and other talks and presentations by a click of the button on our website!

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