

Saint Patrick's Church

2267 Brunswick Street, Halifax NSX B2K 2Y9

July 22, 2007 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

www.st.patricks.halifax.ns.ca/

Telephone 429-1300

Sunday July 22nd (today) is the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, disciple of the Lord and apostle to the apostles. Many groups across North America and beyond are hosting liturgies which remember the woman who was missioned to report the Lord's resurrection. She proclaimed, "I have seen the Lord."

Parish Merger

Discussions with the representatives of the congregation of St. Patrick's have happily resulted in an agreement in principle which consists of the following five fundamental points. It is important that all parishioners be advised of and know the **terms of this agreement** which are:

- 1) It is agreed that the parishes of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's will merge into one parish community.
- 2) St. Patrick's will continue as a parish until **June 30, 2008** at which time the merger will take effect.
- 3) It is agreed that the people of St. Patrick's will collaborate with the process in place to prepare the merger.
- 4) In the intervening months, the Parish/Archdiocese will attempt to negotiate a lease with a trust or other entity which will raise and administer funds sufficient for the repair, future maintenance, and operation of the St. Patrick's Church building.
- 5) Following the merger, subject to availability of clergy, and to the agreement of the terms with those who lease St. Patrick's Church building, a Sunday Eucharist will continue to be celebrated in that building.

We hope that this will bring to an end a period of disagreement within the St. Patrick community and will enable the process of planning the merger to go forward to the mutual benefit of both parishes. We look forward to and urge the participation of the members of both parishes in the planning process. Progress with this planning is an essential part of the agreement. Let us pray to the Lord that his Spirit will guide the planning process so that the renewed parish will be better able to carry out the ministry of the church in this part of Halifax.

Fr. Thomas Mabey, Parochial Administrator

Parish Meeting July 18th

On Wednesday, July 18th, a well-attended meeting of the parishioners and friends of Saint Patrick's took place in our Parish Hall. Among the initiatives announced were:

- 6) in preparation for fund-raising, the incorporation of Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society, leading to the establishment of a Trust;
- 7) the outline of a Memorandum of Association reached between the Archdiocese, Fr. Tom Mabey, and our representatives, Penny Doherty and Ann Smith.

An extensive question period followed. Parishioners and friends are invited to sign up for the variety of committees, including those which will meet jointly with Saint Mary's. Everyone is urged to become involved in some way. A monthly meeting in which each committee reports its progress will take place on the third Wednesday of each month.

⇒The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 15th, 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

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Financial (St. Patrick's)

Because of repairs to the rectory and church, and because of a decline in Sunday contributions, the parish's finances are now in a very precarious position. All the funds held on account with the Archdiocese were expended earlier in the year to pay for the roof repairs last fall. The parish has a liability for **\$19,790** in dedicated funds that we could be asked to pay out at any time. As well, we have no assurance that we will have the Hall rented by Pendleton Place as in previous years. This means that we must plan to meet all the operating expenses of the parish from regular Sunday collections. Our original budget was calculated on the assumption that the parish would merge with St. Mary's at the end of November. Now that we have the prospect of extending the deadline to **June 30, 2008** (if the agreement in principle is accepted), it will be necessary to cover not only the deficit and the liabilities, but also operating costs through the first half of next year. This means that we will have to substantially increase collection revenues. We cannot expect that the Archdiocese will continue to allow us to simply accumulate debt, nor would it be fair to the new parish which will have to assume that debt. St. Patrick's continuing life and ministry over the next months will require almost a doubling of current revenues from Sunday collections.

⇒ **We appeal to you to give generously so that we can set our financial house in order.**

The Finance Committee

YOUTH GROUP *Fund-raiser* BOTTLE DRIVE – SATURDAY AUGUST 11

Please save your recyclables, and we will be happy to take them off your hands!

Rae, Erin and Kels will take phone numbers and addresses after mass and arrange to pick up your bottles on **August 11th**.

TO ONE AND ALL!

“THANK YOU”, a huge thank-you, to the parishioners at St. Patrick's, to my family from near and far, and to all my friends, especially those ‘from away’ who celebrated the Eucharist with me last Sunday. Your cards, well wishes, prayers and generosity touched me deeply. You have a special place in my heart and I pray that God will bless each and every one of you.

My gratitude surged again with your fantastic support of the St. Patrick's

Fr. George P. Leach, SJ, Scholarship Fund. *From the luncheon and donations, the Scholarship grew by \$3,830.00. Thank you so very, very much!* **Fr. George**

2007 George P. Leach Scholarship Recipient – \$1000 – Erin MacNeil

2007 Fr. George P. Leach Bursary Recipients – \$100 each – Kyeisha Clayton,

Marquise Clayton, Arnelle Ellison, Keena Izzard, and Jessica Muisse

ALTAR SERVERS New Altar Servers, both adult and youth, are much needed.

⇒ ⇒ Please contact **Dutchie Webb**, head server, after Mass today or call him at **422-3691**.
