

WELCOME



p. 9.....
YOUTH MINISTRY: THE RISE 
 p. 11.....
THE MARRIAGE COURSE 

PHOTO: JOHN RAE

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH
 45 Radcliffe Drive
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 902-443-0725

SUNDAY MASS
 Saturday: 4pm
 Sunday: 9am, 11:15am, 6pm
WEEKDAY MASS
 Monday to Friday: 9am
CONFESSIONS
 Saturday: 3 - 3:45pm
 Wednesday: 9:45 - 10:30am

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On the cover:

Mothers being prayer over at the end of a Sunday Mass last Spring.

Next issue of Bene Dictus: November 11th/12th

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FATHER SIMON SAYS...



Fr. Simon Lobo, CC
Pastor

GAINING FRESH PERSPECTIVE FROM THE SUMMIT

On Saturday, September 29th we gathered ministry leaders, connect group leaders, members of the finance and pastoral councils (as well as a few apprentices) for our first Leadership Summit of the ministry season. Rob McDowell spoke powerfully about how leaders need to refocus their thoughts and move from cynicism to hope, especially during challenging seasons.

I shared anew my dream for Saint Benedict – that we would be a parish driven to transform lives in Jesus. There are two main aspects that I wanted to prioritize which can be captured in these phrases:

A Disciple A Day: the goal is that our parish would form 365 disciples every year.

A Next Step For Everyone: whether we're at an Alpha table, sitting in a pew, or involved in ministry, we ALL need to be thinking about our next step on the journey.

Having just celebrated Thanksgiving, I am filled with gratitude for all who have taken ownership for this parish and have joined in the task of leadership. Saint Benedict is definitely not a one-man-show; we are all in this together.

If you aren't yet involved in a ministry, we invite you to take that step. Please visit **saintbenedict.ca/serve** to find out more.

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saintbenedict.ca 2



FATHER SIMON SAYS *continued*

EXCITING AND NEW

I want to say thanks to the facilities team for completing the project to repair the foundation wall on the side of the church facing Radcliffe Drive. The new sidewalk and landscaping look great, and the railing is a much-needed addition. We will also be installing change tables in the downstairs washrooms to make it a little bit easier for our parishioners with wee ones.

The new projectors in the church are amazing! You'll notice that the slides will also take on a new look in the not-too-distant future. Also, thanks to Paul and Ryan for all of their work with the workers who will be installing the new sound system. The first stage will be to upgrade the baffling (the carpet-like panels on the back wall of the church that prevent the sound from bouncing around and becoming 'muddy').

With the new AV improvements, this is a great time to invite NEW PEOPLE to serve in the AV booth to operate the slides, sound, or both. Tech-savvy teens are also welcome! Please email [**paull@saintbenedict.ca**](mailto:paull@saintbenedict.ca) to find out about AV training.

Finally, I would like to announce that Judy Savoy has agreed to officially step into the role of Worship Arts Coordinator (for five hours a week). With her expertise in drama and theatre, she will be overseeing special liturgies (Reconciliation Dramas, Christmas Unplugged, Holy Week, and more). Welcome to the team, Judy!

SO MUCH TO SAY

There are way too many things going on at the parish in any given month, let alone any given day. Here are a few that come to mind:

- Milestone Wedding Anniversaries: October 20th at 4pm Mass, followed by a reception.
- Praise & Worship Night: Also October 20th in the church, starting at 7:30pm
- Archdiocesan Assembly: On October 26th-27th, there's an important gathering with the Archbishop to learn about Archdiocesan restructuring and its impact on Saint Benedict Parish.

Several Discipleship Groups are also starting. We want for everyone to be taking steps to grow in their understanding and love of God.

- Praying with Scripture (October 4th start)
- Life's Healing Choices (October 11th start)
- Marriage Course (October 14th start)

Please go to [**saintbenedict.ca/discipleshipgroups**](http://saintbenedict.ca/discipleshipgroups) for more information and to register. Also, we still have six months left on our FORMED subscription. Go to the link above to register.

PRAYING ON PILGRIMAGE

I am away on pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 7th-18th with a combination of parishioners and a few pilgrims from other dioceses. This will be my very first visit to the place where God chose to become man and dwell among us. I recognize that this opportunity is a huge privilege – something that has been on my bucket list. Know that I will be carrying with me the intentions of all of you the parishioners of Saint Benedict. United in Prayer! 🙏

THE FIELD HOSPITAL



John Rae
Bene Dictus Team

In his August 19th homily about the current abuse scandal in the Church, Father Simon said that some of what went on could be considered demonic. Dr. David Deane, when interviewed by the local media, said that the laity need to be agitators for justice in this crisis.

It struck me that being an 'agitator for justice' in the face of the 'demonic' is the job description of a prophet. Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel, when they saw that some of the priests had reverted to performing the demonic abomination of child sacrifice, called out the perpetrators and their powerful enablers: "... the Kings of Judah have profaned this place... they have filled this place with the blood of innocents..." (Jeremiah 19:3-4). "But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion." (Jeremiah 22:17).

Job #1 for an Old Testament prophet was discernment. Before he put the batteries in his megaphone, he needed to be sure that his "Thus saith Lord!" carried Spiritual authority. Job #2 for a prophet was to make sure his Spiritual batteries had a full charge. When I attended the Pentecostal Church, we would pray for the gift of "Holy Boldness" (Acts 4:31), to be able to declare the Word of God with power and authority.



Through our baptism, every Christian is called to participate in Jesus' prophetic mission. The potential to be a prophet is part of our Spiritual DNA. Now, it's unlikely that we've ever used our prophetic biceps, but they are there. We just need to bulk them up a bit.

Recently, the Church has been referred to as a 'field hospital'. A field hospital is the primary triage and treatment point, close to the battlefield. It's where a lot of medical techniques are developed on the fly. With the current crisis, more and more patients are arriving for treatment, and they may be victims of ecclesial collateral damage. Even the hospital staff are not immune to the psychological and spiritual angst that is part of the fallout from this crisis. As members of the Church

Militant, we will have to develop new triage and treatment regimes for both our patients and ourselves, because shutting the hospital down is not an option.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18). Jesus' ministry was one of healing and we are called to be laborers in his vineyard, his field hospital. Our vocation is to be prophets who are also healers. We are to wield the two edged sword of Justice and Mercy with great Love. 🕊

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PREACHING SERIES



Peter Mallette
Bene Dictus Team

On the weekend of Sunday, October 21st, Fr. Simon will begin a new five-part preaching series entitled Extra Ordinary. We asked Rob McDowell, who works with the preachers, about the strategy and the evolution of preaching series at Saint Benedict.

ROB: We've been experimenting with preaching series for about three years now. One day, at a Senior Leadership Team meeting, I pitched the concept to Father James. He said, "Great, do it." Previous to that, Fr. James would preach three short series every year; one on finances, one on ministry, and the other on stewardship.

What's the feedback been like?

Very positive, except for one lady who stuck her head in my office one day and made it clear that she did not like the preaching series concept. She said she didn't like being told what to do and she left.

Has the strategy changed over the years?

The biggest difference is that fewer people are involved in the decision making process. Now, it's just me and the clergy who decide the themes.

How did you decide on 'Extra Ordinary' as a five-part series?

We were in a meeting room bouncing ideas back and forth. On the wall was the parish vision statement. Father Simon kept looking at the last sentence of the vision statement, the part that reads, 'our members commit to worship, to grow, to serve, to connect, and to give.' So those five key themes will form the focus of the preaching series.


Is it your job to write the sermon?

There was a time when I would give Father James six or seven full pages of notes. He could have preached for an hour with that much material. Now, I've taken a step back, which gives the clergy more freedom. We try to pick one central passage of Scripture and focus on that for the message. I'll write up a couple pages of background notes on the passage and possible points and interpretations for them to consider. It's very much a team effort. Part of what I value is being true to the Scripture. A Scripture can't mean something to us now that it didn't mean to the original people who heard it.

How does the introduction of a new clergy member affect what you do?

Every person is a new adjustment. Father Simon told me he would prefer I spend less time making notes for priests and more time coaching them in their preaching. We are well aware that priests are going to be coming through here and we know that we must equip them with the right resources and coach them appropriately before we send them off.

Any final thoughts about the philosophy of the preaching series?

At the end of the day, part of what we hope a preaching series does is plant fewer ideas into people's minds that are more impactful. If you come to church every week, you'll get 52 different messages. We know the average person isn't going to remember 52 different things. But what if we focus on the same theme for several weeks so people only have to remember 10 or 12 things? Can we teach less for more, and make a deeper impact? We think we can. It's not about the glitzy graphics that catch people's attention. At the end of the day, all we want to do is make a bigger difference in people's lives. 

DIVING INTO RCIA



Matt Vaughan
Communications Coordinator

Dinah Simmons is the Worship & Sacraments Coordinator at Saint Benedict Parish. I asked her about RCIA and her role with it at Saint Benedict.

What is RCIA?

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It's about initiation into the Church: it's how adults become full members of the Catholic Church. The process in place in Catholic Churches now is modelled on how the Church welcomed new members in the early centuries. Adult baptisms take place at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, and adults who are baptized will celebrate the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The Church calls these three sacraments the Sacraments of Initiation because they're about belonging, becoming a full member of the Church. Some people may have already been baptized. They wouldn't be re-baptized, but would celebrate their First Communion and/or Confirmation.

What does RCIA look like at Saint Benedict?

Overall, RCIA is a process, not a program. It's not a series of classes with a start and end. It's a faith journey with different parts. When people are simply asking "Is this for me?", that's the **inquiry** stage. They're getting to know what faith and the Church is about. This could be a few months, or a few years; people are ready when they're ready.

At some point, they want to go deeper and to make an initial commitment. So we celebrate the Rite of Welcome, which begins the **catechumenate**, a time of deeper and more specific faith formation. Then, usually around the beginning of Lent, there's the Rite of Election, which begins a period of **purification**, taking them through Lent to the Easter Vigil, when they are initiated. After the Easter Vigil, the newly-initiated enter the final period, called **mystagogy**, when they're encouraged to continue growing in faith and to becoming more firmly rooted in the faith community.

At Saint Benedict Parish, we use Alpha as part of the inquiry process. Alpha is a general introduction to Christianity, so it fits really well. We also have a few sessions that focus specifically on those interested in RCIA: one introductory session in the Fall, and another before Christmas. After Christmas, we go deeper, with faith formation sessions looking more at specific Catholic teachings. The format of the special sessions is similar to Alpha: there's a teaching or talk followed by discussion and sharing. As with Alpha, people can share as much or as little as they are comfortable with.

In the early centuries of the Church, initiation was usually a three-year process. Now, we tend to see RCIA begin in the Fall and go until the Spring - a much shorter process! But this can vary. Sometimes people will take a few years to go through the process.

Perhaps the main reason for making RCIA a fairly lengthy process is to help people to see their faith journey as a process, as something ongoing, and to give them the time they need to develop a relationship with the Lord. This isn't about graduating from a program. It's about coming to know Jesus and developing a relationship with him and with the Church community that will last a lifetime.

Is it too late to sign up to be involved?

No one needs to be in a hurry. Also, no one needs to feel that to come to a session or two means that they've made a commitment. We welcome people to come and see if this is for them, and if now is the right time for them.


How long have you been involved with RCIA?

I've been involved with RCIA for about 20 years now. I've journeyed with a lot of people! And it's always such a privilege to get to know people, to see their faith, to see the freshness and the beauty of faith in newcomers or in people who have been away and returned, to see what attracts people, what the Church has to offer to people, what a difference Jesus makes in people's lives. So many people who have been part of RCIA teams or been sponsors for RCIA candidates have told me how much they got out of the process. In fact, lots of people have said that every 'cradle

Catholic' should go through it: you learn so much and you see your faith in new ways. You get to hear other people's stories of how God is working in their lives and to recognize how God is working in your life.

What can a parishioner do to help?

We have a great RCIA team, led by Paul and Rita Christian, and are always ready to welcome more members. We are also happy to welcome sponsors. Everyone on the RCIA journey should have a sponsor. They will need a sponsor to be present for the actual celebrations at the Easter Vigil, but ideally, their sponsor should be journeying with them, attending sessions if possible, going to Mass with them, encouraging them however possible. Folks who want to take part in RCIA should be thinking about who might be a good sponsor. It may be a family member who is a practicing Catholic; it may be someone you know from Church, or someone you met at Alpha. Being a sponsor is a great way for parishioners to be involved in this process.

If you've missed the RCIA introductory session (October 14th at 3:30pm in the St. Joseph Room), it's not too late! You can still talk to Dinah about where you are on your faith journey and what your next step might be. Email her at dinahsimmons@saintbenedict.ca. 



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THE RISE



Peter Mallette
Bene Dictus Team

Corey Robinson is the new Youth Ministry Coordinator at Saint Benedict Parish. For the last seven years, Corey has served in Youth Ministry as a volunteer. We talked to Corey about his new role and his goals for the new Youth Night: The Rise (formerly The Experience).

What qualifies you for this job?

I have always had a heart for young people. Growing up in Edmonton, I was always comfortable being on a team. I fell in love with the sport of Olympic wrestling as a kid. I competed at the Olympic level and won many provincial, national, and international championships. As a former Olympic wrestling coach, I've had experience working with a variety of people, and helping them grow in using their gifts, which helps me to be better qualified for this job.

What is your role and your goal as you see it?

The goal is to meet young people exactly

where they are and provide a loving culture where the atmosphere is welcoming and honest. That will help lead them into a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.

What's your vision for Youth Ministry?

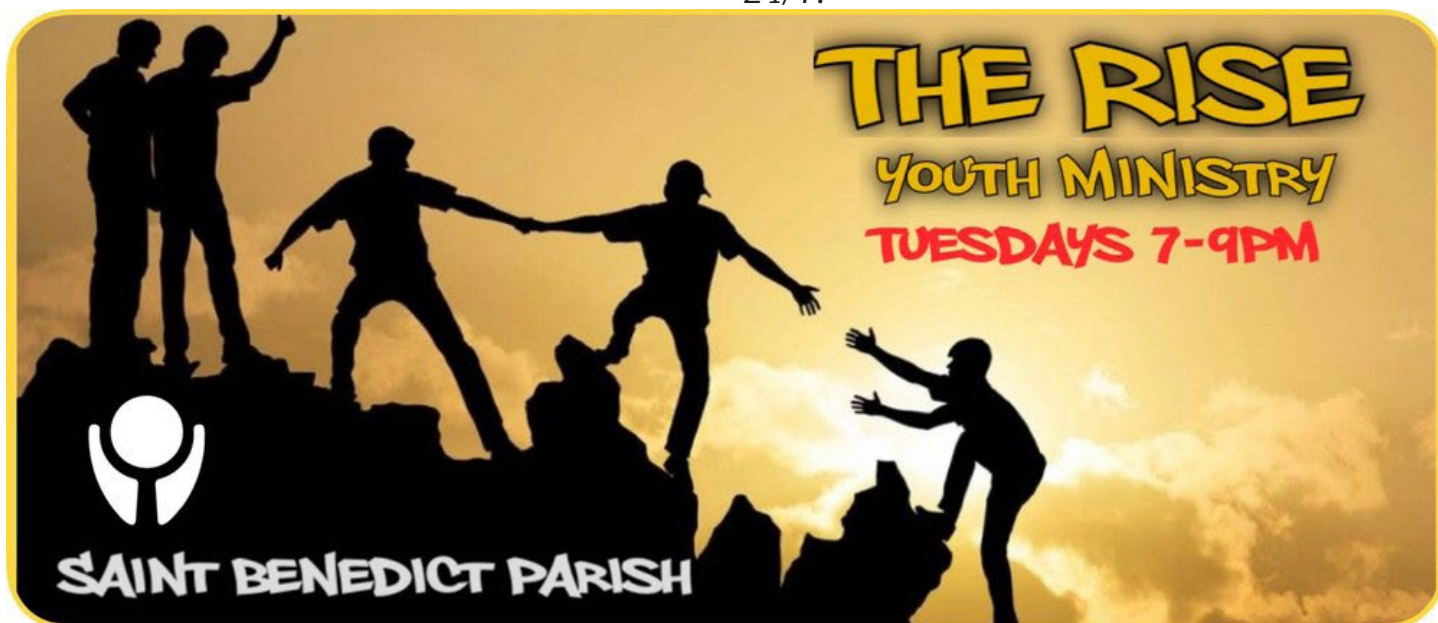
I want a young person to come in and immediately feel like they belong. It's critical they feel like they're not attending a 'program.' Youth Ministry is not a program. It's a relationship with members of their peer group and leaders and a relationship with Jesus. If our mission is to build a closer relationship with Jesus, let's do it together and learn with and from one another about how to form authentic relationships.

Who can attend?

Any young person in grades 7 to 12.

How many nights a week?

Seven. One night at Saint Benedict Parish, on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. The other six nights of the week, we want to serve and minister to our young people outside the church. Meeting them in their homes, clubs, sport teams. As I see it, Youth Ministry is 24/7.



That's a great answer!

Thanks. My vision is that on Tuesday nights, from 7pm to 9pm at Saint Benedict, we'll gather as a group to connect, study the teachings of Jesus, build relationships with one another, have fun in an awesome atmosphere, learn how to pray, and worship Jesus with music. The other six nights are just as important because they will focus on leadership and team ministry. We'll identify the gifts within our young leaders, and they will in turn connect with youth through their extracurricular interests, their families, and social media. I have a knack for identifying gifts in young people, and I love being the person who can help them be the best version of themselves.

Did you have a place like Saint Benedict Parish growing up?

No. I was born and raised Catholic, and we went to church at Christmas and Easter, except when my grandmother visited from

Ontario. Then we went to church every day until she left. I went to Catholic school, but I didn't learn anything about Catholicism because that was an option and I didn't sign up for it. My heart knew there was a God, but I never put any effort into building a relationship with Jesus until my mid-30s. I knew of Jesus, but I didn't know Jesus. If I would have known who Jesus was in my youth through a healthy, formed relationship, I know my life would have been different, especially how I approached my faith. Do I regret not knowing Jesus back then? No, because I am learning that some things are in God's time, like applying for and getting this job. There's a lot of responsibility being Youth Ministry Coordinator. I know I'm not here to convert hearts. That's the Holy Spirit's job. My job is to be patient, and loving, and to provide the best outlet possible for young people to see and know Jesus. I can do that, because it happened for me, and I know it will happen for them in God's time. 🙏



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THE MARRIAGE COURSE



Susan LeRue
Bene Dictus Team

John & Rosemary Kuehn have recently taken The Marriage Course. I sat down with them to discuss their experience.

What does a night at the Marriage Course look like?

ROSEMARY: The Marriage Course is an outgrowth of Alpha. It looks at strengthening the marriage. It starts with a meal, and then videos. It brings you back to look and remember why you picked this person.

JOHN: It's meant for any couple that has been in a committed relationship for two or more years. Seven Date Nights is just for the couple. The couple sit alone, the couple eat alone. It's an intentional structure. The couple only share with each other, not with the whole room.

What else can you share about the course and what it did for your marriage?

JOHN: It took our marriage, which was great, and made it that much better. It reawakened the feelings we had when we were dating and first married, that magic time. Every couple could get something from this course. The leader of our pilot program is a psychiatrist, counselling couples for many years, and he said this program could replace counselling for so many couples because it teaches the fundamentals of how to be loving

and cherishing of each other.

I think of a marriage that is struggling, it would help them to give them the tools to get past that struggle.

ROSEMARY: The other thing I find is that in today's world, we are all so busy. We count on our partners, we're with our partners, your partner is your helper, but this way, it takes you back to remember that you've chosen this person for a reason and God has put this person in your life. It's a way to reflect

and bring you back, and be intentional about spending time with your partner, and in your relationship, and that's what makes it better. This course is Christian-based. It's not religious at all, but there is a faith element. It respects people who may not be of Christian faith, just like Alpha.

As life-altering as Alpha was for me, the Marriage Course was as enlightening and

I was doing it with my partner. This course was re-establishing the relationship with my husband, and because we have done Alpha together, and with God. I would recommend this course for any committed couple.

The next Marriage Course begins Sunday, October 14th, at 6:45 at Saint Benedict in the Auditorium. You can get more information and register at saintbenedict.ca/discipleshipgroups. For additional information, contact Catherine Gould: catherineg@saintbenedict.ca. Dessert with coffee and tea will be served. ☺



Go to
saintbenedict.ca/calendar-events
to see what's coming up!



Discipleship Groups

Try one this Fall:
saintbenedict.ca/discipleshipgroups

PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH
7:30PM IN THE CHURCH

**Do you like
to write?**

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Connect Groups

Alpha Team



Ministry



Discipleship
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Alpha



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Worship



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PARISH STAFF TEAM

DARLENE BONANG (ex 0)
Office Manager
DarleneB@SaintBenedict.ca

ROB MCDOWELL (ex 26)
Director of Parish Life
RobM@SaintBenedict.ca

COREY ROBINSON
Youth Ministry Coordinator
CoreyR@SaintBenedict.ca

DINAH SIMMONS (ex 24)
Worship & Sacraments Coordinator
DinahS@SaintBenedict.ca

CATHERINE GOULD (ex 27)
Discipleship Group Coordinator
CatherineG@SaintBenedict.ca

TANYA NOYE (ex 28)
Alpha & Connections Coordinator
TanyaN@SaintBenedict.ca

KATE ROBINSON (ex 29)
Director of Communications
KateR@SaintBenedict.ca

MATT VAUGHAN (ex 42)
Communications Coordinator
MattV@SaintBenedict.ca

PAUL LANG (ex 41)
AV Coordinator
PaulL@SaintBenedict.ca

RYAN ORLANDO (ex 40)
Facilities & Custodial Manager
RyanO@SaintBenedict.ca

BILL SCOLLARD (ex 39)
Director of Pastoral Ministries
BillS@SaintBenedict.ca

CHRIS YETMAN (ex 21)
Finance Manager
ChrisYetman@SaintBenedict.ca

PHIL MARMEN
Music Ministry Leader
PhilM@SaintBenedict.ca

LAURA O'ROURKE
Director of Children's Ministries
LauraO@SaintBenedict.ca

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES
Office@SaintBenedict.ca

If you're interested in the sacraments of baptism or matrimony at Saint Benedict Parish, please note that in addition to preparation, we require that you get in touch with us a minimum of three months in advance of your hoped-for date for baptism and one year prior to your desired wedding date.

For information on baptisms, please email Carol:
baptisms@saintbenedict.ca.

For information on weddings, please email
Deacon David: **weddings@saintbenedict.ca.**


For information on preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, please email
PACT@saintbenedict.ca.

For information on becoming Catholic, please email
RCIA@saintbenedict.ca.

For funerals, please call the parish office (902-443-0725, and listen to the prompts) to be connected with our funeral ministry team.

FINANCIAL UPDATE - AUGUST 2018

PARISH DEBT REDUCTION	REC'D	TOTAL	AVG/
ENVELOPES	118	\$3,346	\$28.36
PAR (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)	62	\$3,287	see note
MORTGAGE BALANCE (AS OF MONTH END)		\$526,027	
INTEREST PAID (ON MORTGAGE)		\$1,909	
PRINCIPAL PAID (ON MORTGAGE)		\$9,529	
Principal payments include principal portion of monthly mortgage payment plus additional principal payments made from Parish Debt funds received.			
SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	REC'D	TOTAL	AVG/
ENVELOPES	1,100	\$30,627	\$27.84
PAR (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)	405	\$57,072	see note
Note: PAR options include weekly, bi-weekly and monthly withdrawals; therefore a 'weekly' average is unavailable.			



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