MINISTRY P4
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

INVITATION P5
MEET THE 'SPECIAL OPS' TEAM

AUGUST 2017

BENE DICTUS

PHOTO: ANTONIO SOLIS

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH

45 Radcliffe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3M 0E1
902-443-0725

PASTOR
Fr. Simon Lobo, CC

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Fr. Jim O'Connor

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

BENE DICTUS IS YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE IN PRINT OR IN YOUR EMAIL INBOX.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Please stop by the Welcome Booth and Introduce yourself.

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Please speak to Chris Yetman
chrisyetman@saintbenedict.ca

Father Simon Says...

During our previous preaching series, Refuel, I jokingly said that after three weeks of being in leadership, "This whole Pastor thing is way overrated!" There is no doubt that it is a huge responsibility. With that said, I have felt a great deal of love and support from you, the parishioners and staff of Saint Benedict. Thank you for your patience with me in my weakness.

Comings and Goings

The other day someone asked, "So how do you feel now that the dust has settled after the big transition?" Well, to be honest, there is a bit more dust yet to settle. We are delighted to welcome Fr. Jim O'Connor of the Archdiocese of Halifax. He will arrive on August 15th which is actually his second anniversary of priesthood! Many of you will remember him as he was a member of our parish long before his call to serve God as a priest. He has a warm, childlike demeanour along with an enthusiastic, entrepreneurial spirit. Fr. Matthew Keshwah will be arriving on September 1st from the Archdiocese of Ottawa. You might be surprised to discover that Fr. Matthew and I went to high school together (he was a year ahead of me). He walked away from a successful career in the corporate world to pursue a vocation to priesthood. I have no doubt that you will love both of these priests, and I am sure that we will learn much from them as they learn from Saint Benedict and Divine Renovation.

It is with mixed emotions that I share about another transition. For the last year, Ron Huntley has been coaching parishes across the world through online

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

video conferencing. As the demand has grown – and long before Fr. James was aware of God's plan for our transition – Ron was already thinking about how he would likely have to move into coaching full-time for the Divine Renovation Network (DRN). The sad news is that Ron will be moving on from our parish staff as of September 1st so as to bless the broader Church. The good news is that he will still be at our parish and will continue to support me in my leadership. Furthermore, he has spent the last few years raising up an apprentice to take his place. I am thrilled to announce the addition of Bill Scollard to our staff team. Bill is in the SMU Hall of Fame for football and has a giant heart for people and for the mission of our parish. He is retiring from a career that he loves (selling beer) so that he can proclaim a person whom he loves even more: Jesus Christ. Welcome Bill!

Finally, if you have been reading the Overview, you will have noticed a job posting for a "Coordinator of Communications & Mission Support." I'd like to offer a bit more context. For several months we have recognized the need to grow our Communications Team. I want to thank Kate for the ways she has innovated and created quality communication at our parish (such as this Bene Dictus that you are reading). As a church, we are in the business of communication! We have been entrusted with a powerful message, and we have to continuously find creative, new methods – as Pope John Paul II urged us – to share this Good News. In addition to this genuine need, Fr. James has been encouraging me before, during and after the transition, to get a personal assistant to help manage my life, which is growing considerably more complex. Many people may not be aware, but Anne Marie Sime was helping to manage Fr. James' calendar while he was serving as pastor. As he has moved on, she is going with him to continue to serve him in this capacity.

In an effort to be financially responsible, every July we do a budget reforecast based on where we are at midyear with regards to revenue and expenses. I went into the reforecast meeting asking if there was any possibility to make a hire for September, to respond to these staffing needs. I was pleased to discover that we did have the funds available. Still, I sat down with the Finance Council to seek their wisdom and, once again, was encouraged that they supported the decision to make this hire. Thus we opened up the job posting (details were in the Overview) and are hoping to interview and find the right person in the coming weeks.

Please pray for our parish and our staff team as we get settled, so we can refocus on the mission that Jesus has invited us into.

August Preaching Series

I hope that you are enjoying and will continue to follow our latest series: Portraits of Jesus.

MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School

Gabbie Ricafort
Bene Dictus Team

Vacation Bible School or VBS is a place where kids can meet and make friends, have fun, be inspired and learn about Jesus.

Marlene Millett has been leading VBS for the last 6 years. I asked her a few things about the program (held July 10-14).

What was the theme for VBS this year?
A Marvelous Mystery, The Mass Comes Alive.

What does a typical day at VBS look like?
We greet the children as they arrive, we gather for an opening assembly that includes the theme, virtue, and Saint of the day, a skit, prayer and song. Then we break out to the various stations; faith, craft, games and music. We have 2 rotations of stations and then a snack break (the snacks are themed for the day) then 2 more station rotations and gather for a closing prayer and a song, then dismissal.

What's your inspiration in taking on this ministry?
My inspiration as always is the children, sharing my faith with them and what I get back from the children.

The children really enjoyed this year's VBS! On the final day, they attended the 9am Mass together. Some daily Mass goers were pleasantly surprised at how the kids were very excited to interact and answer Fr. Simon's questions during the homily. The program was well organized and the kids learned so much.

My favourite part of VBS was seeing so many youth involved in the program (as Junior Leaders) and how they inspired the little ones. They were such amazing role models!

The kids were asked the Top 10 things they liked about VBS and they were so excited to share their favourite reasons why VBS was awesome!

"I like the music and I like to dance and sing."
- Julia deLima, 10

"I like dancing because it's fun and it makes me happy."
- David Burchell, 6

"I like learning about Jesus because it helps me have a good life."
- Cameron O'Rourke, 7

"I like that they [skits] are funny and they teach us more about God."
- Katie MacIntyre, 8

SBP Operations Team (AKA 'Special Ops')

Rob McDowell, Director of Parish Life (Ops Team Lead)

Everyone has been created by God to make a difference, but not everyone was created to make a difference the same way.Whether you can speak or serve, all makes a difference and honours God as he wants you to use the gifts and talents he has given you.

> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received.. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Operations is a great place to serve for people who may not be inclined to speak, sing, or do other public roles. If you love to create order, structure, clean environments or organization then we would encourage you to consider serving on the OPS team.

Joanne Thibeau, Finance Manager

The purpose of the finance office is to manage the finances and maintain the overall financial integrity of the parish through efficient counting and receipting of all financial records.

Do you: have a financial background? Enjoy working with numbers:
Are you: detail oriented? Comfortable working with numbers? Trustworthy? Able to be part of a regular rotation (every few weeks)? Available during regular business hours?

If any of this sounds like you, I'd love to talk to you about becoming a member of the finance ministry team. Please contact me at: joannet@saintbenedict.ca

Ryan Orlando, Facilities and Custodial Manager

Our goal is to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all parishioners and visitors by managing the ongoing cleaning, maintenance and upkeep of the building.

I would love to hear from you if you are passionate about and have skills in any aspect of cleaning, landscaping, carpentry, painting, mechanical, electrical, security and/or special events set up. Please drop me an email at: ryano@saintbenedict.ca.

Darlene Bonang, Office Manager

In the office we aim to create an environment where everyone is welcomed and informed. We are also responsible for performing a wide variety of administrative tasks.

Do you have good interpersonal skills? Are you detail oriented with good computer skills? Do you enjoy juggling multiple tasks and are you comfortable helping others manage their expectations?

Purpose: The SBP Operations Team Members are disciples who support the parish vision and Game Plan by developing and implementing systems and procedures to foster a healthy and growing faith community.

If you are available during the day between Monday and Friday on an as-needed basis then please contact me at: darleneb@saintbenedict.ca.

Chris Yetman, Director of Engagement

We endeavor to support everyone, from first time visitors to long time members, in becoming more fully engaged by creating systems that assist in taking the next step.
Do you enjoy special projects that allow for a flexible schedule? Are you good with spreadsheets, data inputting or have a solid understanding of computer software? If any of this describes you then let's connect to see how your gifts and talents can assist in helping to form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ. chrisyetman@saintbenedict.ca.

The main reason that I serve in various ministries at Saint Benedict is that I feel the Lord is calling me to do so.. Since my conversion during the first Alpha here, I have prayed for wisdom and guidance to say yes to the Lord whenever the opportunity is placed before me. Many opportunities have been placed before me during the last 6 years and I currently serve in many ministries. I feel blessed to be involved and thank God for giving me these opportunities to serve him. I love every minute that I serve and feel a strong sense of peace and fulfillment when working with others in the parish, especially with Hospitality and Mass Coordination.

- Bryce Ball

Serving at the front desk in the parish office is a true blessing. It not only gives me an opportunity to help out when I can, but it enables me to get to know many of the wonderful parishioners of Saint Benedict.
On a more personal note, it is one small way I can contribute some of my time to help out and to give back to this faith-filled community that has become such an important part of my life.

- Dawn Purcell

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THANKS!

FR. JAMES
Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal and Leadership

It has been more than a month now since I have transitioned from my role as pastor of Saint Benedict Parish. While much has changed, many things have not, including my ongoing participation in the life of the parish. I love being a parishioner of Saint Benedict and being able to help out with preaching and presiding on weekends and during the week. I am also physically at the parish one or two days a week and have regular contact with Fr. Simon and the parish staff. My new roles are going well. It is a bit odd, however, as so many of the things I used to have to try and find time to get done are now my job.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the many parishioners who wrote kind messages during my last weeks as pastor. Thank you for your cards and for the gifts I received. I have been able to thank many of your personally and I am still working through my list. Some cards came with first names only or were names that I was unable to put a face to. If any of you are reading this, thank you so much for your kindness. I ask for your ongoing prayers and support in the weeks and months ahead. I am excited about this new chapter of my life, and excited about this new chapter in the Life of Saint Benedict Parish.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

The Experience

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18TH | 7-9 PM | AUDITORIUM

- grades 7-12 welcome (non-church members welcome- bring a friend!)
- no fees or pre-registration
- every Monday night

If you're interested in joining the team, or need more information, contact Ronnie Lunn, ronniel@saintbenedict.ca, 902- 443-0725 (37).

NEW!
Alpha @SaintBP

Starting: September 22nd

Daytime
9:45-12pm

Evening
6:30-9pm

Register now:
saintbenedict.ca/alpha

Life's Healing Choices

Overcoming Our Hurts, Hang-ups and Habits

10 Tuesday Evenings (from 7-9pm)

September 19 - November 21

Contact Laura: mslaurawatson@gmail.com

902 476 1389

Becoming Catholic

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): If you are interested in becoming Catholic or completing your initiation by celebrating confirmation and/or first communion as an adult, you're invited to an orientation session on **Sunday, September 24th (4-6pm, Auditorium).**

Please send us an email (rcia@saintbenedict.ca) so we can plan for numbers.

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NEW MINISTRY

If you are someone approaching the end of elementary school... if you're someone just a little too young for The Experience but feel like you want something similar... if you love one of the people just mentioned... then this is the news you've been waiting for!

It has been dreamed about, hinted at, talked about, but now, finally, it is a reality. Here are all the exciting details about it!

INTRODUCING.. THE ENCOUNTER!

6:30 - 8PM ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

The Encounter is a brand new youth group starting in September. This youth group is specifically for preteens in grades 5 and 6, and it is going to be awesome!

The Encounter is the exciting piece between SHINE and The Experience. To help this age group transition between our children's ministry and our youth ministry, Laura (the Director of Children's Ministries) and Ronnie (the Youth Ministry Coordinator) will be partnering together to launch this program.

Why is it called The Encounter? "Encountering" someone requires a personal connection. And that connection is our goal for this program! Simply, we named it The Encounter because this group is about friendship - with Jesus and with each other!

Why is it happening on a weeknight?

The Encounter (Grades 5-6) is a youth group geared towards kids slightly too young to go to The Experience (Grades 7-12). For this reason, and to help these (pre)teens transition into The Experience in Grade 7, we wanted to run The Encounter (Grades 5-6) in a similar format to The Experience (Grades 7-12).

As with everything we do at Saint Benedict Parish, evangelization within an invitational culture is the goal! We don't just want to reach pre-teens in Grades 5 and 6 who go to Mass weekly. We want to be a place where our youth can invite their friends. This is the main reason why it is so beneficial to both our community and to our mission as disciples of Jesus to offer an evening youth group, not tied to whether or not the youth currently attends church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

The Encounter is the place to be for all those in Grades 5 and 6 on the second Tuesday of every month. To make it easy, here are the upcoming dates until Christmas:

- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12

See you there! invite your friends!

IF THE ENCOUNTER SOUNDS LIKE A MINISTRY YOU'D LIKE TO SERVE WITH, PLEASE EMAIL RONNIE AND LAURA.

RONNIEL@SAINTBENEDICT.CA
LAURAO@SAINTBENEDICT.CA

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 SBP Kids	14	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Anointing of the Sick Fr. Jim Arrives	16 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament *Gym to Knight	17	18 Men's Leadership Gym	19 Confessions 3-3:45pm
20 SBP Kids	21	22 SBP Podcast Released	23 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	24 Feast of St. Bartholomew	25 Men's Leadership Gym	26 Confessions 3-3:45pm
27 SBP Kids	28	29	30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	31	1 September Men's Leadership Gym	2 Confessions 3-3:45pm
3 SBP Kids	4 Labour Day Holiday	5 SBP Podcast Released	2 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	3	4 Men's Leadership Gym	5 Confessions 3-3:45pm

***GYM TO NIGHT** is for men. Not just Knights or men of our parish, but men. We sing, we hear a faith talk, spend time in small groups and finish with song and prayer. We share fellowship and friendship. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 6:30 for 7pm start.

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Darlene Bonang (ex 0)
Office Manager
DarleneB@

Cheryl Boudreau
Administrative Assistant
CherylB@

Jen Ferrier (ex 30)
Evangelization Coordinator
JenniferF@

Catherine Gould (ex 27)
Discipleship Group Coordinator
CatherineG@

Ron Huntley (ex 39)
Director of Pastoral Ministries
RonH@

Paul Lang (ex 41)
AV & Music Coordinator
PaulL@

Ronnie Lunn (ex 37)
Youth Ministry Coordinator
RonnieL@

Rob McDowell (ex 26)
Director of Parish Life
RobM@

Ryan Orlando (ex 40)
Facilities & Custodial Manager
RyanO@

Laura O'Rourke
Director of Children's Ministries
LauraO@

Kate Robinson (ex 29)
Director of Communications
KateR@

Dinah Simmons (ex 24)
Director of Sacraments & Liturgy
DinahS@

Joanne Thibeau (ex 28)
Manager of Finance
JoanneT@

Deacon David Viscount
Permanent Deacon
DavidV@

Chris Yetman (ex 21)
Director of Engagement
ChrisYetman@

Financial Update - June 2017

Parish Debt Reduction	Rec'd	Total	Avg/
Envelopes	174	$4,290	$24
PAR (pre-authorized remittance)	68	$3,582	see note
Mortgage Balance (as of month end)		$682,340	
Interest Paid (on mortgage)		$1,830	
Principal Paid (on mortgage)		$16,308	

Principal payments include principal portion of monthly mortgage payment plus additional principal payments made from Parish Debt funds recieved.

Sunday Collections	Rec'd	Total	Avg/
Envelopes	1,317	$40,275	$30
PAR (pre-authorized remittance)	387	$48,887	see note

Note: PAR options include weekly, bi-weekly and monthly withdrawals; therefore a 'weekly' average is unavailable.

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 3 months in advance of your hoped-for date for baptism and one year prior to your desired wedding date.

For more information on baptisms, please contact Carol: baptisms@saintbenedict.ca. For more information on weddings, please contact Deacon David: weddings@saintbenedict.ca.

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

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