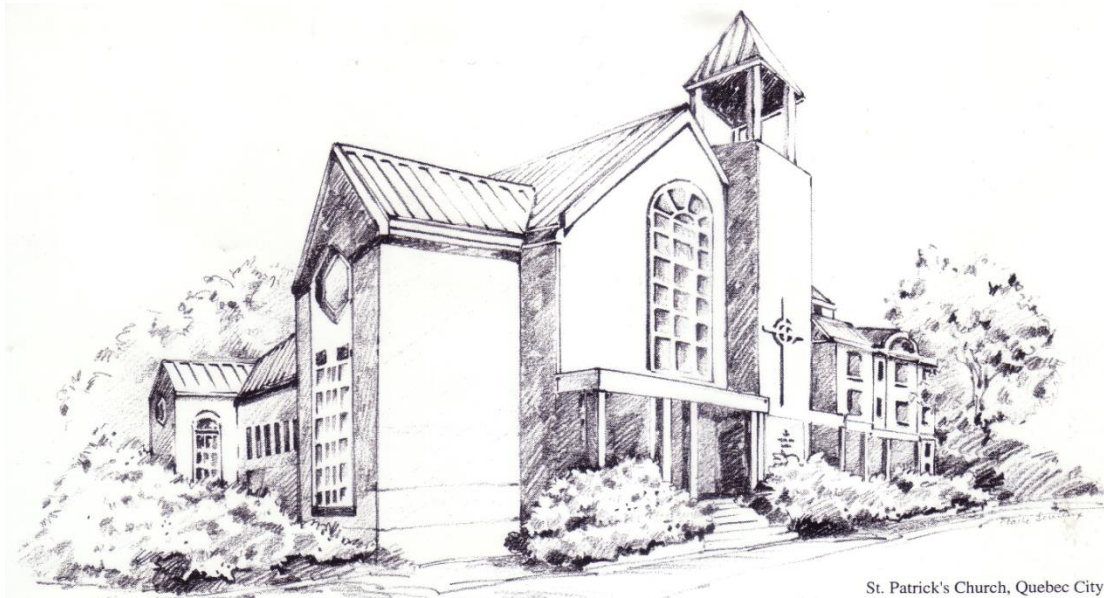


St Patrick's Parish Bulletin



St. Patrick's Church, Quebec City

Mission Statement

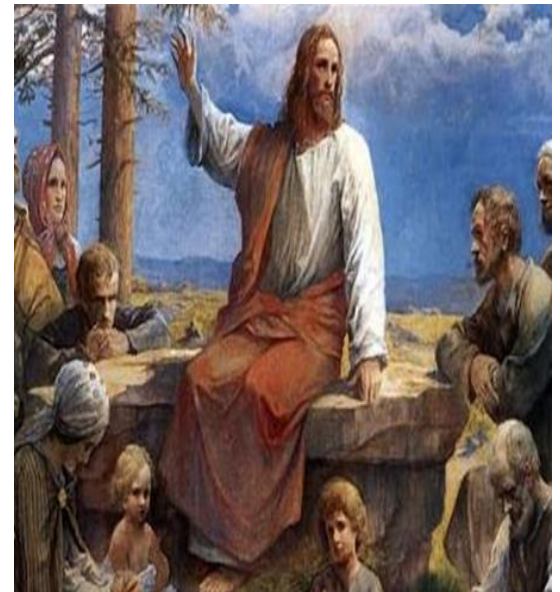
While honouring its Irish heritage, St. Patrick's Parish has a unique mission to live and share the teachings of Jesus Christ with Roman Catholics who worship in the English language in the Diocese.

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17th Sunday in Ordinary time, July 24th, 2022

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, Luke substitutes the word *Holy Spirit*. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is central to Luke's theology and who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church. This parable and the others in the Gospel, should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, as Jesus teaches in his model prayer,



"So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11.1-13)

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Most of us will have had various teachers in the course of our lives. Hopefully there will be some that we can recall with great affection and appreciation because they passed on to us something very valuable. They may have set us on a path that proved to be of great benefit to ourselves and to others. When we think back on those particular teachers and ask why they impressed us, we might discover that it was about more than just the actual content of their teaching. It also had to do with their enthusiasm for their subject. They were clearly in love with their subject and they succeeded in communicating something of that love to us. Or they may have impressed us because of the way they related to us. They took us seriously; they treated us with respect. They shared their knowledge and love of their subject with us because they knew it would serve us well as human beings.

Good teachers in this sense are likely to be in demand; people will approach them and call on them to teach. This is what we find happening in this morning's gospel reading. The disciples approach Jesus and ask him to teach them how to pray. They had come to recognize him as a good teacher. In particular, they had become very aware that here was someone who knew a great deal about God, and, even more importantly, someone who knew God personally and loved God deeply. They had seen him communicate with God in prayer. The gospel reading begins 'once Jesus was praying in a certain place'. The disciples wanted to be able to communicate with God as Jesus did, to share in some way in his own relationship with God. Like any good teacher, Jesus responded to their request. He passionately wanted to share his relationship with God with others, to bring others into that relationship. He was not a hoarder who kept what he had to himself.

In response to the disciples' request, Jesus gave them a set prayer which is also a teaching on how to pray. A good teacher will not simply give information; in giving such information, they will also communicate a way of approaching the subject so that people can go off and apply this approach creatively for themselves. Jesus was saying to his disciples: Here is a prayer and here is also an approach to prayer for you to make your own. We pray this prayer, the Lord's Prayer, every time we gather to celebrate Eucharist and at other times of personal prayer. We have all learned this prayer from our childhood, but we also need to keep absorbing the approach to prayer that this prayer expresses. Jesus first invites us to address God in the same intimate way as he did, as 'Abba, Father' and he empowers us to do so by sending us the Holy Spirit. As Paul writes to the Galatians, 'God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba, Father!"' (Gal 4:6). In this prayer, Jesus then teaches us that our primary focus in prayer is to be on God rather than on ourselves. To pray is to go out of ourselves towards God. We express our longing for God's name to be honoured, for God's kingdom to come on earth, for God's will to be done. Jesus teaches us that in prayer we are to identify with God's purpose, whatever that might be, even when we do not fully understand it. Jesus seems to be teaching us that prayer is primarily about what God wants rather than what we want.

Within that primary focus, the Lord's Prayer teaches us that there is also scope for a focus on ourselves and on our wants and needs, but not so much on ourselves as individuals but on ourselves in relation to others. After the opening petitions which have to do with God, the remaining petitions have to do not with 'me' but with 'us'. We pray to God out of our shared needs. We all need daily sustenance, the strength to keep going, especially when life is a struggle – 'give us this day our daily bread'. We all need God's forgiveness and the freedom to pass on that forgiveness to others – 'forgive us our sins as we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us'. We all need God to stand with us when what is best in us is put to the test by evil – 'do not put us to the test but deliver us from evil'. In some ways, all genuine prayer will be shaped by these concerns of the Lord's Prayer. This prayer gives us an approach to God, to life and to each other; it gives us Jesus' own fundamental values which we are called to make our own, not only in our prayer but in our whole way of being.

The remainder of the gospel reading assures us that if we pray in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer, our prayer will certainly be answered. If we ask in that spirit, we will receive; if we seek in that spirit, we will find. God wants to give us all that we ask for in the Lord's Prayer. If we keep coming before God and asking for these necessary goods, Jesus assures us that God will not be slow in answering our prayer.

Bulletin information

Donations for Ukrainians in need

Since the invasion of their country in February 2022, many Ukrainian families, mostly women with young children, have sought refuge in Quebec.

There is now a donation box on the left side in the back of the church with the inscription "Donations for the Ukrainians in need". If you wish to contribute, special envelopes are available for this purpose in your pews. Please do not use them for the regular collection for the parish during Mass. They are only for donations for Ukrainians in need. Receipts for charitable donations can be issued for those who provide their parishioner number or their full name and address on the envelope. Your financial offering is important. Please, give generously and thank you for the donations we have already received. N.B. If you make a check, it must be made out to « St. Patrick's Parish »

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass July 23rd at 4:PM Personnal intention from a parishioner

Sunday MassvJuly 24th at 10:AM Charlotte and Fred Pichard from Helen Pichard

Mary Johnston from Steve, Patrick and Alain.

Monday July 25th **No Mass**

Tuesday Mass July 26th at 11:30:AM Sainte Anne from Father Réjean Lussier

Wednesday July 27th **No Mass**

Thursday July 28th **No Mass**

Friday July 29th **No Mass**

Saturday Mass July 30th at 4:PM Jean Pierre Munger from Steven Neatt

Sunday Mass July 31st at 10.AM Monique O'Connor from Teresa Dubois

Helen Dinan from Robert Mc Garrety and family

Last Sunday collection: 1036.45. Thank you for your donations.

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