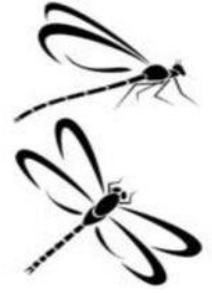


St. Alphonsus Parish



August 2017



Parish House: 832-3327 **Fax:** 832-2157
Email: stalaphonsusparish@nb.aibn.com
Website: www.stalphonsushampton.com
Weekday Liturgies: To be announced
Saturday Liturgy: 4 pm
Sunday Liturgies: 9 am Upham / 10:30 am Hampton

Read Date of Issue: August 26th & 27th

September 9th & 10th welcomes the Christian image of the Cat-Tail! Each person brings a cat-tail, cut as long as possible. Be careful to keep the pointed top on the cat-tail. Please bring one for yourself and one for a person not able to get into the ditch so easily!

~*~*~*~ Syrian Family Update ~*~*~*~

Although we do not have a date of arrival for the Al Zohbi's, they have all had final security clearances and we hope they will be coming to Canada within a few weeks. With that in mind, we have rented an apartment on Kennebecasis River Road; a peaceful, tree-filled space with a wonderful yard for the children to play.

Earlier this month, several parishioners - including some of our youth who came driving their own cars! - brought all the furnishings from storage to the new apartment. Since then, our apartment setup team, including the Al Zohbi's from St. Marks/Quispamsis, have been working hard setting up a wonderful living space for our sponsor family. Floors and cupboards have been scrubbed, bedding washed, and several women are currently hemming curtains for the many windows. "Welcome" backpacks are being prepared by the Youth Group, with water, treats and some toys or books to greet the family upon their arrival.

I have had some contact over the past year with Salam and Mahmoud in Quispamsis as well as other Syrian families sponsored by the Hampton Refugee Action Committee in Saint John. It has been a very humbling experience. I am sure that the first English word they learn is "Thank-you!", because that is what I hear repeatedly, the minute I greet any of them.

What we as a parish are doing, with our contributions of money, time, caring and prayer, are much appreciated by those who have had to flee their homes. Please keep Sabah and Nazeh and their children in your prayers, for a speedy resolution of the final steps of travel documents and flights.

Karen Bethune

Financial Facts:

- Avg. Offertory July 2017 - \$1,923; same month last year - \$1,897
- Cemetery Collection - \$3,122
- Next Special Collection: "Needs of the Canadian Church" - September 23rd/24th.
- Hall Rental Information: Contact Gloria Wilson 832-3792 or Louise McKee 832-5303.



Thanks to Emma Crowley for Photo process

Parents, Sponsors and Catechists celebrate First Eucharist:

Catechist **Sheila Boudreau**, Scott Folkins, parent; **Kevin Barry**, pastor; **Jill Folkins**, parent; **Mary Ann Kelly**, sponsor; express the joy of participating with **Mary Bailey Folkins**, **Seri Anna Folkins** and **Alexis Ruby Coombs** after five sessions brought them together to the **June 18th** Community Eucharist.

Our Spiritual Journey



**Six Friday – Morning Sessions
9 am to Noon @ St. Alphonsus**

**September 29th
October 13th, 20th & 27th
November 3rd & 17th**

The Focus ... is the encouragement and enjoyment of adults, as a wonder of Creation ... in their own spiritual journey ... and especially the activity of God, the Divine One, permeating All.

**Ecumenical ... open to persons of the K Valley
adults ... couples ... friends!**

Register: Pauline 832-4159

1. Respecting the newness of a circle of parent, sponsor and child, Five Sessions were initiated to bring families First Eucharist preparation:

Any children of school age desiring First Eucharist is welcome; each child must be accompanied to each session by parent or sponsor-person. (It may not be the same person each time, if that is not possible.)

The sponsor –person takes full part in each session, listening, speaking, participating in the activities of learning and prayer ... all at ease ... Learners.

A large space was needed each session as the group moved through the different aspects. Here, the **Gathering Room** had the advantage of enclosure, intimacy and brightness that comes from the Foyer.

Then Sheila, catechist, with years of experience relating with families in her Home Program, accessed the space near the Baptism Font ... a place of Natural Light and association with First welcome in Baptism ... The Table of the Eucharist area ... and spaces in the Assembly Seating ... all playful and quiet and good for story-telling of Life and Scripture narratives.

2. September and October:

The **next** phase of Catechesis comes to formal completion in **September and October**.

Once in September and once in October these families and sponsors will be scheduled a Session.

With time to notice the effect of being accepted and welcomed as part of the fullness of Eucharist, families will focus on **The Practice** of becoming **interested and familiar** with the Word and Scripture Stories that a child would be drawn to love ... "Open My Heart to Your Word"

And the **last Session** ... opening the ever-present attitude necessary to grow in the Friends of Jesus ... **paying attention to others** who are "Part of a Circle" that lasts forever.