



Church of the Ascension 1476 Sparks St. Sudbury ON

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From the Interim Rector...

How Do We Love Our Neighbors as Ourselves?

An Excerpt from Fr. Bob's Sermon from September 10, 2017

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:8-10)

This "law" of "loving your neighbor as yourself" is one that we see throughout the Bible. We first see it in Leviticus 19:18, way back in the Law of Moses. Then in the Gospels, Jesus also states that the entire Law is summed up in "loving your neighbor as yourself" (see Mark 12:28-34, paralleled in Matthew 22:34-40 and Luke 10:25-28). Specifically in Luke's Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate what it means to love one's neighbor as oneself. Then in his letter, James states that one "fulfills the royal law" by loving your neighbor as yourself (James 2:8). And finally in Galatians 5:14, St. Paul says the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." So this "law" of loving your neighbor as yourself is both foundational and essential to Christian living. It is a requirement of all the faithful that can be traced throughout the entirety of the Scriptures.

But what does this mean for us living together in this Christian community we call the Church of the Ascension? How do we live out this command to love our neighbors as ourselves? I think there are five practical ways that we live out this type of love. You could certainly add more to this list, but let's start with five:

First, we will rejoice together when we need to rejoice, and we will mourn together

when we need to mourn. Jesus calls us to support each other in all times, whether times of joy or times of sorrow.

Second, we will offer forgiveness when asked, and we will ask for forgiveness when we have caused any offense or hurt. As we'll see next week in our Gospel reading, Jesus calls each of us to lead a life of forgiveness.

Third, we will choose to always be open to learning and being teachable. In loving our neighbors as ourselves, we are always ready to learn from others in our congregation, no matter their station in life, young or old, long-time parishioner or newcomer.

Fourth, we will not be judgmental of each other. Instead, we will ask the hard questions of ourselves.

And fifth, we will always pray for each other. A healthy Christian community is always rooted and grounded in prayer. On Sundays, our liturgy allows us to pray for each other and for this community. But a prayer-life rooted in love of neighbor needs to take place throughout the other six days of the week.

These are five simple but profound ways that we can do a better job loving our neighbors as ourselves right here at the Church of the Ascension.

Parish Life...

The Parish Life Committee sprung to action on Sunday, June 16th. Rather than a Tea/Coffee hour, a full spread for lunch welcomed parishioners of The Church of the Epiphany to join in fellowship with those at the Ascension. Many thanks to all of those at our Ascension who helped with the planning, preparing and clean up. We had plans to host out on the front lawn, but this summer's weather was....!?!

Members of the Parish Life are blessed to know one another.

J.Cox (Interim Chair)

Parish Youth...

Welcome back to all of our youth and their families!

I am hoping to hear that you all had a fabulous summer. Throughout the summer I had the opportunity to go to Youth Synod at Camp Manitou (July 2-5th) as well as work with some amazing youth from across the Diocese of Algoma. Youth Synod was a great week out at camp where we got to develop our faith and learn about our relationship with the Lord, without being afraid of the serious topics we read in the Bible.

I would like to use this opportunity to share some information regarding events to take place this coming year starting in the month of October.

For the past few years our youth group has met on Sunday evenings start-

ing with dinner and finishing with a bible study or discussion/group activity. I would like to invite any youth who may be interest in joining our youth group to come visit and enjoy fellowship (and snacks as always) on October 1st 2017, 7pm at Church of the Ascension. Here we will talk as a group about our likes and interests to get to know one another but to as well decide what we would like to do and what topics we are interested in exploring throughout the year.

Starting October 1st, we will have the first Diocese of Algoma's Mental Health Awareness Month. This is an initiative lead by the youth in our diocese to break a stigma and share information about such a prominent subject in today's society. Stay tuned for a list of events for the month of October 2017.

Each summer it is tradition to travel to Camp Manitou for a youth bible camp, Youth Synod as previously mentioned. There will be no Youth Synod in summer 2018, however there will be an extraordinary opportunity for us to travel to CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth). CLAY 2018 will take place in Thunder Bay Ontario August 15-19 2018. For more information regarding CLAY please visit claygathering.ca or their facebook page.

Wishing you all a fantastic first month back at work and school, good health and many blessings,

Megan Trimmer

From the Church Office Mice...

School is starting to get back in full swing with classes beginning to fill students' coming days. Within the Parish, we are also gearing back up with the Board Meeting just this past week. Our church calendar is filling up with Parish events. The Weekly Announcements is filling up with news and events after the quiet summer season. As the meetings begin to fill our monthly planner, it seems a natural time to reflect on the various lively and vital ministries here at the Church of the Ascension.

The Church of the Ascension has always had the tradition of various active ministries, both those that were contained in the parish as well as many that overflowed into the community. Over the years, we have had some ministries sprout and grow beyond what we thought possible. Others peaked and have held steady, while a few have matured and quietly faded as the parish or community needs evolved, or those parishioners involved in planning were called to another ministry. But the parish is a living thing

and this sort of movement is natural.

Currently, we are incredibly blessed to continue the tradition of having many thriving ministries at the Church of the Ascension from Children and Youth Ministries, Worship Ministries, Music Ministries and Pastoral Care. This last one would be as simple as going to sit and visit with someone for an hour once a week. Our Outreach Ministry touches the Greater City of Sudbury through providing Out of the Cold Dinners, assisting Barrydowne College students with food and Christmas gifts. It also reaches across the globe to provide assistance to the Council of the North, the Tarime Diocese (Tanzania), and Zawadi la Tumaini (a Kenyan orphanage). Our Worship Ministry serves our community by providing monthly worship services to people in Finlandia and Westmount. So, our little Parish has both a near and far reaching scope, when it comes to serving others.

Some of these ministries have been around for a very long time and others are very new. One of those new ministries is a youth Bible Study. It started last September and is designed to serve to the needs of those children who are ready to launch from Godly Play and begin to study the Bible. Over this summer, our Worship Ministry also grew by adding more morning and evening prayer services. This shows that in our service to others there is always room for new ideas, suggestions and we are committed to continue to grow and evolve.

We have only touched on a few of the vital Ministries at our Parish. As James 2:26 states, "For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." Faith flourishes when it includes Ministry or works. How do you feel called to serve? Talk to a few people around the Parish; find out what other Ministries are happening now. Is being involved in the worship service calling you? Assisting in home visits? How about joining an existing committee? If you have some ideas or thoughts on ways we can better serve our Parish or our community, speak to a church leader. Share your ideas. Fan the embers of your faith and let's live our lives to the fullest serving Christ as we serve each other:

Our Mission

"To share in the gathering work of Christ so that his newness of life overflows into our hearts, homes churches, and community."

Blessings from the 'Office Mice' at the Ascension,

Joan Servent and Erma Howe

The next issue of The Ascension Witness will be in November 2017. Items for the July Edition of The Ascension Witness are due in by the 27th October. Please forward them to Glenn Lloyd at argeedblu@gmail.com

Agnus Day



Your privacy

Every week the church bulletin and news and announcements is posted on the Church of the Ascension's website. Sometimes these items include names of individuals within the parish. If you prefer not to have your name on the website, or photos of yourself posted, please let Rev. Anne know so that she ensures your privacy.

The church website address is www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.ca

Address changes

If you have moved recently, if there are any changes to your address or phone number, or if you have changed your email address, please let the Parish Assistant Joan Servent know so that we can keep our database up to date. Joan can be reached at ascension@vianet.ca and is in the office on Wednesdays.



Family Name: _____

Person 1 _____

Person 2 _____

Address Family As _____

(John & Mary Smith, Mr. & Mrs J. Smith, The Smiths)

Address _____

City _____ **Postal Code** _____

Phone ____ - ____ - ____ (Please include all 10 digits)

Email address: _____