

Parish News, Sacraments and Ministries..July 23, 2017 Continued

Novena to Mary Help of Christians: Our parish prays a monthly a novena to **Mary, Help of Christians** preceding the first Saturday of the month. The novena starts on the Friday that is 9 days before the first Saturday of the month. Father leads the novena prayers following daily Mass; or, we are invited to pray the novena on our own as well.

Friday, July 28th is the day that the novena begins for this month.

Copies of the novena prayer can be picked up at the back of the church.

The last day of the novena...Saturday, **June 3rd** is also the day that the petitions from the petition box are burned in the courtyard after the 9 a.m. Mass.



The Perpetual Novena to **Mary, Help of Christians** (As recommended by Saint John Bosco for graces and favours ...)

1. To Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

O Most Sweet Jesus, You delight in being with your children and being the food of their souls. Grant we pray that through the merits of St. John Bosco who did so much to spread the love of frequent union with You in the Sacrament of Your Love among youth and Christian peoples, we may receive what we humbly implore with all the fervour of our souls.

Pray *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be*, with the invocation, **Blessed and praised every moment be the most Holy and Divine Sacrament.**

2. To Mary Help of Christians

O Most Holy Virgin, Help of Christians, who, through St. John Bosco did work and still continues to work so many wonders, grant we pray that through your own motherly goodness and through his merits, we poor sinners may receive the graces we beg with all the fervour of our souls.

Pray *Hail Holy Queen*, with the invocation, **Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.**

3. To Saint John Bosco

And You, O St. John Bosco, offer our prayers to Jesus and Mary together with the grace we implore. Grant that through your intercession we may obtain an ever increasing love for Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and for Mary, Help of Christians. Amen.

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Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More,

My name is Jonathan Quist and I am the youth coordinator at St. Thomas More. Some of you might recognize me from announcements at Sunday Masses or from singing in the choir at the 6:00 pm Youth Lead Mass.

I was hired by Father Andrew in February 2016 and have been working here full time ever since. It has been an absolute blessing serving, worshipping with you, and living as active member in this community. There is an incredible vitality to the parish life at STM. Sometimes it can feel like being in the middle of a tornado and can be quite overwhelming. The amount of ministries and people involved in them is incredible. I have also been moved by the warmth of people in welcoming and inviting me as a ministry leader and fellow parishioner.

I am writing to you today to tell you that I have just been accepted by Archbishop Smith as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Edmonton. After a long period of discernment, I have felt that God is calling me to serve him as a priest. I am very excited to pursue the priesthood but I am also saddened, because my entrance into the seminary will mean the departure from my position here at the parish. Father Tony would like me to ensure you that youth ministry will continue here at the parish. We have already made movements towards finding a replacement for myself.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to get involved in the ministry of the parish. The work of active ministry in the Church does not fall to priests alone. Each one of us is called to follow Christ's Apostolic Mandate to "Go and make disciples of all peoples, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19). There are so many different ministries to get involved in that at least one of them should appeal to everyone. The Church is desperately in need of volunteers. Even if you made yourself available once, it would be a big help.

I will resign from my position at the end of July, but will stay involved until I move into the seminary at the end of August. Please keep me in your prayers and I will continue to pray for the growth and renewal of this parish.

God bless!

Jonathan Quist