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St. John's  
HUMBERSIDE and QUEBEC AVENUE  
Parish Magazine



July, 1924.

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Assistant Curate—REV. W. J. M. SWAN, M.A.,  
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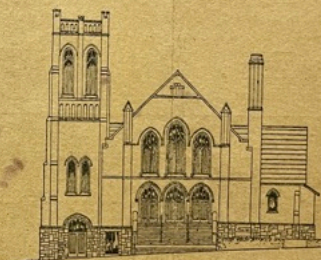
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No 1.

**Editorial**

How often do we speak of this subject of prayer in a self-complacent way, and never realize that it is a subject of untold magnitude and of great importance. Like all important subjects, it has its difficulties, and it is to provide a solution to these problems and to construct a helpful attitude towards the matter of prayer that this article is written.

**Problems of Prayer.**

What are the problems which have to be met? In the first place, men are asking, 'Does prayer link us with God, or is it only 'reflex action,' or 'subjective influence'?' Some theologians, psychologists, psychiatrists and mystics say prayer is only a spiritual discipline and therapeutic. Again, one asks, 'If God be Father, why pray?' Does not the love of God make our prayer superfluous? He knows what is best for us, and will He not bestow His gifts without our demand? Following this thought, the question arises, 'May I pray for everything?' 'Surely there are some things even a Father must not have forced upon Him.' Then oftentimes, whether or not we ask for everything, as a matter of fact we do, prayer is dominant desire. My spoken prayer and my heart's desire are quite at variance. I ask for spiritual blessing, but I want the good things of the world.

These are very modern problems in regard to prayer, and at first they seem very difficult. Yet they have their solution.

**The Solution of the Problems.**

Does prayer link us with God? The Pharisee in the parable prayed thus with himself. But, in his case the prayer was advertised to God, and our Lord means us to see Him as self-deceived. It is admitted on all sides that prayer may accomplish many things by drawing from the storehouse of past experience, the subconscious self. But is this all? No, beside all this there is a great and significant 'Plus.' Prayer is more than a type of spiritual gymnastics, a form of menticulture. Fosdick says this kind of prayer is not likely to persist long. A thoughtful man



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balks at continuing to cry "O God" simply to improve the quality of his own voice. Or if one does indulge in spiritual exercise, he must call what he is doing by its right name. His meditation. It is soliloquy, but it is not prayer. If we are going to rule out God, we must drop the word prayer. Recall the various traditional aspects of prayer—adoration, confession, petition, thanksgiving, communion, intercession. What meaning has any one of them apart from God? Can you imagine Jesus facing the crisis of His ministry just talking to Himself? In the garden of Gethsemane, when He prayed surely it was to His Father. Yes, it was, and it is to your Heavenly Father that you pray, a loving Father who loves you, and one who longs to have you bring your wants to Him. We must never lose this grasp.

Realizing this truth that God is our Father, why do we need to ask Him? The answer is very simple. Because He knows we pray. This may seem difficult to understand when one recalls such a verse as "Your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things." Why should we worry, then? If you turn to Christ's example, you find that He prayed, though He realized His Father knew all. Why? Because it pointed out confidence and co-operation. "Your Father knoweth" does not rule out prayer, but only foolish anxiety. Consider an earthly family. To what son will a father feel in closest co-operation? Undoubtedly to the one who shares with him all his plans and wants, no matter how foolish or unlikely of realization they may be. In our relation to our Father in Heaven should we not be in confidence and co-operation? These words answer the query, "Why pray to a Father?" Let us remember this significant feature of prayer in our communion with God.

May I pray for everything, then, if there is confidence and co-operation? If we pray, "Thy will be done," what use is there my praying for everything? Some of my prayers are sure to be out of harmony with the Divine plan. To clear up this question we fall back again to human symbols. You who are parents, give answer to this. To what extent and for how long would you have anything like free and frank comradeship with your children if you let it be known that no request be made of you unless it be unquestionably sure of your approval beforehand? We prefer that our children come to us in a chatty way with everything. In reality, the question is not one of the subject matter of petition; it is a question of attitude. For a concrete example, suppose a young boy wants a gun and he asks his father for one. His father knows he shouldn't have one and tells the boy so, but he appreciates the child's question. In the same way God wants us to ask for everything. In the words of the hymn, let us "carry everything to God in prayer."



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Lastly, prayer is much more than dominant desire. It is the child offering his desire to the Father, who hears and answers, asking that the desire be taken up into the Father's wishes, cleansed, purified and ennobled in accordance with His love and wisdom. It now becomes infinitely more than mere "asking" or mere "desiring." Just because it is the "want" of the soul itself, it becomes a genuine self-offering, a self-expression truly, because it must be honest; but a self-surrender ultimately, because the real desire is to be one in fellowship with the Father.

(The writer is indebted to Dr. McIntyre's booklet, "Why Pray?").

### The Bulletin

#### August 3rd—Seventh Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m.—Holy Communion—Rev. Canon Gould, M.A., D.D.

4.15 p.m.—Holy Baptism.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—Rev. W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

#### August 10th—Eighth Sunday after Trinity.

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Rev. E. O. Gallagher, M.A.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—Rev. E. O. Gallagher, M.A.

#### August 17th—Ninth Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Rev. W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—Rev. H. Hesketh.

#### August 24th—Tenth Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Rev. W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Holy Communion—Rev. E. L. Wasson, B.A.

#### August 31st—Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Rev. W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—Rev. W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

"Believe in yourself, believe in humanity, believe in the success of your undertakings. Fear nothing and no one. Love your work. Work, hope, trust. Keep in touch with to-day. Teach yourself to be practical, and up-to-date and sensible. You cannot fail."



## The Sanctuary

### Our Holiday Prayer.

"O Lord, our Heavenly Father, who art the Guide of them that journey, and the unwearying Guard of them that sojourn; we earnestly supplicate Thy blessing on behalf of Thy servants who are absent from us. Take them, we beseech Thee, under Thy special protection. Be unto them a Helper in their setting out, a Solace by the way, a Shadow from the heat, a Covert from the storm, a Comfort and Support in weariness, and a Guardian against all danger. Direct them in the way of peace and prosperity, and give Thy holy angels charge over them to keep them in all their ways; that Thou being their Ruler and Guide, they may prosperously finish their journey and return to their home in peace and safety. And finally, may it please Thee that we may all so pass through things temporal, as at length by Thy mercy to attain unto the gate of everlasting life. All which we beg through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

### BOYS WE LIKE.

"The boy who never makes fun of old age, no matter how decrepit or unfortunate or evil it may be. God's hand rests lovingly on the aged head.

Cheating is contemptible anywhere and at any age. His play should strengthen, not weaken his character.

The boy who never calls anybody bad names, no matter what anybody calls him.

The boy who is never cruel.

The boy who never lies. Even white lies leave black spots on the character.

The boy who never makes fun of a companion because of a misfortune he could not help.

The boy who never hesitates to say "No" when asked to do a wrong thing.

The boy who never quarrels.

The boy who never forgets that God made him to be a joyous, loving, helpful being."

### WORDS.

"We should be as careful of our words as of our actions, and as free from speaking ill as from doing ill."—Cicero.

"Such as thy words are, such will thy affections be esteemed, and such will thy deeds as they affections, and such thy life as thy deeds."—Socrates.

## Parish Notes

During the absence of the Rector on his holidays it will be much appreciated if any cases of sickness or any new-comers to the parish are made known to Mr. Swan, Jct. 6664-W. Also, if there are any in the parish who are shut in and cannot attend the services, Mr. Swan would be glad to give them private communion, if they so desire.

Congratulations to the Scouts are in order for their splendid picnic and exhibition of their work at Thistle town last month. Mr. Johnson and his assistants have certainly a splendid command of the boys.

We extend our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Wilson, two of our well-known young people, who were married last month. It is a pleasure to know they are going to still live in our parish.

The new window in the church in memory of Mrs. Cliff makes a beautiful addition to the interior. That window, combined with the window in memory of Mrs. Hopkins, make a very handsome side. The facial expressions of Christ are interesting to note.

Have you made your donation to the Building Fund through the blue envelopes? If you haven't, any other way will be appreciated.

*Alvin J. Maurice*

### FLOWERS FOR THE HOLY TABLE.

It has been deemed advisable to make new arrangements for the floral decorations. After this date, the flowers will be given by different members of the congregation in memory of some loved one. This is a beautiful way of remembering a relative or friend, and we hope it will be widely adopted. If you should like to appropriate a Sunday for this purpose, one of the wardens or sidesmen will take your name and Sunday as you leave the church after any service. These flowers are delivered to the sick after the evening service every Sunday.

### OUR ADVERTISERS.

We believe that we have advertisers in our magazine who render remarkable service in their own particular lines. For this reason we invite all our people to give them their patronage. Whatever it may be you want done, look in the magazine and find out if we have an advertiser for that work and then see him. Our advertisers are of help to us and we desire to be of help to them. Let "I saw your ad in our Church Magazine" be your motto.

### The Choir

The long vacation season which is now upon us brings with it the difficulties of keeping the choir organized during this period. However, short practices will be continued during this present month on Friday evenings, as usual. These practices will be devoted to service work almost entirely, and by so doing the services should be as bright and helpful during the summer months as at any time.

Several ladies and gentlemen have recently intimated their intention of applying for membership in the choir next fall. The writer would like to interview anyone with the above intention during July, in order that work can be commenced with the choir in full strength in September.

VICTOR ARLIDGE, Musical Director.

### Our Sunday School

#### Letter of Thanks.

Dear Friends and Fellow-workers:

As Superintendent of the St. John's Church Sunday School, I feel it would be neglect of duty not to use this means of extending my sincere thanks to all those who gave their kindly assistance or service of any kind in connection with the Sunday School and Congregational Picnic held on Wednesday, the 25th June last, in High Park, which proved a great success, due only to the untiring efforts, support and interest of those to whom this letter concerns. One feels more than thankful to Almighty God for His mercy to us in making such an occasion the success it was. Anything, therefore, one might have done, whether great or small, can only remind us that "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Yours faithfully,

W. S. POCKNELL,  
Superintendent.

The Sunday School is being held at 10 a.m. during the months of July and August. We trust that parents will do their utmost to have the children come at that time. This morning session is helpful in that the parents can meet the children at the church after Sunday School and then both can come to the morning service in the church, which will be shortened during the summer months.

### The Kiselo Senior Girls' Bible Class

On Thursday, June 19th, the annual picnic of the Kiselo Girls' Bible Class was held at Centre Island. The chief feature of the evening was a baseball game, Ruth Rawling captain of one team and Edith Miller captain of the other, the latter winning with a score of 18-13. Unfortunately, Mrs. Macnamara was ill and unable to attend.

The class has closed for the summer months, but expects to re-open about the first Sunday in September.

### St. John's Cubs and Scouts

Although many of the boys are away for the summer with their parents, the regular weekly meetings of both Cubs and Scouts are being carried on, as this is a time when recreation such as given in the Cub and Scout program is greatly appreciated by the boys, as some find the holiday hours are hard to fill without some organized plan of work and games.

Many are availing themselves of the opportunity of spending the week-ends in camp at Thistle town, the swimming hole being quite a popular resort these warm days. We have also had many visits from the parents of the boys, who find the temptation of the swimming hole too great to resist.

The Picnic and Field Day held at Thistle town on June 21st was successful in every respect, delightful weather, cooling breezes and shade beneath the many trees which are in the camp grounds. Over two hundred sat down to supper, which was served in camp style by the Cubs and Scouts Mothers' Association. The Scoutmaster wishes to express his thanks to these ladies for their great help on this occasion.

The shield for the Cub obtaining the most points during the sports was won by Senior Sixer Jack Sim, and the shield for the Scout was won by Patrol Leader John Ruggles. The Pack Championship Pennant was won by the Grey Six, under Jack Sim; the Troop Championship Pennant by the Owl Patrol under John Ruggles.

We were indeed glad to have the Rector and Mrs. Macnamara with us, also Mr. Swan and his mother. Another interested visitor was Mr. Everton Jones of England, who is Scout Commissioner for the city of Stoke, who was at that time attending the Rotary convention in the city.

St. John's Scouts are still holding their position as leaders of the Scouts' Softball League, having won eight out of the nine games they have played so far.

A number of the boys, along with the Scoutmaster, spent a few days in camp at Limehouse over the 1st of July holidays.



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Harry Gordon Dreany and Mary Elizabeth Boyd.

### Church Organizations

Anglican Young People's Association.....Fortnightly, 8.00 p.m.  
Boy Scouts .....Friday, 7.30 p.m.  
Cubs .....Tuesday, 7.00 p.m.  
Women's Guild .....1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.  
Women's Auxiliary .....2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.  
Junior W. A. ....Monday, 4.00 p.m.  
Evening Branch, W. A. ....Tuesdays, 8.00 p.m.  
Mid-week Service and Bible Class.....Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.  
Canadian Girls in Training.....Thursday, 7.30 p.m.  
Choir Practice .....Boys, Wed, 4.15, and Friday, 7.30 p.m.  
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This issue commences our third year of publication. Everyone is agreed that the magazine creates an added interest in matters relating to the church. To all those who have had any share in the publication of the magazine, especially the Business Manager, we tender our sincere appreciation and we hope for the same support in the future as in the past.

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