

The  
**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - WEST TORONTO

FOUNDED 1881

Humberside and Quebec Avenues

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RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of St. John's,

There are so many aspects of our faith that I would like to share with you - but - where and how do we find the time?

The sermon is not enough! Many Sundays I enter the pulpit with a multitude of thoughts and concerns, and I have to choose one and spend 15 to 20 minutes on it, leaving the rest untouched.

I would like to know what you are believing and feeling, and the sermon is such a one way street.

Studies on week nights are not well-attended. Many of the elderly do not like to drive or walk after dark and the young couples have children to look after. Many are both working and do not have the energy or time available.

More and more it is becoming obvious to me that we have an hour or two on Sundays to share with our Christian family.

I have a suggestion that I would like to share with you. This is not something entirely new, thought up by me. There are a few Anglican Churches and churches of other denominations that have tried this, with varying degrees of success.

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No one subject would go on for more than six weeks, preferably four, and we would drop it at major festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Pentecost, etc.

Please let me know your feelings about this and whether or not you think it is worth attempting on a trial basis to see if it suits the needs of our congregation.

The concept is as follows:

Church Service at 10:30 a.m.  
Short Homily  
Service over by 11:30 a.m.  
(Nursery would be available during and following the service, but most children would be with their parents at church.

11:30 - 11:45 would be our coffee break  
and then  
Religious Education classes would be available for all ages.

The teachers for the children would be on a rotary basis, with teachers committing themselves for four week sessions.

The adults that wanted to could meet for 1/2 hour led by the rector and/or someone else on a variety of topics. For example:  
Baptism: Its meaning to parents  
to children  
to the congregation

Confirmation      Christian Marriage  
Divorce              Single Parents  
Drugs and Alcoholism  
Spiritual Growth  
The Bible            The Christian Family  
The New Liturgy  
Abortion             Genetic Engineering  
etc. etc. etc.

The time for sharing these subjects would be 1/2 hour and would involve dialogue and study.

(1) Yours in His Service,

Gordon King

