

## Pentecost Sunday - June 04, 2017

**Intentions - June 04** - Today's Mass is for the parishioners of Saint Gabriel's parish.

Intentions are \$15.00

### Offertory Collection

May 28 - \$680.25

Thank You

June 06



**Saint Norbert of Xantan:** (1080-1134), a worldly noble converted much like Saint Paul, who became a zealous preacher and bishop. The life of Saint Norbert reminds us that it is never too late to repent, turn our broken selves to the Lord, and become whole in His ministry. Norbert was born in Xantan (now Germany), and grew up in the royal court of Emperor Henry V. Norbert took the robes of a secular monastic order (refusing the priesthood, due to the restrictions it

would place on his lifestyle), serving as the court's chief alms gatherer. However, he embraced his position not out of obedience and love for the Lord, but rather as a career move and occupation which allowed him access to the emperor. One afternoon, when Norbert was approximately 35, he was out riding across the countryside for sport when a powerful thunderstorm arose without warning. A lightning bolt opened up the ground before him, causing his horse to toss him to the ground, rendering him unconscious. He lay in the heavy rain, on the ground, soiling his fancy clothes and well-coifed hair for hours, neither the rain nor the thunder reviving him. When he awoke, Norbert gazed at the stormy sky and asked, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (the same words Saint Paul spoke on the road to Damascus.) In response to his question, Norbert heard, "**Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.**"

From that moment on, Norbert converted his life, and bore witness to those around him of the power of the Lord. He returned home, and committed himself to studying for the priesthood, a vocation he had previously avoided. He spent his days in prayer, fasting, and mortification—reparation for his lifetime of sinfulness. Labeled a hypocrite by many, Norbert gave away all of his worldly possessions to the poor, and for the remainder of his life, strove to own nothing. He traveled to Rome, seeking an audience with the pope, begging permission to preach.

The pope gladly commissioned Saint Norbert, who traveled throughout Europe, preaching to all who would listen.

During his travels, Norbert—in penance for his sins—chose the most difficult paths and roads to take, walking barefoot, even during the harsh European winters. Those who traveled with him oftentimes died from exposure to the elements, and while Norbert himself suffered, he maintained his health. Over time, he regained the respect of those who had labeled him hypocrite, and they, in turn, looked to him for guidance, preaching, and reform.

Norbert had garnered a reputation for orthodoxy, strict adherence to Church guidelines (not always the case at that time), and strict observance of the Dominican Rule. His model and life attracted many followers, and following a gift of land, Norbert began a small monastic community. This Augustinian community, eventually known as Norbertines (or Premonstratensians) grew to eight monasteries and two convents, and the order eventually swept through Europe, bringing with it a return to orthodoxy and reform.

Norbert was eventually selected as bishop (and later archbishop) of Magdebourg. Legend tells us that upon arrival to his new bishop's residence, the porter refused to let Norbert inside, believing him to be a beggar. The crowd who had accompanied the new bishop reprimanded the porter, but Norbert, such was his humility, gently told him, "You were right the first time."

Upon Saint Norbert's death, his remains were interred at Magdebourg, but many centuries later, moved to a Norbertine abbey of Stahov in Prague. At that time, his body was found to be incorrupt.

**Today's Gospel Reflection:** Pentecost brings Jesus' ministry to a focus: **we** are sent to continue Jesus' ministry, armed with the Holy Spirit and specific instructions as to what we are to do: forgive. By his ascending into heaven and sending the Holy Spirit Christ makes his mission **our** mission. It is a great miracle that God chooses to make **us** real participants in God's plan of salvation and sharers in God's divine life. To forgive doesn't mean to forget; it means to restore love. This is the ministry for which the Spirit empowers us, and this is how we can live in peace. (Living Liturgy, p.150)



***May Christ be heard in our language, may Christ be seen in our life, may he be perceived in our hearts.***

- Saint Peter Damian

## Social Sunday

**Today is "Social Sunday" so please join us after mass today for light refreshments and fellowship.**

**West Carleton Food Access Centre:** When you grocery shop this week, please remember the West Carleton Food Access Centre.



**Our Lady of Fatima Statue – St. Michael's Parish in Fitzroy Harbour:** The Fatima 2017 Planning Committee in Ottawa has organized a series of Fatima Pilgrim Virgin Statue visits to various parishes across the Archdiocese on the 13th of every month from May to October in honour of the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. The 48" tall statue, (blessed by John Paul II, in Fatima) will be at St. Michael's Parish on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm - visitation all day. Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Holy Rosary and a talk on Our Lady of Fatima - 7:00 pm. Come and spend time with Our Lady (questions - Cecile Beaudoin (613) 832-2392.



**Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for the sick among our families and friends, especially Gerry Borris, Raymond Cameron, Colleen Campbell, Patricia Cassidy, Christine Fraser, Mary Jardine, and Richard Vollmer. *The names will remain on the list until we are otherwise advised.*

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed with the watering of the church gardens. Please contact Martine if you are available for at least one week this summer.

**Thank you to all volunteers who helped with the Saint Gabriel's Yard Sale yesterday!**

