

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday** in Ordinary Time

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and  
I will give you rest.”

**July 09, 2017**

Announced Masses for the Week

**Sunday, July 09, 2017**

**9:00 am** †Marie Balfour Stevens by Moira Matthews &  
family

**11:00 am** For All Parishioners

**Monday, July 10, 2017**

**7:30 am**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2017 - St. Benedict**

**NO MASS**

**Wednesday, July 12, 2017**

**7:00 pm**

**Thursday, July 13, 2017**

**7:30 am**

**Friday, July 14, 2017**

**7:30 am**

**Saturday, July 15, 2017 - St. Bonaventure**

**9:00 am** † Anne Marie McCartney by Pat & Rita McCartney

**4:30 pm** † Don Muldoon by his wife & children

**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**9:00 am** † Joseph James Healy Sr. by Joe & Cathy Healy

**11:00 am** For All Parishioners

**First Reading:** Zech. 9:9-10 (Portrait of the Messiah) Zechariah foretells the coming of the Messiah. Rejoicing shall come to Jerusalem. He shall bring peace to all nations and he shall rule over them.

**Second Reading:** Rom. 8:9, 11-13 (The Spirit of Christ) Although we are both flesh and spirit, we must live according to the Spirit of God who dwells in us. This is a pledge for life if we die to sin and live by the Spirit.

**Gospel:** Mt. 11:25-30 (Solace in Christ) Jesus gives praise to his Father. No one knows the Son but the Father and those to whom the Father reveals this truth. Jesus calls to himself those who are troubled and weary that they may find refreshment.

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**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION:**

Envelope Holders: \$3,649.75; Loose Collection: \$664.80; Charity Works:  
\$250.00 Clergy Support: \$,1966.00; Other collection: \$2,411.90;  
Candles: \$230.55

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**NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE FOR THREE (3)  
WEEKS. If you wish to have Masses said,  
please call the parish office before  
Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

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## **Report on Sponsored Syrian Refugee Family (The Matouk Family)**

In September 2015 I offered Suzanne Carr, a member of the Pastoral Council, the job of Coordinator for sponsoring a refugee family from Syria. She accepted the job. Her instructions were to form a Committee which would help her with the tasks involved in planning, funding, and receiving a Syrian family assigned to us by the Catholic Centre of Immigration (CCI). The first announcement to parishioners occurred at all Masses on the weekend of October 3 & 4, 2015. The sponsorship of a refugee family was enthusiastically received by all our parishioners at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (IHM). A legal agreement between IHM, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and the Archdiocese of Ottawa as the Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) was signed on October 28, 2015, that guaranteed financial support and resettlement assistance for 12 months.

The Matouk family arrived in Canada on January 08, 2016. This July 2017 will be 1 ½ years (18 months) since they arrived. **I am hereby officially disbanding the Refugee Committee as of today, June 30, 2017.**

We were advised by the Archdiocese that “we do **not** permit extensions after the official term of the sponsorship has ended”. We do **not** permit financial sponsorships to continue for long after the 12 month period is over because:

1. We signed a binding and legal document for 12 months.
2. It is unfair to all the other refugee families if some parishes continue their support while others follow the legal agreement; this creates a condition of inequality and injustice between parishes and families.
3. It divides the refugee community, many of whom know each other and can compare who is receiving what from where – parishes are then in competition and poorer parishes that raised the requisite amount are put in a bad light when richer parishes “over-compensate” their families or continue to fund them past 12 months.

“The money raised to sponsor a refugee family is to last 12 months; excess funds in the account after twelve months do **not** ‘belong’ to the family; the legal agreement was clear as to what support would be provided.”

As of June 30, 2017, receipts showed that \$54,167.15 was

received in total, and \$46,137.18 was given out as disbursements to the Matouk family. The balance remaining is \$8,029.97.

In consultation with Chairs of the Pastoral and Finance Councils, **IHM parish will pay** for Jobran Matouk, a painter by profession, his “Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (**WSIB**) for the following year (2017-2018). Excess funds , after the disbursement of WSIB fees, **will be sent to the Archdiocese of Ottawa as recommended by them, to be placed in a holding account where excess funds are held to help poorer parishes trying to sponsor a refugee family who may be short of funds.** Chairs of both Councils are in concurrence.

As per the update from our Refugee Committee on June 03, 2017, “The family is largely self-sufficient and able to meet their needs for rent, food, clothes, etc., all of which is good news. ...As a parish, we should be proud of this accomplishment and we, the Committee, thank you all for your support. ...at this stage it looks like our parish has achieved its goal as a sponsor and our Syrian family is now a Canadian family. Thank you!”

Full Integration and adaptation into Canadian society is a long-term process which can take many years and is influenced by a number of factors. There is nothing preventing or stopping anyone from continuing to befriend or help the Matouk family. They still need your friendship and guidance. Arabic Speaking Councillors at **CCI** (219 Argyle Street, Ottawa) can provide additional information regarding services that are available in the City of Ottawa if the need arises, e.g. ESL classes, Employment training support, community activities (summer camps, swimming lessons, first aid etc.) and social support groups.

**I wish to thank Suzanne Carr and the members of the Refugee Committee for their devoted hard work and a job well done. Thank you and God bless!**

**Fr. Stephen Liang  
Pastor  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**

