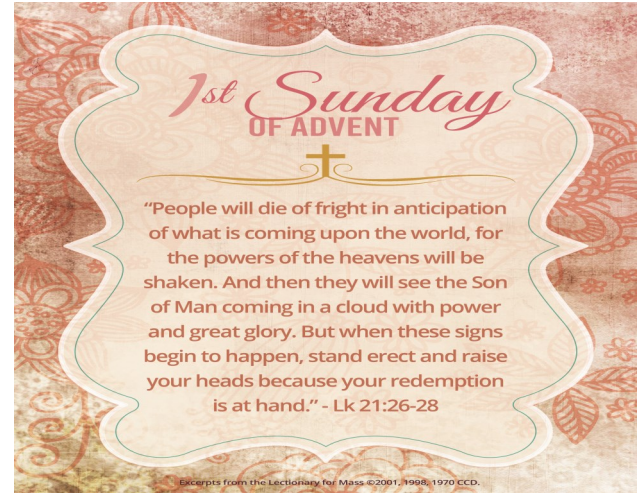


Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Sunday, December 2nd, 2018



Sat. Dec 1	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo)
Sun. Dec 2	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Carole Price (Pat Vaillancourt)
Mon. Dec 3	9:30am	Michael Iorio (Karen Kennedy)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Dec 4	8:30am	Anne Jonas (Walters Family)
Wed. Dec 5	9:30am	Leo Gadreau (Walters Family)
Thurs. Dec 6	9:30am	✠ Adrian Voogt (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Dec 7	9:30am	✠ Christopher Rybiak (Barb & Sophie Rybiak)
Sat. Dec 8	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Graham Dakin (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Dec 9	9:30am	✠ Nina & Czeslaw Aleksiejuk & Betty & Les Szabo (Jan & Lana)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

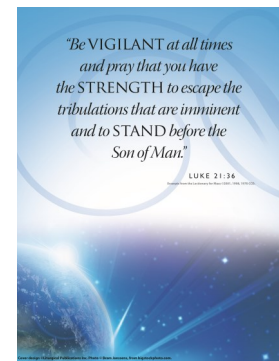
Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses. Offertory November 24th & 25th, 2018

80 Envelopes	\$1,946.00
Loose Collection	\$ 95.35
Total Offertory	\$2,041.35

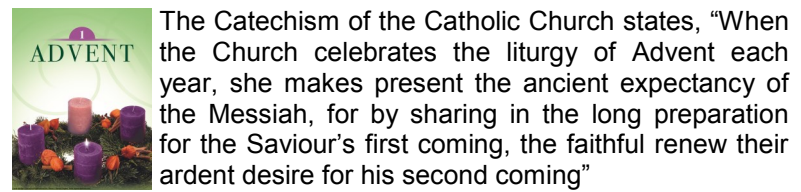
Separated & Divorced Healing Ministry : For the December 10th group meeting, the topic will be Overcoming Loneliness. No meeting December 24th. Regular meetings will resume January 14, 2019. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

First Sunday of Advent

Tribulation. Wildfires. Tsunamis. Moral corruption. Disease. War. We tend to associate these things with the end times, and perhaps for good reason! In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world." Not exactly putting us in the Christmas spirit, is it? During Advent, we anticipate a celebration of Christ's first coming. There is a quiet stillness about our waiting, or at least we try to encourage that in ourselves. Perhaps we have an Advent devotional or we take time to pray together as a family around the Advent wreath. But Jesus did not come only once into history. During Advent, we remember that he will come again. You may remember the rapture craze in the early 2000s, when a series of books and movies envisioned a future where Jesus was coming soon and all the true believers had been whisked away. Everyone else had one more chance to repent before things really went to hell...literally, in this case! The truth is, the actual return of Christ - though sudden and perhaps frightening to some - should not frighten those who

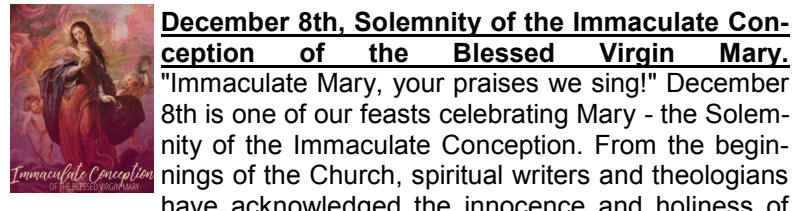


have remained faithful to him until the end. Despite all the stories we may have heard about the apocalypse, the advice of Jesus is not to hang our heads or cower in fear. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." We are already living in the end times. We already encounter great tribulation. We all find it easy to get distracted or discouraged in the grind of daily life. Today's Gospel reminds us that vigilance for God's presence is needed now.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Families or individuals are asked to volunteer to light the candles during each of the weekend Masses of Advent. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church. You may choose a Mass during any of those weekends.

Children's Liturgy During the Season of Advent: The **Jesse Tree** is a popular Advent tradition. Named for the father of David, it is a tree that is decorated gradually throughout Advent with symbols or pictures of biblical persons associated with the gradual coming of the Messiah, Christ. The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity, reminding children about the preparatory nature of Advent.



December 8th, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!

Christmas Mass Schedule 2018/19

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Monday Dec 24th 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 Tuesday Dec 25th 12:00am Midnight Mass
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, Dec 29th 9-10am Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
 5:00pm Mass

Sunday, Dec. 30th 9:30am & 11am Masses

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Monday, Dec 31st 5:00pm Mass
 Tuesday, Jan 1st 10:00am Mass

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan 5th 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Jan 6th 9:30 am & 11am Masses

St. Vincent de Paul Society

During the Advent season (beginning next weekend), the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be collecting **gift card donations for Pelham Cares**. The age group Pelham Cares has determined to be the most in need is teenage boys. Therefore gift cards for places such as Giant Tiger, Old Navy, Sport Check or Canadian Tire would be most welcome. The cards can be in any denomination up to \$25. If you wish to make a donation, you can place a gift card in the collection basket, or in the Saint Vincent de Paul box at the back of the church. Receipts are available from Pelham Cares - please include the activation receipt with the gift card, as well as your full name and address. Pelham Cares is also accepting teen hygiene gift packs. If you wish to donate one of these, please place them in the baskets at the back of the church. *Non-perishable items will also continue to be accepted, and can be placed in the baskets at the back of the church.*

Please make your donation on or before the weekend of December 16/17 in order that Pelham Cares receives them in time for distribution before Christmas.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message of serving Christ through the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

Parish Calendar

December

Dec 2nd..... First Sunday of Advent
Dec 4th..... Advent Day of Recollection for parish priests. **Mass will be celebrated at 8:30am**
Dec 5th..... **Last Youth Ministry session before the new year**
Dec 5th..... CWL Christmas Lunch, Grill on Canboro Following morning Mass.
Dec 12th..... Confessions 7-9pm
Dec 13th.... Final bingo session before the new year
Dec 19th..... St. Ann School Advent Mass 9:30am

2019 Offertory Envelopes: are now available in the church hall. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2019, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.** This will ensure that donations are credited to the proper person. **If you do not find a box prepared for you, please phone the office.** Also, please do not begin using your new envelopes until the new year. Thank you!

Catholic Women's League

On December 5th there will be a Faith Forum at St. Alexander Parish at 6:30 PM. The guest speaker will be Karen Robson a mental health counsellor with the Canadian Mental Health Association. She will present an overview of mental health and conditions: bipolar, depression, anxiety and schizophrenia. All welcome.

On Friday, December 7th CWL members will gather for a Holy Hour of silent prayer at St. Mary of the Assumption in St. Catharines after the 9 AM Mass. All welcome.

CWL Membership: Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated Nov. 4th, 2018 or you may use a plain envelope. **FEES ARE \$25.** Please ensure your FULL MAILING ADDRESS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS is included on your envelope with your payment. If you are joining us from another parish, please include that info as well as the year that you joined. We look forward to your active participation in our league!

DAILY ADVENT CHALLENGE

Reflect on how you need Jesus in all aspects of your life. How will you prepare yourself this Advent for Him to meet your needs more fully?

"Stay awake! ... Be prepared." The advice is clear enough. We'd like to be vigilant. We'd like to be ready. But on its own, the desire to be alert isn't necessarily enough to keep us from drifting off into a spiritual siesta. When Jesus returns we don't want to be the one left standing alone in the field. Advent is a time to pay attention. Jesus asks us to be ready to greet him at any hour. Especially in this

month of holiday hustle and bustle, how can we stay constantly focused on welcoming Christ? St. Paul gives us a hint in today's epistle: "Put on the armour of light... Put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 13:12, 14). Just as light hinders physical sleep, so too the light of Christ prevents spiritual slumber. When we invite Jesus' Spirit into our hearts, it's like keeping a vigil light flickering in the window of our souls. We may go about our business, but that expectant flame never burns out. So when Jesus comes again--even like a thief in the night--he will find us ready and waiting.

Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated **Dec. 9th**. We invite everyone to make a gift towards the cost of the Christmas greens and flowers that will decorate our parish this blessed season. Honour a family member or friend, give thanks for a special event (such as a wedding or the birth of a child), or remember a departed loved one. If you do not have envelopes but would like to contribute, you may use a plain envelope and include your name, address and phone number.

