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**Sunday, December 3rd, 2017**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.”  
 — Mk 13:35-36  
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Sat. Dec 2	9-10am 4-4:45pm	<b>Reconciliation</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Dec 3	5:00pm 9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo ✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family) ✠ Lewis Tremeer (Tim & Joan Crowther)
Mon. Dec 4	9:30am 7-8pm	Special Intention <b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>
Tues. Dec 5	9:30am	<b>Mass Cancelled</b>
Wed. Dec 6	9:30am	✠ Bernard Murray (Catherine Robb) ✠ Deceased Members of the CWL
Thurs. Dec 7	9:30am	✠ Voogt & Amero Families (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Dec 8	9:30am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Donna & Jean Larocque)
Sat. Dec 9	9-10am 4-4:45pm 5:00pm	<b>Reconciliation</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation ✠ Graham Dakin (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Dec 10	9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo ✠ Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families)

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**  
**Offertory November 25th & 26th, 2017**

75 Envelopes	\$1,830.00
Loose Collection	\$ 71.00
Total Offertory	\$1,901.00
Deo Gratias	\$ 30.00

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**  
 On this First Sunday of Advent, we are asked to be watchful and alert. Because of our baptism we are called to be gatekeepers of God's house and God's servants. We have been put in charge of caring for what God has made—the earth around us and our brothers and sisters. Being responsible means being attentive to what is within our care. Are we responsible and attentive stewards or does our attention and focus often wander to things that are not important to the kingdom of God?

**First Sunday of Advent**  
 “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus gives us a wakeup call. This is no time for slumber. Now is the time to be on our toes, alert, attentive, ready. But for what? For the coming of “the Lord of the house.”  
 During Advent, the Church does her best to help us get ready for the second coming of Christ. We don't know precisely **when** he will return, but we know that he will. And the fact is, even if it doesn't happen in our lifetime, each and every one of us will still have to face the Lord at an unknown hour—namely, the hour of our death.

So let us be prepared! Let us be on the watch for anything that would threaten this most important of all encounters. We want to recognize the Lord as a friend and master, so that on seeing him we don't cower in fear at his awesome power and strength. Instead, we hope to rejoice in finally being able to behold him face-to-face. This of course is the result of a healthy and holy relationship with Christ.

To nurture such a relationship this Advent season the Church urges us to recommit to a life of prayer, worthy reception of the sacraments, and a commitment to following God's loving laws through a life of virtue. With these priorities in order, we can wait for the second coming with joyful anticipation, just as we joyfully await the celebration of Christmas.

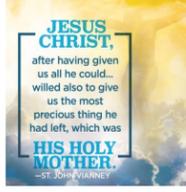
During these weeks as we prepare our homes for the festive holiday season, may we also set aside some time and effort to prepare our hearts. Then, not only will we appreciate the yuletide wonders around us, but we can also look forward to the eternal wonders that lie in store.

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Dec 8th**  
 The Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, stands before us today as an example and inspiration. Her unique place in salvation history was announced to her by the angel Gabriel: “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you... Do not be afraid.” These words helped Mary embrace her unique mission. They can also help us. God's grace, his presence, is within each one of us. God is with us! There is no need to fear, especially those things that are not within our control. In the end, all things are possible with God. We, like Mary, need to trust.

**Christmas for our Syrian Family:** During the Christmas season, please remember our family who has recently arrived from Syria. If you would like to make a donation or provide them with a gift for Christmas, please contact the office. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection with your name clearly marked. Thank you!

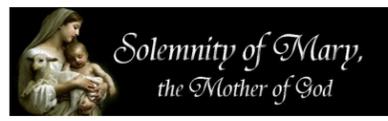
**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:** Families or individuals are asked to volunteer to light the candles during each of the weekend Masses of Advent. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church. You may choose a mass during any of those weekends.

**Campaign Life Coalition—Christmas Cakes**  
 made by the Monks of Val Notre-Dame Abbey. Traditional ages Christmas Cakes—regular size (600 grams) \$18, deluxe size (1kg) \$25. Abbey Gift Basket \$30. They will be selling the cakes in our parish on the weekend of December 16/17.



**Christmas Mass Schedule 2017/18**

Saturday, Dec 23rd	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 9-11am Confessions 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, Dec 24th	<b>10:00am Mass</b>
Sunday Dec 24th	<b>Christmas Eve &amp; Christmas Day</b> 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
Monday Dec 25th	12:00am Midnight Mass 10:00am Christmas Day Mass
Saturday, Dec 30th	<b>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b> 9-10am Confessions 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, Dec. 31st	9:30am Mass 11:00am Mass
Sunday, Dec 31st	<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God</b> 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, Jan 1st	10:00am Mass



**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. This includes, among others, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Joseph and Mary. The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity; reminding children about the preparatory nature of Advent. This tradition will be the focus of our Children's Liturgy classes during Advent. **If your child has not received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, he/she is most welcome to attend during the 9:30 am mass.**

**ADVENT BRUNCH HOSTED BY ST. ANN YOUTH MINISTRY**  
**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>**—St. Ann Youth Ministry will be hosting the **Annual Advent Brunch** in the parish hall following the **9:30am** and the **11:00am** Masses. Brunch will include bacon, sausage, hash browns, eggs, toast, tea and coffee. Breakfast will be served by our youth volunteers, and all donations will go towards St. Ann Youth Ministry! Thank you for your continued support.

**Parish Calendar**

Dec 3rd..... First Sunday of Advent  
 Dec 5th.... Mass cancelled  
 Dec 6th... CWL Christmas gathering—Mass 9:30am followed by brunch at Grill on Canboro  
 Dec 7th..... Final Bingo before Christmas  
 Dec 10th..... St. V. de Paul meeting following 11am Mass  
 Dec 16/17..... Campaign Life Coalition will be selling Christmas Cakes  
 Dec 17th.... Youth Ministry Advent Brunch  
 Dec 22nd.... Christmas decorating following morning Mass

**The Diocesan Separated & Divorced Healing Ministry Support Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month (except holidays) 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com).  
 December 11, 2017 **Overcoming Loneliness**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
 During the Advent season, Pelham cares would like to provide a box of clementines with their food hampers. You will find envelopes with a picture of an orange clipped to a tree at the church entrance. Any money placed in these envelopes will be used to purchase clementines for Pelham cares.  
 The St. Vincent de Paul Society will also be collecting **gift card donations for Pelham Cares**. The age group Pelham Cares has determined to be the most difficult to provide for 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. These envelopes will be clipped to the tree as well. All donations can be placed in the collection basket and will be forwarded to Pelham Cares.  
*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 SVDP 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. Please help support this worthy cause!  
**Excerpt from the Message of Pope Francis on the occasion of the First World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2017. “Let us Love not with words but with deeds”.**  
 We are called to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts, and to acknowledge the value of poverty in itself.

**2018 Offertory Envelopes:** are now available. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2018, 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!