

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



**Sunday, December 25th, 2016**  
**The Nativity of the Lord**

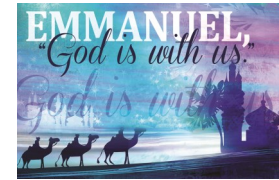
The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." — Lk 2:10-12

Sat. Dec 24	9-10am 4-4:45pm	<b>Christmas Eve Reconciliation</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation <b>Christmas Eve Masses</b>
	5:00pm 8:00pm	✠ Wally & Sophie Paterak (Christine Meyo & Family) ✠ Emil Miklavcic (Family)
Sun. Dec 25	12:00am	✠ Deceased Members of the Plesko & Bajuk Families (Ivanka & Frank Plesko) <b>Christmas Day Mass</b>
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. Dec 26	9:30am 7:00pm	<b>Mass Cancelled</b> <b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation Cancelled</b>
Tues. Dec 27	9:30am	✠ David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. Dec 28	9:30am	Special Intention (Karen & Michael)
Thurs. Dec 29	9:30am	✠ David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Dec 30	9:30am	✠ Louise Wood (Voogt & Green Families)
Sat. Dec 31	9-10am 4-4:45pm 5:00pm	<b>Vigil Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God</b> <b>Reconciliation</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation Birthday Blessings for Karen Kennedy (Michael Wilson)
Sun. Jan 1	9:30am 11:00am	<b>Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God</b> Missa Pro Populo ✠ Susie Mislán (Biggar & Mikolasek Families) ✠ Anthony Filbert (Lynda & Family)

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

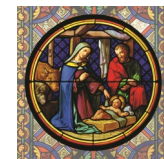
"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us--Emmanuel, "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day.

We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day of the year, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense to show our gratitude and joy.



We only must be careful not to reduce our celebrating today to something less glorious, something less meaningful, or less profound. This is no mere secular holiday.

This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a holy day and as Christians it is our day in a most definite and undeniable way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of what lies ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.



**Christmas Prayer**  
 "May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom we dedicate this season prevail again on earth. May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts. May people live in freedom, worshipping as they see fit, loving others. May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved. May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme."



**A very special thank you** to everyone who helped make our Christmas celebration so special. Thank you to all liturgical ministers, altar servers, choir and musicians, ushers, decorators and cleaners and all who assisted in any way. Thank you to all members of the parish committees, groups and ministries who have given selflessly of their time and talents for the benefit of our parish family throughout this past year. Your dedication and commitment is so much appreciated!



We welcome the following in Baptism: **Emma Grace Kelly**, daughter of Paul Kelly & Jennifer Bertrand. May the gifts which Baptism bestows, grow unhindered in us all.

**Offertory December 17th & 18th, 2016**

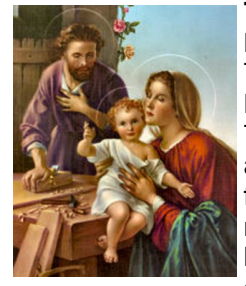
75 Envelopes	\$1,690.00
Loose Collection	\$ 91.00
Total Offertory	\$1,781.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00

**The Coming of the Light**



...Christmas celebrates the dawn of the Light of the World. The powers of darkness are overcome by his coming to share our life. The long reign of sin is ended and grace has been poured out upon the earth. The Sun of Justice has arisen, and evil is vanquished. Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is this. "It celebrates the Incarnation, not just the Nativity. The Incarnation is an on-going process of salvation, while the Nativity is the once-for-all-historical event of Bethlehem. We do not really celebrate Christ's 'birthday,' remembering something that happened long ago. We celebrate the stupendous fact of the Incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today. And the birth we celebrate is not just the past historical event but Christ's continuing birth in his members, accomplished by the power of the Spirit through the waters of baptism.

"...What we celebrate is our redemption in Christ and the transformation of all creation by the presence of the divine in our midst."



**The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph- December 30th**  
 The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honour to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honour to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family. The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? The best way is by making Christ the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading Scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and imitating the actions of the Holy Family. Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.

**Prayer:** Jesus, our most loving redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth. In this way, You sanctified that family, which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family, which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the Divine model of Your family may we attain to eternal happiness.

**Parish Calendar**

**December.....**

<b>Dec 26th -30th...</b>	Office closed
<b>Dec 26th.....</b>	Mass and Holy Hour cancelled
<b>Dec 30th.....</b>	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph. Mass 9:30am

**January.....**

<b>Jan 1st.....</b>	Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Masses Sat. Dec 31st, 5pm, Sun. Jan 1st 9:30 & 11am
<b>Jan 4th.....</b>	Movie, "The Euthanasia Deception", church hall 6:30pm. All Welcome!
<b>Jan 10th....</b>	Tuesday Bingo resumes, 7pm
<b>Jan 11th....</b>	Youth Ministry Resumes 6:30pm
<b>Jan 18th....</b>	School Mass 9:30am
<b>Jan 18th....</b>	Confirmation class 5-6:30pm
<b>Jan 18th....</b>	Finance Council meeting 6:30pm

**On Wednesday, January 4th, 2017, at 6:30pm, we will be showing the movie, "The Euthanasia Deception"** in the church hall. This documentary, about an hour long, uses Belgium's 15 year history of doctor assisted suicides to highlight the implications of euthanasia laws and to act as a warning globally. The documentary features powerful testimonies from Belgium and beyond of those devastated with false ideology of a "mercy killing".

**2017 Offertory Envelopes:** are available in the church hall. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2017, 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.**

**Church Contributions:** All Church contributions/donations for 2016 must be **received on the weekend of Dec 24th/25th** to be applied to your 2016 tax receipt. All donations received the following weekend will be applied to the 2017 tax receipt. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Office Closure for Christmas:** The Church Office will be closed from **Monday, December 26th, 2016 to Friday, December 30th, 2016.** Messages may be left at any time and will be checked regularly. **Regular office hours will resume the week of January 2nd, 2017.**

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings will resume **January 11th, 2017. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>.** If you would like to volunteer, check out our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry> or email me [gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org)

**Diocesan Refugee Project:** This Christmas, you may wish to consider making a donation in support of the Syrian refugees who are being sponsored by parishes across the diocese. These donations will be distributed to the ongoing work in parishes striving to meet the financial requirements to sponsor a family. Cheques can be made payable to the Diocese of St. Catharines, noting "Diocesan Refugee Ministry" or they can be sent through your parish or by mail to P.O. Box 875, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 6Z4 (income tax receipts will be issued). Donations can also be made by credit card through the diocesan website (CanadaHelps) at [www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com).

**If you would like to make a donation to our own Syrian Refugee initiative, you may do so at any time. In the new year, the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee will share updates on this project and how you can be of further assistance.**