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Sunday, December 10th, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." — Mk 1:4, 6-7a
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Dec 9	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Graham Dakin (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Dec 10	9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo ✠ Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Mon. Dec 11	9:30am	✠ Edmund Niejadlik & John Rosinski (Tilley Coté)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Dec 12	9:30am	✠ Helena Sarvis (Carolyn Botari)
Wed. Dec 13	9:30am	✠ David Cassidy (Teresa Walters)
Thurs. Dec 14	9:30am	✠ Julia Pieraway (Teresa Walters)
Fri. Dec 15	9:30am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Maria & Eddie Cozzi)
Sat. Dec 16	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Armand Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek) ✠ Harry Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Dec 17	9:30am 11:00am	✠ Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam.) ✠ Betty & Les Szabo (Lana & Jan) Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory December 2nd & 3rd, 2017

80 Envelopes	\$2,030.00
Loose Collection	\$ 90.25
Total Offertory	\$2,120.25
Maintenance	\$ 455.00
Deo Gratias	\$ 50.00

Thank you for your generous support!

Second Sunday of Advent
 "People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him." John the Baptist commanded quite a crowd. What was the attraction? Was it his unusual appearance—clothed in camel's hair? Perhaps it was his bizarre eating habits—feeding on locusts and wild honey. Or maybe people were captivated by the Baptist's remarkable humility in the face of such huge popularity—"I am not worthy."

Unlike our modern fascination with standing in the presence of superstars, the crowds who flocked to John weren't looking for a thrill. They weren't lining up for autographs. They were lining up for baptism. And they were acknowledging their sins at the same time. John was proclaiming "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." And people came because they were longing to experience the freedom of that forgiveness.

John called them to conversion. To convert means to turn, in this case to turn away from sin. And the crowds were anxious to do so in order to "prepare the way of the Lord." For these first-century Jews, the imminent approach of the Messiah came with a call for conversion and they took this call very seriously.

Now, for us, as twenty-first century Christians, the Church, like John the Baptist, calls us to prepare and repent during this season of Advent. Will we take the call seriously? Will we examine the areas of our lives that need to change? Will we pray for God's help to overcome our habitual sin and to make choices based on generosity instead of selfishness? Now is the time to heed the message. Now is the time to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK
 John the Baptist announced, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Does preparing a way for the Lord have priority in our lives? Often we spend more time preparing paths for ourselves rather than a path for God. Advent calls us to take the focus off ourselves and put it on God. We prepare a path for God by practicing and living the virtues, being holy and devoted, patient and repentant, and attentive and humble. We are asked to bring comfort and healing to people and to show others by the way we live our lives that we have a higher calling and purpose.

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!

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.**

ADVENT BRUNCH HOSTED BY ST. ANN YOUTH MINISTRY
Sunday December 17th—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.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2017/18

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Saturday, Dec 23rd **9-11am** Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Dec 24th **10:00am** Mass



Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
 Sunday Dec 24th 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 Monday Dec 25th 12:00am Midnight Mass
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass
Holy Hour 7-8 cancelled



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 Saturday, Dec 30th 9-10am Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Dec. 31st 9:30am Mass
 11:00am Mass



Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
 Sunday, Dec 31st 5:00pm Mass
 Monday, Jan 1st 10:00am Mass

Congratulations to **Michelle Coyne and Antonio Carbonara** who were married in our parish on Dec. 2nd. Best wishes for a long and happy life together.

We welcome in Baptism, **Ginger Rose Campbell**, daughter of Neil Campbell and Shannon Deary. May the gifts which Baptism bestow grow unhindered in us all.

Church Decorating for Christmas: If you can spare some time on **Friday, December 22nd, following morning Mass,** please help us decorate for the Christmas season. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Church Contributions: All Church donations for 2017 must be **received on the weekend of Dec 30th/31st** to be applied to your 2017 tax receipt. Please note though, that donation envelopes received on Dec 31st for the January 1st Feast of Mary the Mother of God will be applied to your 2018 tax return. Thank you for your cooperation.

Office Closure for Christmas: The Church Office will be closed from **Monday, December 25th, 2017 to Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018.** Messages may be left at any time and will be checked regularly. **Regular office hours will resume on January 3rd, 2018.**

Parish Calendar
 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

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!

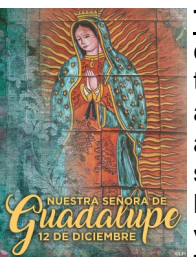
St. Vincent de Paul Society
 During the Advent season, Pelham cares would like to provide a box of clementines with their food hampers. You will find envelopes with a picture of an orange clipped to a tree at the church entrance. Any money placed in these envelopes will be used to purchase clementines 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.



The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec 12th calls us to see not only the abiding presence of the Virgin Mary with us throughout history but also as a powerful symbol of Mexican faith, identity, and mission. She stands before all of us as a symbol of motherhood, of fidelity to God and of her constant maternal care for all of us. She gives voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless. Through her intercession, we are reminded that God is with us. She guides us in embracing our call and mission as disciples of her Son.

