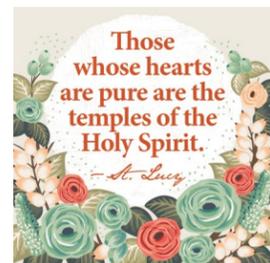


Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Third Sunday of Advent

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



Merry Christmas? Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

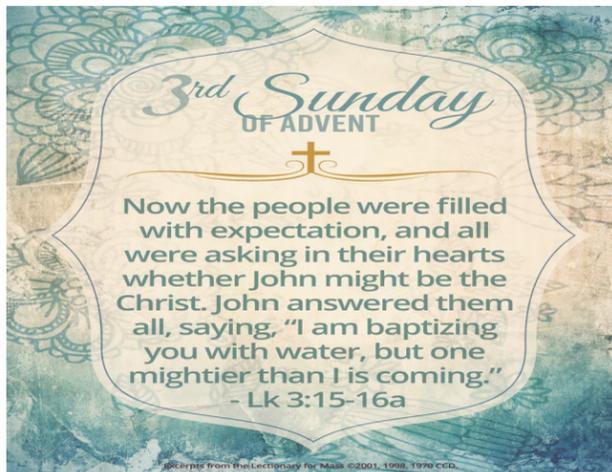
Reflect today upon the purification to which God may be calling you. What is it that you hold on to that He wants you free of? Commit yourself to the purifying fire of God's love and let that love cleanse you in this Advent season. *Lord, I do long to have my soul purified by You. I do desire holiness of life. Help me to begin this process here and now so that I can begin to experience the joy and freedom You have in store for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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.

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.

Separated & Divorced Healing Ministry : 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

Sunday, December 16th, 2018



Sat. Dec 15	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Arnold Reece (Hannah Reece)
Sun. Dec 16	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Ivan & Tereza Balazic (Blazic Family)
Mon. Dec 17	9:30am	✠ Deceased family & friends of the Podolyak Family (Bill & Mary Podolyak)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Dec 18	9:30am	✠ Isaiah (Magazzeni Family)
Wed. Dec 19	9:30am	St. Ann School Advent Mass
		✠ Dorothy Racz (Racz Family)
		✠ Ashley Rose Lelievre (Racz Family)
Thurs. Dec 20	9:30am	✠ Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Dec 21	9:30am	Intentions of Stephen & Kimberly Walters (Walters Family)
Sat. Dec 22	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Dec 23	9:30am	✠ Margaret Marshall (Mike & Anne Young)
	11:00am	✠ Anthony Filbert (Lynda Filbert & Family)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses. Offertory December 8th & 9th, 2018

79 Envelopes	\$1,995.00
Loose Collection	\$ 72.15
Total Offertory	\$2,067.15
Maintenance	\$ 180.00
Flowers	\$ 580.00

NEW PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.stannfenwick.com

Christmas Mass Schedule 2018/19



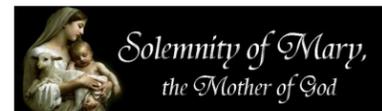
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

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



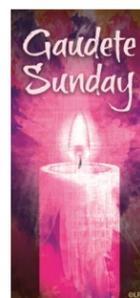
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

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



On this Third Sunday of Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**, we are encouraged to rejoice. Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). So in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled. He is among us, saving us even now!

Ushers Needed for Mon. Dec. 24th, 5pm Christmas Eve Mass: If you are planning to attend please assist with helping parishioners find seating. Any assistance would be appreciated. Please note that extra chairs from the church hall should be limited to one row behind the back pews. No chairs should be placed in the aisles. Thank you.

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. We look forward to your active participation in our league!

Parish Calendar

December	
Dec 19th.....	St. Ann School Advent Mass 9:30am
Dec 26th....	Mass cancelled
January	
Jan 4th.....	First Friday Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. Phone the office to arrange a visit.
Jan 9th.....	Youth Ministry resumes 6:30-8:30pm
Jan 18-25....	Week of prayer for Christian unity.
Jan 22nd.....	Finance meeting 6:30pm

At the Inaugural Board Meeting for the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on December 4, 2018, trustees elected Frank Fera as Chair of the Board and Dino Sicoli as Vice-Chair of the Board. At the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Rick Petrella was elected as Chair of the Board and Dan Dignard as Vice-Chair of the Board. We congratulate them and wish God's blessings on all of the members of the Board of Trustees in the Diocese of St. Catharines.

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!

Church Contributions: All Church donations for 2018 must be **received on the weekend of Dec 29/30, 2018** to be applied to your 2018 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 2019 tax receipt. Thank you for your cooperation.

Office Closure for Christmas: The Church Office will be closed from **Monday, December 24th, 2018 to Tuesday, January 1st, 2019.** Messages may be left at any time and will be checked regularly. **Regular office hours will resume on January 2nd, 2019.**



Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John "crying out in the desert"? Well, this week we read about what the people of his time wondered about him. They all asked him "What should we do?" The crowds were asking, the tax collectors were asking, the soldiers were asking. And he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share of your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking more money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money. And so, what must we do to prepare? I ask myself if I am sharing from even the little that I think I have. Do I charge more than a fair price for my work? If I lend money to anyone, do I expect too much more in return. Challenge yourself this week to take some time and think about how you are preparing for the coming birth of Christ, in history, in today's world, and in the future when he will come to bring all of creation back to the Father.

