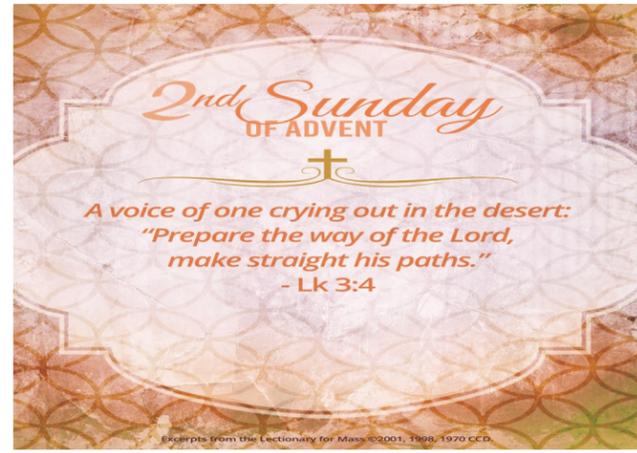


Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor  
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com  
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin  
 (phone office for appointment)  
 Liliana Haynes  
 Office Administrator



**Sunday, December 9th, 2018**



Sat. Dec 8	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	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
Mon. Dec 10	9:30am	✠ Deceased Members of the Podolyak Family (Bill & Mary Podolyak)
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>
Tues. Dec 11	9:30am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
Wed. Dec 12	9:30am	Intentions of Stephen & Kimberly Walters (Walters Family)
	<b>7-9pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
Thurs. Dec 13	9:30am	✠ Don Wiley (John & Diane Szydowski)
Fri. Dec 14	9:30am	Intentions of Kimberly Walters (Walters Family)
Sat. Dec 15	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	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)

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses. Offertory December 1st & 2nd, 2018**

77 Envelopes	\$1,766.00
Loose Collection	\$ 39.00
Total Offertory	\$1,805.00
Maintenance	\$ 361.00

Please remember in your prayers the soul of ✠Donna Masi who passed away on November 30th. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical figure.



"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today! This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today.



**The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec 12th**  
 When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" In the image on Juan Diego's tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars. Today's Mass includes two Gospel options. Both are familiar passages from the Gospel of Luke - the Annunciation and the Visitation. Both are equally relevant to today's feast because Mary's yes to Christ isn't only to care for him but to come to us. Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary's yes to conceive the Saviour of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.

**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 week-end Masses of Advent. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church. You may choose a Mass during any of those weekends.

**Christmas Mass Schedule 2018/19**



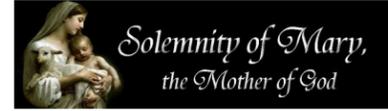
**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day**

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 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 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!

**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.**

**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!



Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in Communion with Rome.

John enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others. Prepare the way!

**Campaign Life Coalition—Traditional Ages Christmas Cakes** made by the Monks of Val Notre-Dame Abbey. They will be selling the cakes in our parish on the weekend of **December 15/16.**



