

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



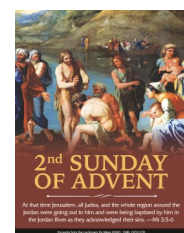
Second SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." John the Baptist does not mince words. He tells it like it is. When the hypocritical Pharisees and Sadducees show up piously for baptism, John calls them out, saying, "You brood of vipers!" Not welcoming words, to say the least. Then he tells them that being part of the religious club (i.e., children of Abraham) isn't enough. No, "every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

**Sunday, December 4th, 2016
 Second Sunday of Advent**

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. — Mt 3:4-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



It can be easy to join John in pointing fingers at those self-righteous religious leaders. But we're usually not so quick to point fingers at ourselves. On this Second Sunday of Advent, as we seek to prepare for the coming of Christ, we also need to hear John's solemn warning. How are we like these Pharisees? How have we excused ourselves because we are part of the "club," because we are baptized Christians, regular churchgoers, better than others, or whatever justification we use to declare ourselves in good shape? How have we failed to produce good fruit by being satisfied with a comfortable life and a routine practice of the faith? What do we need to change? Where do we need to grow? How do we need to reach out and serve others, to sacrifice sinful behaviors, to delve deeper into our love for the Lord? John preaches today that God will "gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Advent is a gift from the Church—a time to renew our spiritual life by getting rid of the chaff in our souls and producing instead a fruitful harvest. Now is the time to do this work. As John tells us, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"



Second Sunday of Advent Reflection: Advent is a season to open our eyes and see, to notice those who struggle or suffer, to see the injustice around us, to be more aware of the challenges in our world, to open to change and growth and new ways to get into action. In today's advent scriptures, we hear messages of both hope and challenge. John the Baptist talks of a repentance that will produce fruit – that will burn up the chaff and result in something new and life-giving. Isaiah talks of a new spirit that will bring wisdom, understanding, and justice. He talks of a healing of relationships between people and nations. Paul talks of harmony and an inclusive community. Our Christian hope is not a "superficial" hope – "don't worry, all will be well." Our hope is not only about individual feelings – "your personal problems will come to an end." Rather our hope involves a radical transformation of the whole community and the way we live with each other. Our hope is based in an invitation from God to enter into a new life and not be stuck in what fails to give life. Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium speaks of a joy that spreads as we share the fruit of Jesus Christ. He reminds us that "Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society." He writes: "God constantly renews his faithful ones, whatever their age." We must not forget this.

today's advent scriptures, we hear messages of both hope and challenge. John the Baptist talks of a repentance that will produce fruit – that will burn up the chaff and result in something new and life-giving. Isaiah talks of a new spirit that will bring wisdom, understanding, and justice. He talks of a healing of relationships between people and nations. Paul talks of harmony and an inclusive community. Our Christian hope is not a "superficial" hope – "don't worry, all will be well." Our hope is not only about individual feelings – "your personal problems will come to an end." Rather our hope involves a radical transformation of the whole community and the way we live with each other. Our hope is based in an invitation from God to enter into a new life and not be stuck in what fails to give life. Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium speaks of a joy that spreads as we share the fruit of Jesus Christ. He reminds us that "Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society." He writes: "God constantly renews his faithful ones, whatever their age." We must not forget this.

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Solemnity December 8th. O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2016/17



Monday Dec. 19th 9:30am Regular weekday Mass
 7:00pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
 Tuesday, Dec 20th 9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
 Wednesday, Dec 21st 9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
 7-9pm Confessions
 Thursday, Dec 22nd 9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
 Friday, Dec 23rd 9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
Saturday, Dec 24th 9-10am Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
12:00am Midnight Mass
11:00am Christmas Day Mass & Holy Hour Cancelled
Sunday, Dec 25th
Monday Dec 26th
 Tuesday, Dec 27th - Thursday Dec 29th 9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
 9:30am Mass Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 Friday, Dec 30th 9-10am Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
 5:00pm Vigil Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
 Saturday, Dec 31st 9:30 & 11am Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
 Sunday, Jan 1st 9:30 & 11am Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Church Decorating for Christmas: If you can spare some time on **Friday, December 23rd, at 10am,** please help us decorate for the Christmas season. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!



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.

Christmas Caroling Sunday Dec. 18th. Join us as we sing songs of the season by candle light spreading the spirit of Christmas through hymns and traditional songs. We will be meeting at the church at **6:00pm.** Candles and song books will be distributed. Following a short prayer service, we will be walking and carolling in the community and then return to the parish for hot chocolate. Dress warmly!! Join us in celebration of the Christmas season!!

The Legion of Mary: Do you want to grow closer to Jesus and His Beloved Mother? Are you being called to help the Church through prayer and works? The Legion of Mary is seeking active and praying members in our parish. **Some of the works done by members include praying the Rosary with residents of retirement homes and visiting the homebound and the sick in the hospital.** Come and join this wonderful organization. **Next meeting, Wednesday, December 7th 11:30am.**

Parish Calendar

December.....
Dec 6th..... Last bingo before new year
Dec 6th Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee Meeting 7pm, Lions Hall Fenwick
 Dec 7th.... Legion of Mary
Dec 7th..... Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm
Dec 14th.... School Advent Mass 9:30am
Dec 21st..... Last Youth Ministry Session for 2016
Dec 21st..... Confessions 7-9pm
Dec 23rd.... Decorating for Christmas, 10am

Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide – Did You Know?

Since Canada legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide in June 2016, 374 people across the country have already died by lethal injection. Meanwhile, only 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative (end of life) care. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more and write directly to the Ontario government.

CWL Membership: We would like to INVITE ALL LADIES OF OUR PARISH to join or renew as members of our Catholic Women's League. Please submit your envelope soon. **Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated Nov. 6th 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.

2017 Offertory Envelopes: are available **this weekend** 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.**

YOUTH MINISTRY: *YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings will continue through Dec 21st and 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

Pelham Cares -Throughout Advent, baskets will be left at the church entrance for donations to Pelham Cares. **The type of items needed most include gift cards, Holiday treats, food items for hampers, personal care items, cash/cheque and toys**

Pelham Cares—Gift Cards- \$10 - \$30 from Sobey's, Giant Tiger, Drug Store etc., which can be used as a gift or to purchase Food; toiletry items, etc. **This weekend,** at the back of the church, you find envelopes. If you would like to help Pelham Cares in this way, take an envelope and return it in the collection during Sundays in Advent. **If possible, please have the gift cards to us by the weekend of Dec 10/11.**

Christmas Trees for Youth Ministry: Once again Branches of the Word (registered charity) will be raising money for Youth Ministry initiatives in our Diocese through the sale of pre-cut, beautiful Christmas Trees. We are well aware that hiring Youth Ministers may not be affordable for many parishes and this is the reason for raising monies, so we, as part of the laity, are helping to make this possible. In addition, we have plans to bring a dynamic Youth speaker to our Diocese in the new year and this can be expensive.

Sat. Dec 3	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Dec 4	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
	9:30am	† Eulogia Reyes Palermo (Cargnelli Family)
	11:00am	† Anthony Filbert (Linda Filbert & Family)
Mon. Dec 5	9:30am	For Michael Wilson (Linda Krause)
Tues. Dec 6	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
	9:30am	† Voogt & Amero Families (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. Dec 7	9:30am	† Margaret Marshall (Mike & Anne Young)
Thurs. Dec 8	9:30am	† Adrian Voogt (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Dec 9	9:30am	† Craig Mooren (Family)
Sat. Dec 10	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Dec 11	9:30am	† Betty & Les Szabo (Lana & Jan)
	11:00am	† Nicola Colangelo (Family)

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

Offertory November 26th & 27th, 2016

89 Envelopes	\$1, 829.00
Loose Collection	\$ 108.85
Total Offertory	\$1, 937.85
Deo Gratias	\$ 85.00
Haiti—Hurricane Matthew	\$ 50.00

Please note that an extra two hours of Confessions have been added on **Wednesday, December 21st from 7-9pm** to provide an additional opportunity for those who wish to receive this important Sacrament before Christmas.