

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 18, 2016**

All Masses this week are at the Schools indicated.

**Tuesday 9:30 am** St. Gabriel School(Advent) Mass  
**Wednesday 9:15 am** St. Basil School (Advent) Mass

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE**  
**Wednesday Dec. 21 at 7 pm here**  
**(six priests available).**

**Thursday 9:15 am** Christ the King School  
 (Advent Mass)  
**1:30 pm** (John Noble Home)  
**Thursday evening Reconciliation**  
**7-8 pm (Fr. Earl only)**  
**Friday 10:00 am** Assumption College School  
 (Advent Mass)

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**



**Christmas Masses:**

- Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 and 10 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 and 11:30 am

**SOLEMNITY of Mary The Holy Mother of God**

- **Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016 5:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Masses at 9:30 and 11:30 am**

\* **RECONCILIATION – At St. Pius X on Tuesday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm (several priests)**

**OFFERTORY: Thank you!**

Sunday Envelopes: \$3159.00  
 Loose Collections: \$1499.00  
 Average Weekly Preauthorized \$ 485.00  
 Total Weekly Offering Dec. 11, 2016 \$5143.00

Budget expenses for the week \$4265.00

\* Our debt to the diocese is now only \$64,400 – Let’s keep whittling it down!

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, December 19	Rev. James Link
Tuesday, December 20	Rev. Michael McHugh
Wednesday, December 21	Consecrated Men and Women
Thursday, December 22	Rev. Michael Sullivan
Friday, December 23	Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.
Saturday, December 24	Rev. Jeff Bergsma

**MEDITATION**

By far, the best way to celebrate Christmas is to be with children. And we are so close to Christmas now that our children can barely contain their excitement!

Yet, before his marriage, poor Joseph could not have been very excited to hear that Mary was with child. Sure, most fathers, when they learn their wife is expecting, can get a little bewildered, too. But Joseph felt that this was not the expected way to bring children into the world, and so he planned to dismiss Mary quietly from his life.

And then the unexpected happened to this bewildered man who was just looking to do the right thing. Divine intervention arrived in the form of a dream – complete with talking angels. This convinced Joseph that his plans had to change. Will the unexpected presence of God awaken us this Advent, and really change our lives as a result?

Advent is all about deeply living this exciting time of expectation, a precious time to prepare to change ourselves, our homes, and our hearts, for sharing. We have to remember that it was the Divine who initiated this sharing in that first Feast of the Incarnation, sending his Son to be the Saviour that our lives yearn for most. Emmanuel – “God with us!” Can we open our hearts to see the signs that “God is with us” today?

Joe Gunn, Ottawa, On  
 Novalis, Living with Christ

**ENVELOPES FOR 2017 ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE Church.**

If your name or address is incorrect, please notify the office. Also, if you don’t have envelopes and wish to begin using them, please contact the office and a box will be assigned to you. These envelopes should **NOT** be used before January 1, 2017. **ALSO, when you start using your 2017 envelopes, please put your name and address on the first few envelopes.** Please consider switching to **“Pre-Authorized Debit”** – less paper work; less work for our counters; more security for our parish! Forms can be found on the “Welcome Desk” – back of Church.

**NO PARKING**

For the past two weekends people have been parking at the base of the new access ramp to the Church. Please be **aware**— that you **are blocking** this new Church entrance. Thank you.

## **SACRAMENTAL Preparation:**

**Registration forms** for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are ready for pick up at the back of the Church.

Please bring the completed form, along with a **copy** of the child's Baptism form to our office: (unless he/she was Baptized here).

According to our Diocesan guidelines, First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated with children in grade 2 or higher, and Confirmation with grade 7 or higher. **NB: \* No Registration Forms will be accepted after Christmas.**

## **C.W.L. NEWS**

**Membership Drive** – Catholic Women's League Membership Renewal is coming to an end!! You can still renew your 2017 C.W.L. Membership. Renewal dues are \$21.00 either by cash or cheque.

If you wish to join the St. Basil Catholic Women's League, please call Pat Renaud at (519)753-3716.

Be assured your interest and support is important.

It is the united voice of **ALL** Catholic Women that matter. Thank you, Pat Renaud.

## **Responsible Stewards of Creation**

Close to five million litres of water are taken from Wellington County daily for a water bottling plant. This extraction of large amounts of water adversely affects the ecological balance of nature over a large area while depriving those who rely on wells of their right to water. Close to seventy-five percent of plastic bottles end up in land fill sites, thus contributing to contamination of the soil for thousands of years.

Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, urges all parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton to refrain from using bottled water in church facilities. As stewards of Creation may we be leaders in the responsible use of our sacred mandate.

## **Novena – Infant Jesus**

The sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Infant Jesus, **December 16<sup>th</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus. Send your prayer intention slip with your name and address to Carmel of Saint Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Road, R.R.#1, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0.

## **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of flowers in the Church at Christmas, please place your donation in an envelope and mark "Christmas Flowers" with your name or envelope number on it. Many thanks!

## **Pro-life Christmas Cakes**

Made by the monks of Val Notre Dame Abbey, these delicious cakes will be sold after each Mass on

**December 17/18**. Proceeds go to Campaign Life Coalition and their prolife efforts.

## **PARISH CALENDARS:**

Thanks to a grant from our Bishop, we can distribute our beautiful calendars for FREE!

Here is the **challenge**: now that you have your own, **witness** to your faith by finding someone in your neighbourhood who is Catholic and needs to be invited to **come home!** Evangelization = "each one reach one"

Do you have the **courage** of your convictions?

Do you want to put your faith into **action**?

Don't just **think** about it, **do it!** Thank you, Fr. Earl We thank **Mr. Stephen MacNeil** for his many hours of work put into assembling this calendar!

## **ADVENT ANGEL TREE 2016**

The Advent Angel Tree is underway at St. Basil's Church again this year. Over the past decade our parish has collected over 3200 lbs. of food, hundreds of gifts and more than \$1,500 in donations for charities like Canadian Food for Children, Brantford's Christmas Baskets Program, Nova Vita and St. Vincent de Paul. This year our donations will support St. Vincent de Paul in their ministry of helping those less fortunate. 2017 is supposed to be a very cold winter and so we are focusing our efforts on food and warmth. Please consider making a donation of nonperishable food items, or new items for warmth such as hats, gloves, blankets, coats, socks, etc. A tax deductible cash donation can also be put to great use: simply put your donation in the collection basket and include your regular envelope number. Thank you again for your support through this Advent Season. Thanks, Catherine.

## **CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING**

His Excellency, the Most Reverend D. Douglas Crosby, OMI, DD Bishop of Hamilton will preside at the celebration of Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Carol service begins at 11:30 p.m. and Midnight Mass at 12:00 a.m. This year the lead broadcast partner will be Salt+Light Media with Father Thomas Rosica as commentator. CHCH TV will also broadcast Midnight Mass. We welcome Salt+Light and Father Rosica. The Carols and Mass will also be live streamed on their website [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org)

## **INCOME TAX RECEIPTS**

Receipts will be issued for offerings in 2016. If you wish a receipt, please put a self-addressed envelope with, if possible, your envelope number and put into the collection basket. This will facilitate getting your receipt to you. When you start using your 2017 envelopes, please put your name & address on the first couple of envelopes. Thank you.