

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 18, 2016



As Christmas approaches, let us draw strength from the promise that God is with us in all of our joys and sorrows. Just as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the joy that the Holy Family experienced, so too, we enjoy the preparations for Christmas Day and being with family and friends. As we share food, gifts and love with one another, take time to work on making your Christmas peace-filled and to give thanks in knowing that He is always with us.
“Emmanuel, God is with us.”

Christmas and New Year's Masses:

Christmas Confession: Dec 19th, 7pm & Dec 24th, 10am
Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm, 6pm (pageant), 8pm
Christmas Day Mass: 10:30am
New Year's Eve Mass: 5pm
New Year's Day Masses: 9am, 10:30am



** We are still in need a few more volunteers to participate in our Christmas & New Year's Masses - Eucharistic & Cup Ministers, Offertory & Ushers still needed. Please call the parish office to volunteer.**

Thank you to Deacon Bob and all the helpers for providing a wonderful Christmas party for our children. Everyone had a great time!!

Our **Christmas Pageant** will be at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve. If your child wants to be in the Pageant, come to rehearsals after the 9am Mass, Sundays during Advent. Call Anne, (613)966-4999, if you have questions.



St. Joseph's Family and Friends Choir: Please come & join forces with the Junior Choir such that we become a Family Choir for the Christmas season. We practice Mondays at 6:30. Men, women & children are invited. We will sing at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass.

CWL News: St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all who attended our Christmas Social, it was very enjoyable, the lunch, music and singing. Congratulations to all the draw winners. We look forward to the New Year and please remember that January is membership month.

Attend the 2017 Stop the Censorship Tour in Belleville presentation at St. Michael's parish centre, Mon, January 9th at 7:30pm. Featured speakers lawyer John Sikkema, from ARPA, Mike Schouten, director WeNeedALaw.ca and Pat Maloney, Ottawa based pro-life blogger. Contact Cassy Kneget info@weneedalaw.ca for more information.

2017 Sacrament Dates at St. Joseph's Church:

Information & Registration Meeting: for grade 2 students & their parents - Wednesday, February 1st, 7pm
First Confession: Wednesday, March 29th, 7pm
First Communion: Saturday, May 6th, 11am
Information & Registration Meeting: for Confirmation candidates & their parents - Wednesday, April 5th, 7pm
Confirmation Retreat: Wed, May 24th, 9:30am - 2:30pm
Confirmation: Tuesday, June 13th, 7pm

Marriage Preparation Retreat is scheduled for March 3 and 4, 2017 in Belleville. Call the parish office or St. Francis of Assisi Parish, (613)398-6745 or go online at assisi@sympatico.ca for info & registration. Reg. deadline is Feb 19th.

Your 2017 church donation envelopes are available at the main church doors. If you do not already use envelopes & would like to start, please call the office & request a box; or sign up for preauthorized donations. See info at the main doors.

Put this date in your calendar: **The Big Shoebang** is a fund raising event that shoe divas will not want to miss. All proceeds will be going to **United Syrian Family Support (Belleville) Sponsorship Group**. It will be held at St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Belleville. Date: Sunday, March 5, 1:30 pm – 4pm. New and almost new ladies shoes and boots in every colour of the rainbow in sizes 5 to 10+ will be organized by size for easy access. Admission for the **Shoebang** will be \$5 and every pair of boots or shoes will be priced at \$5. We would appreciate donations so please keep this in mind. Drop off locations and dates will be announced in the new year. Everyone is welcome. Join in on the Fun and Excitement!

Keep Christ in Christmas, The Greatest Gift of all.
The Icon Book Store is giving 15% off all books and gifts until December 25th.

Upcoming Events in the Parish Centre:

Euchre Party: Sunday, Jan 15th - 2pm
Hospitality Sunday: Sunday, Jan 29th after each Mass
The Big Shoebang: Sunday, March 5th, 1:30 - 4pm

St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School: Grade 8 Parent Information Night & Open House - Wed, January 25th at 6:30pm. Grade 8 Orientation Day: Wed, Feb 1st -10:45am to 2pm. 135 Adam St, Belleville.

Once in Royal David's City - A Christmas Celebration in Song - Sunday, Dec 18, 2pm, St. John the Evangelist Church, 270 Stone Street, Gananoque. Featuring the choirs from: St. John the Evangelist, Gananoque; St. Columbanus, Elgin; St. Paul the Apostle; Kingston; St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Gananoque; Gananoque Youth Choir - Gananoque Choral Society Carpe Musica. Adults \$10; Children 12-under \$5.

✠ **Remember in Prayer:** All who are ill, including Audrey Taylor, Raymond Brennan, Bradley Robson, Paul Bonneau, Jack Erwin, Maurice Waitson, Patricia Calnan, Kathy Mulder, Bernard Coughlin, Logan Frederick, Anne Young, Karissa Harrison, Kenneth Imhoff, Jim McKenzie and Brian Woodall. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joachim McNichols and Nora Pierce.

Parish Events:

Children's Liturgy is each Sunday at 9am Mass throughout the school session. A wonderful opportunity for children between the ages of 3 and 7 to participate in a deeper understanding of the Gospel message. The goal of this program is to engage and enlighten children in the teachings of the Church. The children are led in prayer, liturgy of the day and crafts/activities to emphasize the Gospel message. They also learn to participate in the Mass. We look forward to helping your children celebrate God's love at Mass. We are looking for volunteers to support our weekly program. If you would like to help, contact Anne Marie at or (613)966-7887.

Parish Junior Choir – We want to try a small experiment - something new and we are inviting you to help us out. If you're between 8-18 years of age and at a 9am Mass when the Junior Choir sings, come and join us. No previous practice required. We sing again *November 6th* at the 9am Mass. If our come-as-you-may approach works well, we will continue. You are also welcome to join us at practice on Mondays at 6:30pm (except school holidays).

If you or a loved one are going to the hospital or into a retirement home, please inform the parish office so a visit can be arranged.

Our **Prayer Network** has more than 100 people praying every day for our parish, for those who are sick and for special intentions. If you would like the Prayer Network to pray for you or your loved one, call the parish office to get the prayers started.

Just a reminder to everybody that our church has two Quiet Rooms, (one in the southwest corner and one behind the candle stand). Feel free to use these rooms if you need some quiet time and quiet space before or after Mass - OR - if during Mass you need a private space for you and your child. Also, there are diaper changing stations in all the washrooms.

Diocesan Events:

The Hotel Dieu Hospital - St. Mary's Cathedral Coat Drive is in desperate need of men's coats—particularly L-XXL sizes—plus warm hats, mitts and socks. Large-sized women's coats are also welcome. We are accepting coats at the Sydenham Street entrance of Hotel Dieu until the first week of January.

St. Mike's Youth News: Food, fuel and fun - for teens, led by teens! Check it out! Bring your friends! 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the CAVE. Sun. Dec 18th: Delivering Christmas Sharing - deliver hampers then join us for hot chocolate at Tim Horton's. Start at the Youth Office, end at Tim Horton's Bridge & Sidney - 6:30-8:30. Tues, Jan 3rd: Movie Night - All are welcome! Bring snacks for sharing - 6:30-9pm in the Cave. Sun, Jan 8th: New Life for Teens Reunion & High School Teens Dinner & Games Night - Join us in The Cave, 5:30-8pm. Bring a dessert; we'll supply the rest!

Marriage Encounter: If you would like to improve your marriage, deepen your love, live more happily together, and draw closer to each other, the Marriage Encounter program can help. Marriage Encounter is an experience which focuses on communication between husband and wife. It is an opportunity to spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life and to concentrate on each other as a couple. The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be held in Ottawa **January 20-22**. To register call Sally and Wayne Fink at 613-777-0262, or e-mail wslovers98@gmail.com. Info about Marriage Encounter can be found at www.wvme.org.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT- Beginning **January 26th**, 2017, the parish of St. John the Evangelist in Gananoque (with the help of the Knights of Columbus) will be doing a six week faith development study group every Thursday beginning at 6:45pm at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, 235 Georgiana Street, Gananoque. Faith, being a gift from God, is not something we are to stop developing once confirmed or out of school, but a lifelong process. Please join us as we view short videos in which Bishop Robert Barron presents Biblical examples of conversion stories. Discussion to follow in small informal groups in which we will learn from each other. Refreshments available. It will be a great way to get to know each other while learning our faith together. For info please call St. John's parish office, 613.382.2017 or email stjohnstphil@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Do you want to deepen your Spirituality and build community with others committed to serving with compassion? The Providence Associates of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul meet monthly at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary parish in Belleville. They invite women and men to consider attending one of their meetings to learn more about who they are. For information, email associates@providence.ca or call 613-544-4525 ext. 148.

Providence Care needs volunteers from parishes in the Archdiocese of Kingston to assist with Roman Catholic ministries that help meet spiritual needs in the following ways:

Providence Manor Volunteer Opportunities

- Assist residents going to and from Mass on Tuesday – Friday (10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon), which includes pushing wheelchairs and walking alongside residents who require assistance/supervision.
- Extraordinary Minister for the Distribution of Holy Communion, especially to Residents who are unable to attend Mass, during the week.

Please contact Ruth Flores, Coordinator of Recreation and Volunteer Services at Providence Manor at **613-548-7222, ext. 3160** or flores@providencecare.ca

St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital Volunteer Opportunities

- Assist patients going to and from Sunday Mass (10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon), which includes pushing wheelchairs and walking alongside patients who require assistance/supervision.
- Extraordinary Minister for the Distribution of Holy Communion to patients during the week. Please contact Tania Christie at 613-548-7222, Ext. 2292 or smolvolunteer@providencecare.ca

Thank you for considering our invitation to join us as we care for vulnerable persons seeking spiritual nurture.

Separated and/or Divorced? Looking for support through your healing process? You are welcome to attend the New Life Group a Support Group for those experiencing separation and divorce. Alternate Tuesday evenings - 390 Palace Road, Kingston. For further info e-mail family@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca or phone the Family Ministry Office 613-548-4461.

Community Events:

Christmas Carol Sing-along Concert at Bridge Street United Church – **Today, Sunday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m.** A thirty-six voice choir, English Handbells and Brass Quintet combine to celebrate the joy of Christmas music with you. Early Gaelic music, Praetorius, Handel, Bach and traditional carols will fill the air! Guest organist Rev. Kris Michaelson of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Kingston will present a spectacular ending to the concert! There is no admission charge for this concert – freewill offering will be taken. Please join us for this special sing-along Christmas celebration!

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association has launched a new online campaign to promote Catholic Education in Ontario. Called *Together in Faith*, the goal of the campaign is to build a vibrant online community of supporters of Catholic education, and share the stories of the exceptional students, teachers, and other members of our Catholic community who are demonstrating excellence throughout our Catholic schools. The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is pleased to support this online campaign and celebrate the excellence of Catholic education in our communities. More info on the campaign can be found at www.togetherinfaith.ca.

Canada International Student Placement Inc. is seeking families with teens to host Catholic teens from France for 4-8 weeks during the summer of 2017. These young people, aged 12-17, want to be immersed in Canadian families to experience another culture and to become more fluent in English. Families will be matched with an adolescent of the same gender and approximate age. Each Canadian family will receive \$850 per month as compensation. To learn more about hosting a French teenager or having your child participate in a European exchange please contact paul@cispi.ca or pat@cispi.ca.

EWTN NEEDS MEDIA MISSIONARIES! Has EWTN Global Catholic Network impacted your life? Would you like to tell others about Christ and His Church with EWTN? If so, become an EWTN Media Missionary right where you are and make your parish, community, family, and friends aware of EWTN as the best source for Catholic television, radio, online and print resources. To learn more, ewtnmissionaries.com or call [205-795-5771](tel:205-795-5771).



Parish Contacts

Parish Secretary	Kathleen Henry	968-9950
Parish Council	Harold Brennan	962-1983
Junior Liturgy	Anne Marie Barrett	barretts@cogeco.ca
CWL	Mary McNulty	962-2993
Grand Knight 16308	Roy Goodridge	goodridger@bell.net
Deputy Grand Knight 16308	Paul Lattanzio	st.kocjosephskoc@gmail.com
Chief Squire	Thomas Morrissey	969-9506
Franciscans	Bill Garland	966-4015
Senior Choir	Debbie Shaw	962-7430
Youth Choir	Anne Moloney	966-4999
Ascension Singers	Elizabeth Wallace	968-9950



Invitation to Minister at Mass

Altar Servers - Weekends: Youth after their First Communion can volunteer. Contact: Deacon Bob.
Weekdays - Adult volunteers. Contact Father Charles.

Funerals - Adult volunteers. Contact Father Charles.

Eucharistic Ministers - Lay Ministers assist in distributing the Eucharist to the congregation during Masses on weekends and weekdays. Monthly schedules are provided.

Offertory Gifts - Volunteers carry the gifts to the altar. Monthly schedules are followed.

Lectors - Parishioners proclaim the readings. Monthly schedules are provided.

Junior Liturgy - Younger children are welcome to join the weekly celebration with a Gospel message for them. Also, adult volunteers are needed to lead children's liturgy.

Music - Parishioners of all ages are welcome to participate in sharing their musical talents. There are various choirs open to different age groups. Practices are held weekly.

Ushers - Responsible for finding seats for parishioners and taking up the collection at weekend Masses.



Invitation to Serve

Card Parties - Once a month on the third Sunday of the month for fun and social purposes
Organizer: Paul Sosiak.

Catholic Women's League - monthly meetings on the third Thursday, contact the Parish office.

Knights of Columbus - Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the month. Contact Roy Goodridge.

Hospitality Sunday - After Masses on the last Sunday of the month.

Junior Liturgy - Sundays, 9am Mass during the school season, September to June. Co-ordinator: Anne Marie Barrett.

Rosary - Before Saturday, 5pm Mass in May and October.

Parish Visitation Program - Visits to parishioners. Contact Karen Holtz.

Prayer Network - Every day 90 people pray for you and special intentions. Contact Maureen Hamilton.

St. Vincent de Paul - (613)962-8675.

Ascension Singers - Saturday Mass, once a month. Contact: Elizabeth Wallace.

Senior Choir - Sunday Mass at 10:30am. Practice every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Director: Debbie Shaw.

Youth Choir - Sunday, 9am Mass once a month. Practice every Monday at 6:30pm during the school year. Director: Anne Moloney.

Youth Group - Meets once a month. Check the bulletin.

