

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017



John prepared the way for the one to come by asking sinners to repent and to be baptized and live justly. We have all found ourselves in difficult situations, when we lost hope and turned away from God, but Advent is a time when we can have renewed hope. We can prepare ourselves during this time by asking for forgiveness and we can anticipate with joy the coming of something wonderful. Let us begin today anew and, through repentance and good works prepare the way for the one to come.

Christmas and New Year's Masses:

Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm, 6pm (pageant), 8pm
Christmas Day Mass: 10:30am
New Year's Eve Mass: 5pm
New Year's Day Mass: 10:30am



Please Note: There will not be a 12 noon Mass on Sunday, Dec 24th & Sunday, Dec 31st.

Please sign up in the sacristy if you are available as a Lector or Communion Assistant for Christmas & New Year Masses.

Area Penance Celebrations

St. Michael, Belleville, Dec 17th, 3:30pm
St. James, Stirling, Dec 17th, 3pm
St. Joseph's, Belleville, Dec 18th, 7pm



Christmas Eve Children's Pageant Mass: Sunday, Dec 24th, 6pm. Practice after 9am Mass today, Sunday, Dec 17th.

Christmas Family Choir practice - Monday, Dec 18th, 6:30pm in the parish centre.



Belleville Firefighters Toy Drive: Last year we had an incredible display of toys in front of the altar during the Advent season. Once again, I have been asked if our parish is willing to participate in the toy drive. Feel free to bring what you wish, but there is a need for coloring books and crayons, also appropriate toys for children 6 to 9 months of age. Just place your donation on the steps in front of the altar. I am sure your generosity will make some local child's Christmas a whole lot happier. Thank you, Father Charles



CWL News: St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Special thanks for the generous donations for Three Oaks Women's Shelter. Christmas cards were sent to the retired priests in our diocese.



Knights of Columbus Council 16308 News - Our membership is appreciative of the annual parish support given to our "Keep Christ in Christmas" religious card sales this Advent Season. Funds raised of \$273.00 will go towards local council charitable needs. **Campaign Life Coalition News** - Your parish response to our annual Christmas Fruitcake fundraiser was again a tremendous success. A total of \$1,716 was raised from these sales & will go directly towards creating awareness of the Culture of Life.

Family Christmas Treat Exchange: (Bring a dozen/take a dozen) or more! Refreshments served, all welcome. Meet new friends & visit with old. Today, Sun, Dec 17th, 1:30 - 2:30, Parish centre. Get a jump on your Christmas baking!

2018 Sacrament Dates at St. Joseph's Church:

Information & Registration Meeting: for First Communion candidates: Wednesday, January 31st, 7pm
First Confession: Wednesday, April 4th, 7pm
First Communion: Saturday, May 5th, 11am
Information & Registration Meeting: for Confirmation candidates & their parents - Wednesday, April 11th, 7pm
Confirmation: Tuesday, May 29th, 7pm

St. Francis Xavier Relic Visit - A famous relic of St. Francis Xavier, is coming to Canada. An extraordinary opportunity; the relic rarely leaves Rome. All welcome to come venerate this great saint. Events are in 14 cities across Canada, including St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston on Wed, Jan 10th. Go to cco.ca/relic for details.

St. Vincent de Paul: Tue, Dec 19, 8:30am, parish centre.

St. Theresa Grade 8 Parent/Student Information Night & Open House - Wednesday, Jan 24th, 2018, 6:30pm.

The Archdiocese of Kingston is seeking a full-time receptionist for the offices of the Pastoral Centre in Kingston. Please see Archdiocese website for details at www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca. Closing date is Monday, Dec 18th, 2017 at 4pm.

Feast of the Holy Innocents: Thurs, Dec 28, Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, 7pm. We remember the Holy Innocents, the babies who were killed by Herod seeking the Christ Child. We will pray for our "innocents", the thousands of victims of abortion. Please join us. Info - Campaign Life Coalition at 613-389-4472 or 613-382-1084.



Annual Share Lent Launch at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 392 Palace Road, Kingston, on Saturday, January 20, 2018, from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be included. For more information or to register, call Jan Sosiak, Belleville, 613-968-9659; Sr. Helen Russell, Kingston, 613-766-2376.

Statue of Mother Mary: Would you like the statue of Mary to visit your home for a week? Please sign up with your name & phone number on the calendar at the main doors for any time throughout the year.

The Sultan and the Saint - Broadcast on PBS Tuesday, Dec 26 at 8pm. Franciscans collaborated with Unity Productions Foundation, a Muslim film company dedicated to interfaith dialogue and education through media, to produce this docu/drama which tells the story of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al-Kamil of Egypt, using both Christian and Muslim sources. Mark your calendars or set your DVR. Let me know your thoughts: Friar Ed 3mail eddebono@aol.com

† **Remember in Prayer:** All who are ill, including Kathy Mulder, Carol Welch, Brian Steinberg, John Doran, Helen Bradley, Danny Coughlin, Lorraine Comeau, Joseph Mendes, Randy Carmichael, Gerry Bibby, Louise Murray, Emmett Woodward, Cathy Meyers, Fred Shannon, Tom Woodward and Eileen James. Pray for the repose of the soul of Carissa Galbraith.

Parish Events:

2018 Church donation envelopes are ready to pick up at the main church doors. Please ensure we have your *current* address to receive an income tax receipt. If you would like to sign up for a new box of envelopes or for pre-authorized automatic monthly donations, call the parish office for info.

Junior Liturgy Sundays at 9am Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for children between the ages of 3 & 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 always looking for volunteers to support our weekly program. If you would like to help, contact Anne Marie at barretts@cogeco.ca or call the parish office.



St. Joseph's Junior Choir - Sunday night rehearsals, 6:30 to 7:30. Grades 2 & up welcome. We sing every 3 or 4 weeks at 9am Mass. Contact Lynette for details. 613-967-2483.

Each week you are encouraged to support Gleaners Food Bank by bringing a non-perishable food item to Mass. "*I was hungry and you fed me.*" Feed the hungry.

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.

Christmas Mass on TV - for those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas. Watch the Daily TV Mass: Christmas Eve on VisionTV at 9pm ET, yesTV at 10pm ET. Christmas Day at 8am and 12pm ET on Vision TV, 11am ET on Salt + Light, 1pm on yesTV. You can also watch on the web at www.dailytvmass.com

Events in and around the Diocese:

For more than 150 years, Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools have been a distinctive, highly successful and valued contributor to our public education system. **The Together in Faith campaign** amplifies that message by promoting our Catholic school students' achievements in academics, social justice, and Christian service. Parishioners are invited to join the campaign to strengthen publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario – **add your name to the "Together in Faith" community list at www.togetherinfaith.ca**. Follow the campaign on Twitter (@Catholicedu) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationInOntario) and help us share the Good News! This campaign is sponsored by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and is supported by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

Upcoming Teen Activities: Gospel Adventures - 1st Sunday each month 6:30 to 8:30 in the Cave. All Teens Welcome!; Dec 17th: Adventure #5 - Deliver Christmas Sharing - followed by hot chocolate & treats at Tim Horton's. Meet at the Cave, pick-up at Timmy's on Sidney St. Jan 7th - Adventure #6: Light of the World! Bring a flashlight. Bowling at Quinte Bowl, 6:30-8:30pm. Cost: \$5. (includes 2 hours of bowling & shoe rental). Confirmation prep resumes with Session 2 Classes - Wednesday, 4-5:30 in the Cave - Jan 10, 17, 24, 31. New Life for Teens Reunion - Food, games, chillaxing! - Sun, Feb 11th, 6:30-8:30pm in the CAVE.

Marriage Preparation Course: The next Marriage Preparation Weekend is Friday & Saturday, March 2nd & 3rd, 2018 at Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Belleville. **Reg is due Feb 1.** A Marriage Preparation Course is required for all couples planning to be married in the Archdiocese of Kingston. Please contact the Parish Office, (613)968-9950.

Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference: On February 24th join **Hector Molina** and **Bishop of St. Catharines Gerard Bergie** along with hundreds of men for Serviam Ministries' 3rd annual **Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference** at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The theme is "Manly Virtue". It is a one day intensive men's retreat consisting of spiritual talks, Mass, Adoration, Confession, fraternity and prayer. Special Father/Son rates available. All info and tickets: <https://www.serviamministries.com/events/virtue/>, info@ServiamMinistries.com or 1-888-522-2070.

Cursillo Weekend for Men to be held in Kingston - Pope Francis encourages us to encounter Jesus. The Cursillo Weekend offers a short and profound opportunity to encounter Jesus. A Men's Cursillo weekend is scheduled for **Thursday evening, March 8th to Sunday, March 11th** at Providence Spirituality Centre, Kingston. For more information contact Lionel Ryan at 613.634.9588 /RyanLionel07@gmail.com or Friar Ed Debono at 613.546.6900 x 204 / eddebono@aol.com



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.

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:

On December 17th, the Choirs of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Belleville, will be presenting “**Carols by Candlelight**,” a Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. The event will be presented in the traditional style of King's College, Cambridge. The Junior and Senior choirs will present Christmas carols and other choral works. The congregation is also invited to join in singing some all-time favourites. The event will start at 4:30 PM. A reception will follow. Admission: Pay-What-You-Can

The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation (CWLF) is accepting applications for its initial Leadership Program for Canadian Catholic women. The Program will be facilitated by the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa. For more information about the CWLF and the Leadership Program, and to complete an application form, visit www.cwlfcanada.ca.

Chilawee Trails has overnight week long camps in August. For girls ages 9-14. Located in Barry's Bay it offers sports, daily Mass, swimming, rosary, crafts, confessions, canoe, and drama - a week of fun, friendship and faith awaits! Registration opens in March. Consider helping campers from low-income families. For more info: chilaweetrails.ca.

The Hotel Dieu Hospital Spiritual Health Department is looking for donations of acrylic yarn (Sayelle, Astra, worsted weight). Our volunteer knitters make prayer shawls and afghans, which are then given out where it is felt they are most needed. Donations of yarn can be dropped off at the Spiritual Health office (room 391 on the 3rd floor of the Sydenham wing) Monday to Thursday between 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Contact 613-544-3400 ext. 2231.

The Archdiocese is partnering with **Newman Theological College** in Edmonton to offer online faith formation courses in a Certificate in Catholic Studies. Registration Cost per course is \$85.00. Students may register completely online at <http://www.newman.edu/CCS>. Please see their website for further details and FAQ's. For more information please contact or call Mary-Jo MacKinnon-Simms at the Diocesan centre 613-548-4461 Ext 115.



Young people in grades 4 to 7 who are interested in joining the **Quinte Children's Choir**, since 1986 the training choir of the renowned **Quinte Youth Chorale**, are invited to audition for the 2017/2018 season at St. Thomas Anglican Church, Belleville. For more information or to schedule an audition call Rudolf Heijdens at 613-962-0920 or e-mail rudolf.heijdens@sympatico.ca

NEEDED: PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS AT KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Friar David Collins, OFM Conv., is the Roman Catholic Chaplain at Kingston General Hospital. We know how important it is to have a priest or pastoral care volunteer to visit our sick loved ones and to take the Blessed Sacrament to them while they are in hospital.

Friar David is assisted by volunteers from different parishes that arrive before 9:00 a.m. and begin with a short prayer service and then visit the Catholic patients, offering them Holy Communion or just pray with them, if that is what the patient desires.

Friar David is in need of more volunteers to serve in this wonderful ministry.

Training is provided by Friar David, along with the training that all volunteers undergo who volunteer at the hospital.

If you are interested in volunteering one morning a week, Monday thru Friday, please contact Friar David at 613-546-6900

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.



Did you know . . . Hospice Quinte is focused on improving the quality of life for those with a life threatening or life limiting illness? They will place trained volunteers to provide much needed respite for caregivers, offering peace of mind when they need to attend to tasks outside of home. A volunteer can provide practical assistance with meal preparation & light housekeeping; companionship; offering to read, play cards, share conversation, emotional support for patient & family. The volunteer will visit wherever the patient may be, home, hospital, LTC, or retirement residence. Services are free of charge & available throughout the course of the person's illness, not just at end of life. More info: Jan MacInnes, 613-966-6610 x 223, or janmacinnes@hospice-quinte.ca



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
Squires	Peter Matwyuk	885-7648
Franciscans	Deacon Bill Garland	966-4015
Senior Choir	Debbie Shaw	962-7430
Youth Choir	Lynette Thibeau	967-2483
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.

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

Knights of Columbus - Second Tuesday 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: Lynette Thibeau.

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

