

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Third Sunday of Advent



December 11, 2016

Mass Times

Saturday 6:00 pm St. Peter's Mission
Sunday 9:00 am Sacred Heart Church
11:00 am Sacred Heart School

DAILY: Monday **No Mass**
Tuesday 7:00 pm
Wed. & Thurs. **No Mass**
Friday 8:00 am

Confessions

Tuesday, 6:30pm to 6:45pm
Saturday 5:30pm to 5:45pm (St. Peter's)
Sunday 8:30am to 8:45am
and by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday 7:30 pm to Friday 8:00 am

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

(DECEMBER 13TH TO DECEMBER 18TH)

Tuesday 7:00 pm † Alfeo & Lisa Nasato: Luigia Bertolo
Friday 8:00 am † Carl A. Branco: Gabriel, Gregory & DeSouza

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 9:00 am † Sandra Marzo: Doug & Theresa Lockerbie
11:00 am For the People

Gospel Quotation:

"When John the Baptist heard in prison
about the deeds of the Christ,
he sent word by his disciples"

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Mark Morley
pastor@sacredheartrockwood.ca

Pastor's Message

TAKING BACK THE SPIRIT OF ADVENT AND KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

People often express their concerns about the commercialization of Christmas in terms of "values." For example, when Christmas toy advertisements emphasize gift-getting over gift-giving, some people may object by speaking of the importance of traditional values. Likewise, when a company policy removes the word "Christmas" from its official corporate-speak and opts for putting up a "holiday tree," some people may object by insisting upon the importance of religious values. While I don't doubt the sincerity of their intentions, people who use "values-talk" are unwittingly undermining their own positions by adopting the language of their opponents. In response to their call for traditional values, their opponents call for progressive values. In response to their call for religious values, their opponents call for secular values. Values-talk is useful for avoiding conflicts. It enables people to express their opinions without having to debate them. I say I value this, you say you value that, and we pretend to live in heavenly peace. However, from a theological perspective, values-talk undermines our ability to proclaim the Gospel.

I would like to suggest that we think about the commercialization of Christmas in terms of the theological notion of "worship." As Catholics, we believe that all human beings have within their hearts a desire to be loved by God and a desire to love God in return. Due to our sinful nature, however, we have difficulty directing these desires. We either do things to try to get God to love us, or we direct our love for God to things other than God. Either way, we end up worshipping what is not God. We fail to appreciate that God already loves us and that we are to look to God to show us the way to love him in return. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people often fell into the practice of idolatry, worshipping false gods.

Ironically, our contemporary way of celebrating Christmas now hides the true meaning of Christmas. Even those of us who go to Mass every Sunday may find that our desire to love God has been misdirected by consumerism. Thus, we don't necessarily worship the God who was born that first Christmas Day. We may worship the false gods of what Christmas has become. The forces of consumerism vie for our hearts as we go about our everyday lives. Christmas marketing campaigns stir up desires in our hearts for treasures of the earth rather than the treasures of heaven. It can be difficult not to get caught up in this anti-Christmas. If we want to keep Christ in Christmas, then we should become less concerned with values and become more aware of the forces in society that are attracting the worship of others, for these powers that have the potential to misdirect our Christian worship.

Here's a little exercise to help you take back the spirit of Advent and keep Christ in Christmas. As you go about doing your shopping and making your final preparations for celebrating Christmas, each time you go somewhere ask yourself this: what is being worshipped here? When you walk into the mall, have a look around and ask yourself: what is being worshipped here? When you walk into the liquor store, look at the shelves and ask yourself: what is being worshipped here? When you walk into the bank, have a look at the advertisements and ask yourself: what is being worshipped here? And, if you happen to walk into the lobby of a movie theatre, ask yourself: what is being worshipped here? Finally, when you walk into church this coming Christmas, have a look around and ask yourself: what is being worshipped HERE?

Fr. Mark Morley

PARISH UPDATES

CHRISTMAS CAKES: Christmas cakes will be for sale again as a fundraiser for Campaign Life, for the pro-life cause. Cakes are \$15.00 , You can also purchase a cake as a Christmas Gift. Cakes are available after all Masses. Please support our cause. Thank you. *Mary Spiteri*

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP: There is still time to sign-up for the workshop. Join in the fun of making a gingerbread house. To reserve your spot and create your gingerbread house that you will take home please sign-up. Sign-up sheets are in Coulson Hall. Bring your apron and \$18 for the workshop. For more information please contact Yvonne Chin at 519-856-9688.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION UPDATE: Advent starts today, have you considered giving Christ a Christmas gift? Perhaps an hour of your time spent with Him in Adoration? The following hours are available. Tuesday 11-12pm, Thursday 9-10pm, and starting in January, Thursday 7-8pm. Don't forget to visit anytime. For additional information call Jane Hosdil 519-856-2398.

CATHOLICISM: The New Evangelization: The Catholic Faith is about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It is an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history, the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy, a message that has built civilizations, inspired cultures and even sent some to prisons and to their graves. We have the same call - that's the New Evangelization. This new documentary series from Bishop Barron's Word on Fire explores the Church's mission and the challenges of contemporary culture. See our Faith in action in this 90-minute film video that tells us what the "New Evangelization" is and then takes us on a fascinating tour to witness examples of new ardor, new expressions, and new methods of evangelization in action. Come and join us on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00pm in Coulson Hall to watch the video and discuss how it might be applied to evangelization in our own parish. *Fr. Mark Morley*

WELLINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN AND SENIOR KINDERGARTEN AT WELLINGTON CATHOLIC... **WE HAVE FAITH IN EDUCATION.**

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 9th, 2017.

Kindergarten Eligibility

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2017 to attend Junior Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2017 to attend Senior Kindergarten

Please bring: 1. child's birth certificate, 2. parent or child's Baptismal certificate, 3. child's health card/immunization record/custody papers (if applicable), 4. proof of tax support for families new to the system (i.e. most recent tax bill)

Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please call your local Catholic school. We look forward to welcoming you to our Wellington Catholic family.

This Week's Events

December

12 Rosary for Peace - Sacred Heart 7:00pm
 13 Tuesday MASS (7:00pm)
 15 Euchre Matinee: (1:00 pm Coulson Hall)
 New Evangelization video: (7pm Coulson Hall)
 16 Seniors' Program at Rockwood Library
 (11:30am to 1:30pm)

Next Catechism Class Date
 January 11 at Coulson Hall - 6:45pm

Did You Know?

- * The Advent Wreath reminds us of the four weeks in Advent
- * There are four candles on the Advent Wreath
- * Each week one additional candle is lighted, so by the end of Advent all four are lit.
- * The candles remind us that we are preparing for Jesus, the Light of the World.
- * Three of the candles are purple
- * The candle lit for the third week of Advent is pink
- * The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. **Gaudette means "rejoice"**

2017 DONATION ENVELOPES

Your offertory envelopes are now available for pick up in Coulson Hall, today, Sunday December 11, 2016. The envelope packages are arranged in numeric order. If you are currently using envelopes, a boxed set has been prepared for you. The envelopes will be kept in Coulson Hall till December 31, 2016. If you wish to order personalized envelopes, please contact the Parish office. Thank you.

Prayer Calendar for Priests

Every day, in our diocese we are invited to pray for a priest serving in our parishes

Mon. - Rev. Mariusz Durbajlo
 Tues. - Rev. Michael Downey
 Wed. - Benedictines
 Thurs. - Rev. Drago Gacnik, S.D.B.
 Fri. - Rev. Allen Varlaki
 Sat. - Rev. Peter Ciallella, c.s.