

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

238 Main St. N., Rockwood, On N0B 2K0 Phone: 519-856-4711 FAX 519-856-2331
Parish Office Email: office@sacredheartrockwood.ca
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Fourth Sunday of Advent



Gospel Quotation:

"Joseph took [Mary]
as his wife."

December 18, 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
Wednesday	8:00 am
Thursday	8:00 am
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 20TH TO DECEMBER 25TH)

Tuesday 7:00 pm *Maria & Attilio Barbisan & Family: Nasato Family*
Wednesday 8:00 am *Intention of Donor*
Thursday 8:00 am † *Ina Publicover: Norm & Pat Damaren*
Friday 8:00 am † *Carlos Esteves: Esmeralda Esteves*

CHRISTMAS: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday - *Christmas Eve* 8:00 pm
10:00 pm
Sunday - *Christmas Day* 9:00 am *For the People*

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?

Re-printed from December 11, 2016

Fr. Mark Morley

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: Come celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family at St. Peter's Mission Church in Oustic on Friday, December 30th at 6:00pm. Christmas carols will be sung before Mass. The Knights of Columbus image of the Holy Family currently travelling from parish to parish throughout our diocese will be carried in procession and venerated with incense. Catechesis from our popes will be read by families. At the end of Mass, we will pray the Litany of the Holy Family. After Mass, hospitality for the whole family will be provided by the Knights in Coulson Hall at Sacred Heart Church in Rockwood. I encourage families to come and honour the Jesus, Mary and Joseph as well as pray for all families through the intercession of the Holy Family. *Fr. Mark Morley*

MASS FOR PARISHIONERS AT THE NEWMAN CENTRE GUELPH: I wish to thank all parishioners who have supported my ministry at the University of Guelph by inviting you to attend a Mass at the Newman Centre (325 Gordon Street, parking off of Dean Avenue) on Thursday, January 5th at 7:00pm. *Fr. Mark Morley*

PARISH UPDATES

CAMPAIGN LIFE: On behalf of Campaign Life, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all St. Peter's and Sacred Heart parishioners who purchased Christmas Cakes for their fundraiser. God will bless your generosity. Enjoy your Cakes

MICHAEL HOUSE: On behalf of Michael House I would like to thank all who participated in the playpen drive. At this time of year we are asked to give in so many different directions, May God bless you for your awesome generosity. It truly makes a difference in the lives of others.
Mary Spiteri

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION UPDATE: We are nearing the end of the year. How about a New Year's resolution to spend some time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; any time from Tuesdays 7:30 pm to Fridays 8:00am. If you feel ready to commit to a regular hour, the following are available, Tuesdays 11-12 pm, and Wednesdays 8-9 pm, or you can double up at any other hour of your choice.

Call Jane Hosdil at 519-856-2398 to arrange for sign up, or any further questions. Thank you, and Merry Christmas.
Jane Hosdil

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE: This is the season for giving so please think of the Rockwood food bank when shopping, and donate non-perishable food items to the hamper in Coulson hall for delivery to East Wellington Community Services. Your continued generosity is appreciated.
Charles Vince

The Knights of Columbus will be having a bottle drive early next year for The Special Olympics. If you can leave any empties you get from the Christmas season in Coulson Hall, it will help us get a jump on this worthwhile fund raiser.
Dave Bell Knights of Columbus



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

I would like to thank all those parishioners who organized and those who participated in the Children's Christmas Pageant held in Sacred Heart Catholic School before the 11:00am Mass last Sunday. It was a great success! It was also a great way to experience the joy of the Third Sunday of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour at Christmas.

Fr. Mark Morley

This Week's Events

December

- 19 Rosary for Peace - Sacred Heart 7:00pm
- 20 Tuesday MASS (7:00pm)
- 22 Euchre Matinee: (1:00 pm Coulson Hall)
New Evangelization video: (7pm Coulson Hall)
- 23 Seniors' Program at Rockwood Library
(11:30am to 1:30pm)
- 30 Feast of the Holy Family (6pm St. Peter's)

January 8 Children's Christmas Mass
(11:00am Sacred Heart School)

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

Did You Know?

- * The Jesse Tree is a custom of decorating trees with ornaments
- * The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."
- * The ornaments represent Jesus' family tree
- * Jesse was the father of King David
- * The ornaments connects the events of the Old Testament to the birth of Jesus

REMINDER

2017 DONATION ENVELOPES

Your offertory envelopes are now available for pick up in Coulson Hall. 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 30, 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. James Link, C.R.
- Tues. - Rev. Michael McHugh
- Wed. - Consecrated Men and Women
- Thurs. - Rev. Michael Sullivan
- Fri. - Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I
- Sat. - Rev. Jeff Bergsma