

# 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  
Website: sacredheartrockwood.ca

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 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 27<sup>TH</sup> TO JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>)

Tuesday 7:00 pm † Hunter Coulson: Nancy Coulson  
Wednesday 8:00 am † Tony Lengua: Norm & Pat Damaren  
Thursday 8:00 am † Mary Clifford: Norm & Pat Damaren  
Friday 8:00 am Intention of Donor

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday - Mary Mother of God 9:00 am  
11:00 am For the People

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Mark Morley  
pastor@sacredheartrockwood.ca

### Gospel Quotation:

**The Word is  
made flesh.**



# **Pastor's Message**

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Did you try the exercise I suggested in my bulletin message over the past two weeks to help you take back the spirit of Advent and keep Christ in Christmas? As you went about your shopping and making your final preparations for celebrating Christmas, what was being worshipped where you went? When you walked into the mall, what was being worshipped there? When you walked into the liquor store, what was being worshipped there? When you walked into the bank, what was being worshipped there? And, if you happened to walk into the lobby of a movie theatre, what was being worshipped there? Finally, when you walked into the church all decorated for our celebration, what was being worshipped HERE? In a manner of speaking, it doesn't make sense to ask "what" was being worshipped in the church because the question should be "who was being worshipped?" In places where a "what" is worshipped, we find ourselves being drawn into a form of idolatry. Even our worship of celebrities is about "what" we idolize, not about the Son of God "who" become one of us. Only in church is a true "who" worshipped: the divine person Jesus Christ.

In recent years, we have been trying to keep Jesus Christ in Christmas by preserving the deeper meaning of our celebration in church. And rightly so. The commercialization of gift-giving has generated a kind of anti-Christmas. As you may have discovered through the Advent exercise, there are two versions of Christmas: the religious version we celebrate, what the Church calls the "Nativity of the Lord," and the secular version celebrated in the world, sometimes referred to as "Christmas," but often just called the "Happy Holiday." If the Christian version is the book, then the secular version is the movie, or the video game. Some people like to say that the book is always better. I prefer to say that the movie is just different. Given that our celebration is the original, then the secular version is a kind of simulation, deceptively similar but not the real thing. Yet the secular version is based on a true story! The challenge for us is to show people that, what they are enjoying in the world, has its roots in what we are celebrating the Church.

I take it that you are familiar with the movie version of Christmas. It's everywhere, most especially in the shopping mall. In order to read the book version and seek the true meaning of the mystery of the Nativity of the Lord, I suggested in my homily that we need to appreciate the difference between the current meaning of the word Nativity and the word Christmas, which has become to mean something other than what it used to mean in our society. As I preached, I distinguished between the Nativity as something religious and Christmas as something essentially secular. As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, the birth of Jesus Christ into our world, may we welcome him into our hearts. Since Christmas has become a secular holiday, we Christians do well to ponder the mysteries of our faith and reflect upon the ways the mystery of the Nativity continues to shape our lives even though others may not realize that our celebration in the Church is something different from the Christmas they are celebrating in the secular world. Maybe they will become curious and ask us why we celebrate with such great joy. This will be an opportunity for us to explain that the festivities of the secular version of Christmas are mere shadows cast from the light of Christ that has come into the world.

In my Nativity message last year, I prayed that our parish family maybe blessed with many newcomers, and that we welcome them as brothers and sisters in Christ. Since last year, the Coulson Cup and the Turkey Supper were successful fundraisers, but more importantly they were opportunities for us to work together as a parish. Although we have had to adapt to changes in the parish, we still need to be focused welcoming new parishioners. The Sunday Mass at the school provides an opportunity for us to grow as a faith community as we plan to build a new church in Rockwood. We have hope because our hope is in the Lord. Sometimes we forget that our local churches are part of the larger reality we call the Church, which spans both Heaven and Earth. This year, as we ponder the mystery of the Nativity, I pray that our celebration of the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ, will gather us together with the Church throughout the world. May you and your families enjoy a blessed Christmas holiday, as well as experience a joyful celebration of the Nativity of the Lord!

*Fr. Mark Morley*

**PARISH UPDATES**

**EUCCHARISTIC 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*

**BOTTLE DRIVE:** 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 KofC*

**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*

**NEW LIGHT BULBS:** Thank you to all those who donated towards the new light bulbs for the church. You made our Christmas a little bit brighter.

*Fr. Mark Morley*

**FROM THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

**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.

**This Week's Events**

*December*

- 26 Rosary for Peace - Sacred Heart 7:00pm
- 27 Tuesday MASS (7:00pm)
- Euchre Matinee: (1:00 pm Coulson Hall)  
No Euchre until January 4, 2017
- 30 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?**

- \* Christmas is our celebration of the birth of Jesus
- \* The Christmas season celebrates the birth of Jesus to the beginning of his public ministry.
- \* The Christmas season begins at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- \* The liturgical colour of Christmas is white or gold to show our joy
- \* The symbols of Christmas are the manger which served as the first crib for baby Jesus
- \* The star is the other symbol of Christmas. It led the wise men to Jesus

**REMINDER**  
**2017 DONATION ENVELOPES**  
Your offertory envelopes are located in Coulson Hall. The envelope packages are arranged in numeric order. If you are 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. Paul Boucher
- Tues. - Rev. Felix Nwatu
- Wed. - Holy Cross Fathers (C.S.C.)
- Thurs. - Rev. Tony O'Dell, O.M.I.
- Fri. - Rev. Jarek Pachocki, O.M.I.
- Sat. - Rev. Roshan D'Souza, O.C.D.