

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, December 19

No Mass

Tuesday, December 20

7:00 p.m. Patricia Flanagan
Joseph Nguyen Van Thi
Joseph Tran Minh Chieu
Joseph McNamara
Special Intention

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Intention of Tim Kreze
Joanne Tremblay

Thursday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Intention of Sister Alice Long, CND

Friday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Margaret Poirier

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
11:30 p.m. St. Paul Chung Christmas Eve Mass

PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 18

Children's Liturgy at the 10:30 a.m. Mass

12:30 p.m. Baptisms
5:00 p.m. St. Paul Chung Mass followed by Social

Tuesday, December 20

6:00 p.m. Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. Contemporary Choir

Thursday, December 22

7:30 p.m. Sunday Choir

Friday, December 23

9:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Cursillo

Sunday, December 18

5:00 p.m. St. Paul Chung Mass followed by Social
6:00 p.m. St. Paul Chung Social

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 18, 2016

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24



JOSEPH

Joseph's understanding of God's will for him is clear and unadorned. His quiet acceptance is almost palpable as we stand on the brink of our own Christmas celebration and try to sort out what matters and what doesn't. The Isaian prophecy settles in Joseph's house and is welcome there. Joseph seeks no shortcuts. He knows what God is asking him to do, and he follows his call. The name of this child is given to him as it was given to Mary: "...you are to name him Jesus..." The name Jesus is rooted in the Hebrew word that means "the Lord is salvation." In Joseph's acceptance, salvation settled over his roof when the sun rose the next day. This faith-filled, just man and quiet protector of Mary ushers us into our celebration of Christmas, God with us.

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

This week we especially pray for:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday | Reverend James Link, C.R. |
| Tuesday | Reverend Michael McHugh |
| Wednesday | Consecrated Men and Women |
| Thursday | Reverend Michael Sullivan |
| Friday | Reverend Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I. |
| Saturday | Reverend Jeff Bergsma |

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests, religious and lay ministers of the world. Sanctify them. Heal them; guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

9 f God – such a God as any Adult religion believes

in – exists, mere movement in space will never bring you any nearer to Him or any farther from Him than you are at this very moment. (C. S. Lewis, “The Seeing Eye,” *Christian Reflections*, 168)

If you don’t feel close to God, guess who moved? Many of us know that statement. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is always there for us. But movement, that is, a change of geography, does not bring us closer to him, as Lewis states. It’s not as though we can physically approach God when God is all around us. We can’t reach God, Lewis suggests, even if we were to travel to one of the distant galaxies. In truth, because of the problems inherent in human nature, movement usually involves movement away from God. Sad, but true. Of course, that’s not physical movement either, which is one thing Lewis wants us to understand.

In fact, Lewis continues, he did not search for God; it was the other way around – God searched for him. God was like the hunter, and Lewis was like the deer. And that proves that his belief in God wasn’t the product of wishing there to be a God, when he actually wished there were not a God. That’s why he once called himself “the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”

But Lewis also wants us to see that externals are not the issue with God. As God told Samuel, “Mortals look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” God is not unconcerned with our behaviour; after all, our behavior reflects our character. When the Hebrew prophets said, “Return,” they actually meant “Repent.” That’s why the prophet Micah states, “And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

O God, grant that I not only acknowledge your existence, but depend on you. Amen.

Dr. Joel Heck



“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a

priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Father Michael King, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or [email mking@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mking@hamiltondiocese.com)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

CHRISTMAS



The members of Paul are the many parishioners who have



towards our Christmas Hampers. We at this time will be serving more families than in previous years and we are most grateful to those who took their envelopes home and will return them in the following weeks. Donations can continue by just putting your envelopes in with the normal collection and marked clearly “St. Vincent de Paul”. Thank you again for making this season a special time for these families.

HAMPERS

St. Vincent de Paul are thankful for generous donated

THE JESSE TREE, ADVENT 2016

Fourth Week of Advent Symbols:

1. **The Sun**
2. **A Scallop Shell**
3. **A Lily**
4. **A Carpenter’s Square**
5. **The Manger and the Star**



An explanation of the symbols can be found by the Jesse Tree in the PLC foyer.

PEACE LIGHT



The Peace Light is a tradition that was started in Austria in approximately 1988. It is carried out by the boy scouts of Austria. Every year an Austrian child travels with a group to Bethlehem to the Church of the Nativity to enter the birthplace of Christ and gets the flame from there. The flame is then carried from Bethlehem on Austrian Airlines to Vienna. From there the flame is spread all across Europe, much like the Olympic torch is passed.

This year, through the assistance of local people, arrangements were made to have the flame flown to Ontario. We will be receiving this peace light and we will keep this candle lit until the feast of the Epiphany. Now, more than ever, let us pray for peace.



MASSES

As you know, the first two Masses on Christmas Eve (5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.) are filled to capacity (standing room). Last year the 10:00 p.m. Mass was

comfortably full and the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day is a good option. Please consider those!

BULLETIN VIA E-MAIL



Did you know that you can receive the Parish Sunday bulletin via e-mail each week?

If you wish to be on our list, please contact the parish office at parish@stanthonydaniel.ca. Thank you for doing your part in conserving paper.



2017 THEATRE TRIPS

2017 Theatre trips have been booked! To view upcoming shows, pick up an information paper found on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Our first outing

is "Singin' In The Rain" at St. Jacobs Playhouse Theatre on March 29, 2017. All are welcome to join us!

TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that all donations requiring tax receipts for 2016 must be received in the parish office **by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30th**.



MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH



Pope Francis, in *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), challenges married couples to understand that their love is a call to sacrificial love. He invites each spouse to see their married love as love that must be first and foremost self-giving. When a person in a

relationship understands this, it helps them to reach beyond themselves and indeed grow. When we take the time to discern our vision of married life and then reach into ourselves to make it happen, both spouses benefit. The Pope is reminding us that love may not be perfect, but it is love and when we nurture it from within, we strengthen and build a deep bond between us.



PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

At Christmas it is easy for children to get so wrapped up in what they want that they forget the reason for the season: the birth of Christ.

Jesus came to offer a great sacrifice – his life so our sins could be forgiven. He taught us to look toward others; to feed the hungry, care of the sick and so much more. The greatest gift we can give our children is the ability to look outward towards what others need, as opposed to looking inward to what “I” want. When we teach our children what Christmas really represents and why we celebrate, it helps them know God loves them and to spread his love to others.



Every time a hand reaches out to help another...this is the spirit of Christmas.

Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding, that is the spirit of Christmas.

Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other; that is the spirit of Christmas.

May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding and closer to the blessing of peace.