



## Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: [office@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:office@johnxxiii.ca) • Website: [www.johnxxiii.ca](http://www.johnxxiii.ca)

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

and/or as announced

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### SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

#### SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

#### WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Check the bulletin or website for the current schedule

#### COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

Contact the parish office for assistance

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Friday 3:15 p.m., Saturday 4:00 p.m.

and/or as announced or by appointment

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## PARISH BULLETIN

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 24, 2017 and**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – December 31, 2017**

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### PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

**Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz**

204-832-7335      [rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier**

204-832-7206      [sharon@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:sharon@johnxxiii.ca)

**Ministry Coordinator/Office Volunteer: Lynda Hunt**

204-832-7175      [lynda@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:lynda@johnxxiii.ca)

**Trustee: Albert McMurdie**

204-889-6606      [mcmurdie@shaw.ca](mailto:mcmurdie@shaw.ca)

**Trustee: Christine Carlyle**

204-889-0238      [rccarlyl@gmail.com](mailto:rccarlyl@gmail.com)

**Parish Stewardship Committee**

**Facilitator: Loris Vendramelli**

204-888-8200      [loris@mymts.net](mailto:loris@mymts.net)

**Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason**

204-832-7175      [joanna@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:joanna@johnxxiii.ca)

**Head Custodian: José Barrera**

204-888-9340

**Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli**

204-888-8200      [d\\_vendramelli@mymts.net](mailto:d_vendramelli@mymts.net)

**Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt**

204-898-1893      [cfp3899@gmail.com](mailto:cfp3899@gmail.com)

**Fundraising and Development Committee**

204-832-7175      call if interested in serving

**Parish Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee**

**Facilitator: Laurette Burch**

204-885-6988      [burchd@mymts.net](mailto:burchd@mymts.net)

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**FAITH FORMATION:** Catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings, September through May, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults. Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information and/or to register.

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST):** Contact the parish office for further information.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

**CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:** Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

## SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH MASS SCHEDULE – THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: Mass at 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10:00 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES – SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Masses at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.  
Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10:00 a.m.

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: Mass at 10:00 a.m.

### NEW YEAR'S MASSES – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: Mass at 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: Mass at 10:00 a.m.



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be celebrated in Winnipeg from **January 18 - 25, 2018**. The theme is **“Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power”** (Exodus 15:6). The theme and resources for 2018 have been prepared by an ecumenical team from the Caribbean. Today, Caribbean Christians of many different traditions see the hand of God active in the ending of enslavement. It is a uniting experience of God’s saving action which brings freedom.

The 2018 Week of Prayer will include a **City-wide Ecumenical Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at Westworth United Church, 1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg**. All are cordially invited to participate in this celebration with church leaders and in the other various gatherings that will be held throughout the Week of Prayer. For more information, please see the Week of Prayer companion posters on the church bulletin board.

Please note that in 2018 we continue to follow the international dates for the week. Therefore, prior to the city-wide service with church leaders, the **first gathering for the Week of Prayer will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at Saint John XXIII Church, 3390 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg**.

## ECUMENICAL CHOIR FOR CITY-WIDE CELEBRATION

An ecumenical choir is being formed to lead music at the forthcoming celebration on January 21<sup>st</sup> during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. No audition is required. Anyone who can carry a tune and wishes to sing in the choir is welcome! **Rehearsals will be held at Westworth United Church, 1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2018 and on Sunday, January 14, 2018**. A short final rehearsal will be held immediately before the Ecumenical Worship Service on Sunday, January 21, 2018. For further information, you may call Michele Barr at 204-453-5016 or contact her via email: mbarr41@shaw.ca



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT

Max and Monique Armstrong, Darrell Aucoin, Joan Brabant, Barry Burke, Bill and Jacquie Camier, Frank Clarke, Catherine Corcoran, Peter Corcoran, Alicia Cruz, Connie Csizmadia, Phyllis Dreveski, Sylvia Ewaskow, Bonnie Joyce Irish, Angela Kalichak, Debra McEnturff, Lori McPherson, Donald Mitchell, Dolores and Paul Mulaire, Tabitha Musonda, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, Albin Polz, James Polz, Phyllis Rogoski, Hank Smith, Rose Stankewich, Marie Stuart, Don Thomas, Jacob Trudel, Maria Helena Viegas, Ronald Wells, Ted Wood and Helen Yankoski.

Please contact our Pastoral Assistant, Sharon, to have names added to our prayer list. Remember that to have names added and printed in the bulletin we require permission from the person(s) concerned.

**NOTE OF THANKS:** On behalf of Campaign Life Coalition, we would like to thank the parishioners of St John XXIII Parish who recently purchased a fruitcake. The fundraiser is used to increase awareness of the need to protect the most vulnerable - the unborn child! May the celebration of the birth of the Infant Christ, remind us of the dignity and value of each and every human life. Sincerely, Maria Slykerman (President), Carol Slykerman (Assistant), Campaign Life Coalition MB, Tel.: 204-452-2459, Email: caslykerman@gmail.com



***From His fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace. – John 1:16***

Wishing you the blessings  
of Christ's peace and love  
this Christmas and always!

From Father Robert Polz and the staff  
of Saint John XXIII Parish.



## **PARISH "CHRISTMAS FIESTA" FUNDRAISING GATHERING**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018  
SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH HALL**

**DOORS OPEN 6:00 P.M., POTLUCK DINNER 7:00 P.M.**

**CASH BAR, SILENT AUCTION, ENTERTAINMENT, KARAOKE...**

**YOUTH / ADULT – ADMISSION  
CHILD (12 & UNDER) – ADMISSION**

**\$10 PER TICKET  
FREE TICKET**

Admission to our "Christmas Fiesta" is by ticket and by the donation of your favourite food dish to share. Net proceeds from our fundraising gathering will go to the Parish to help pay what is still owing to the Archdiocese for the 2017 Annual Assessment ("Cathedraticum") and other parish operating expenses. For tickets and/or further information please contact one of the following persons:

**Gemma Minerva  
Vicky Tualla  
Nina Turner  
Sharon Camier**

**204-291-5320  
204-837-1078  
204-832-7260  
204-832-7206**

**gemma\_minerva@yahoo.com  
vtualla@hotmail.com  
npturner@mts.net  
sharon@johnxxiii.ca**

Many of our parishioners come from various countries where they are familiar with the great fervour that goes into "fiesta" celebrations. Our upcoming "Christmas Fiesta" is another opportunity to support the needs of our parish and to celebrate the diversity of our community with various food dishes, music, entertainment, and a variety of other activities.

In preparing dishes to share for the potluck dinner, please be sure to bring items to the church in a manner that protects food quality – i.e. preference is given to foods that are not prone to spoil and do not need cooking on site. It is important that we follow proper food handling procedures for the safety and enjoyment of all.

**If you are willing to donate something suitable for the silent auction, please contact the parish office.** We also need volunteers to help set-up the hall, assist in the kitchen, and to join in the cleanup after the festivities have concluded. If you are able and willing to help out, you may contact Sharon Camier (see Sharon's contact info above).

So we may be able to prepare ample supplies for the bar and the potluck buffet dinner, please obtain your admission tickets as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support!

**2017 – 2018 SUNDAY MISSAL now available – Price \$6.00 each:** *The Living with Christ Sunday Missal* helps Catholics prepare for and celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday and major feast day of the year. This Sunday Missal features: **NEW SIZE & LARGER FONT**, the official English translation of the Roman Missal, complete Scripture readings for Sunday Masses, reflections for all Sunday liturgies, inspiration from the Saints, Papal Prayer Intentions for each month of the year, guide to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayers for various occasions, hymns. Edited and produced in Canada.



## December 24, 2017

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

God reminds David just who lives in whose house,  
and who has the power to establish permanent things.

#### Psalm 89:1-2, 3-4, 26+28

God's promises hold forever,  
firm and sure as a rock foundation.

#### Romans 16:25-27

Eternal mysteries gradually unfold into time  
through the power of divine revelation.

#### Luke 1:26-38

Mary herself becomes the ark  
of God's new and everlasting covenant.



### GOD'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS

If you were going to send a Christmas card to God this year, where would you send it? We know the address of Santa Claus, the queen of England, the pope in Rome, and even a friend or two we haven't seen since kindergarten. But the whereabouts of God are a little hazier. If we write "heaven" on the envelope, will our Christmas greetings ever reach their destination?

The whereabouts of God have always been an issue for those who seek God. Where do you look, if you don't have a probable place in mind? We may take a pilgrimage to a holy site: God's been known to make an appearance at a certain mountain peak in Israel. The Son of God moved around from town to town but never settled down—not even in the tomb. The Holy Spirit made a dramatic showing in an upper room in Jerusalem, but subsequent sightings have been across Asia Minor and beyond. If you expand the search to include the Holy Family, reported manifestations of the Mother of God are legion, including Spain, France, Mexico, and, most recently, Japan.

The most famous dwelling place of God, of course, was on Mt. Zion in the Jerusalem Temple. One wall is left standing on that ancient site for those willing to seek God in ruins. But most of us look no further than the local church, synagogue, or mosque, where a community still gathers to encounter the divine in word, sacrament, and each other. We take the Easter angel at his word: Do not seek the living among the dead!

As far back as the time of David, the desire to house God at a singular address was countered by God's insistence that it actually works the other way around: The Creator built the house in which creation lives and moves and has its being. God makes a "house" out of David himself, a never-ending house that will shelter generations of kings until the time of the everlasting king. And then one day, 10 long centuries after David is dust, a girl in Nazareth is asked if she would be willing to house the Holy One in her body. And she delivers the fateful yes.

It would be a tragedy if hers were the last "yes" in human history! The truth is, many more yeses have been added. The Hebrew word amen means "yes," and we say it every time we come forward for the Eucharist. We say yes, we'll be the house of God. We'll take the divine life into our bodies, in flesh and blood, and make it our flesh and blood. We say, "Let it be done to us, according to your word." God's last known address is you.

— Alice Camille

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***"Consider what a dignity is ours, and what a likeness there is between us and Mary. Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear him about in our hearts."*** — Saint Peter Damian (1007-1072)

***"She who is the mother of Christ is the mother of our wisdom, mother of our righteousness, mother of our sanctification, mother of our redemption."*** — Saint Aelred of Rievaulx (1110?-1167)

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*Scripture Readings for Christmas*

### The Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord

**MASS DURING THE NIGHT:** Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7; Psalm 96:1-2, 3-4, 11-12, 13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-16

**MASS DURING THE DAY:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

**December 31, 2017**

## **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Genesis 15:1-6; 17:3b-5, 15-16; 21:1-7**

Abraham is running out of hope, but God never loses sight of the promise.

**Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9**

God's covenant is binding for a thousand generations.

**Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

Faith took Abraham on the ultimate journey into the clearly impossible—but for God.

**Luke 2:22-40**

Simeon sees in the child Jesus the fulfillment of his nation's hopes and the crowning of his own.



### **DESTINATION: CONTRADICTION**

Most of us like to keep things simple. In life we draw up a plan and then step-by-step try to put it into action. Get an education, get a job, start a family, build up savings, then retire. It sounds so easy and straightforward, doesn't it? Our plans don't generally include the unforeseen contingencies. Maybe you train for a career that doesn't even exist in 10 years. Maybe the family you create unhappily comes apart. Maybe you build up savings that are wiped out when financial institutions collapse. Maybe you don't live long enough to retire.

Despite the uncertainty of our plans, we continue to make them. How many of you keep a to-do list? We make a plan each day when we rise and hope to carry it out, item by item and hour by hour. Among the most frustrating episodes we face is the encounter with a person who thwarts those plans: swerving into our lane unannounced, or calling with news that changes everything.

Like most couples, Abraham and Sarah had counted on having children. After long years of disappointment, they faced old age without heirs. Then God made a promise to miraculously change their fate. Abraham committed his faith to the bargain, and the child arrived who would make his descendants like stars in the sky. Parenthood in the senior years is not the usual destination, but the word *impossible* is not in God's dictionary. A simple plan it wasn't. But it fulfilled the divine purposes just fine.

The circumstances around the birth of Jesus were far from simple as well. Conception before marriage is not the usual plan. Nor is accepting paternity for a child not your own. But the most atypical part of this situation was the conception of a virgin and the adoption of a divine Son. Mary and Joseph were stepping way out of the normal scheme of things to embrace this unique family plan—this Holy Family blueprint. Simeon, a man who'd spent his life waiting for God's atypical activity, and Anna, a prophetess used to spotting divine markings whenever she saw them, both blessed and announced the revelation of this child. As far as they were concerned, their life plan was achieved with the arrival of Jesus. But then, they were the sort of folks who didn't mind when God swerved into view without warning, or called in news that changes everything.

Simeon was clear that the great news contained its own share of pain: for Mary and Joseph, for the child's bitter enemies, and also for his devoted friends. As old Abraham might remind us, you have to commit your faith to the bargain. *Impossible's* just not a word God recognizes.

— Alice Camille

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***"It is necessary to go back to seeing the family as the sanctuary of life.***

***The family is indeed sacred: It is the place in which life—the gift of God—can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth."*** — Saint John Paul II in *Centesimus Annus*, 1991

***"Jesus is the only person in recorded history whose parents thought he was a child of God rather than their own creative project and possession."*** — Polly Berrien Berends in *Gently Lead*

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*New Year's Eve / New Year's Day*

## **The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:1-2, 4-5, 6-7; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

## TWO WEEK SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 24, 2017 – JANUARY 7, 2018

*As circumstances suggest, the schedule may be subject to change.*

<b>Sunday, December 24</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
5:00 pm Saturday	<b>MASS for the Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> – <i>Julien Dusessoy+</i> , requested by the family
10:00 am	<b>MASS for the Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
	<b>SOLEMNITY: VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
4:45 pm	<b>Pre-Mass Carols with the Children’s Choir</b>
5:00 pm	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night”</b> – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night”</b> – <i>Francisca and Juan Tualla+</i> , requested by the Tualla family
<b>Monday, December 25</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
10:00 am	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Day”</b> – <i>Wendell Avila+</i> , requested by <i>Lailani Tamang</i> and <i>Mary Catherine Neameyer</i> and their families
<b>Tuesday, December 26</b>	<b>FEAST: SAINT STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b> <i>Parish office closed Tuesday</i>
<b>Wednesday, December 27</b>	<b>FEAST: SAINT JOHN, Apostle and Evangelist</b>
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Office open
10:00 am	Al-Anon Meeting ( <i>in room 12</i> )
1:30 pm	<b>FUNERAL MASS for H��l��ne Emma Chabot+</b>
6:45 pm	<b>Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions</b>
7:00 pm	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Marcelo and Victorina Alberto+</i> , requested by the Tualla family
<b>Thursday, December 28</b>	<b>FEAST: THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs</b> <i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>
5:30 pm	<i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to attend the annual Priests’ Christmas gathering to be held at St. Anthony of Padua (Hungarian) Parish</i>
<b>Friday, December 29</b>	<b>FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b>
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Office open
3:00 pm	<b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> ( <i>in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i> )
3:15 pm	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Deceased members of the Resch family</i> , requested by <i>Sharon and John Camier</i>
<b>Saturday, December 30</b>	<b>SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b>
5:00 pm	<b>MASS for the Feast of the Holy Family</b> – <i>Mary Kercher+</i> , requested by <i>Linus Endacott</i> and family
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>FEAST: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b>
10:00 am	<b>MASS for the Feast of the Holy Family</b> – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
	<b>SOLEMNITY: VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>
5:00 pm	<b>NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS</b> – <i>Sheila Everaert+</i> , requested by <i>Bill and Irene O’Byrne</i>
<b>Monday, January 1</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b> <i>Parish office closed Monday</i>
10:00 am	<b>NEW YEAR’S DAY MASS</b> – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 2</b>	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</b> <i>Parish office closed Tuesday</i>
<b>Wednesday, January 3</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Office open
10:00 am	Al-Anon Meeting ( <i>in room 10</i> )

10:30 am	<b>LITURGY OF THE WORD</b> at Golden West Centennial Lodge, 811 School Road
5:00 pm	Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank ( <i>in room 12</i> )
6:45 pm	<b>Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions</b>
7:00 pm	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Christina Prucyk+, requested by Cecilia Prucyk</i>
7:30 pm	<b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Session</b> ( <i>in the Guadalupe Room</i> )
<b>Thursday, January 4</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>
	<i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>
1:30 pm	<b>FUNERAL MASS</b> for Sheila Johnson+
<b>Friday, January 5</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>
9:15 am	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Katherine Dankewich+, requested by Tim Dankewich</i>
9:45 am	<b>Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</b>
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Office open
3:00 pm	<b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> ( <i>in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i> )
<b>Saturday, January 6</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>
5:00 pm	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Julien Dusessoy+, requested by Paul and Julienne Bosc</i>
6:00 pm	<b>PARISH “CHRISTMAS FIESTA” FUNDRAISING GATHERING</b> in the parish hall
<b>Sunday, January 7</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>
9:00 am	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Alan Turner+ (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary January 6<sup>th</sup>), requested by Nina Turner</i>
10:15 am	<b>CATECHISM CLASSES</b> ( <i>begin in the parish hall</i> )
10:30 am	<b>MEETING WITH PARENTS</b> of children preparing for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist
11:45 am	<b>MASS</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>

*FURTHER EVENTS IN AND AROUND  
THE PARISH, ARCHDIOCESE AND BEYOND*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS FROM THE VATICAN**

Watch coverage of Christmas Mass presided by His Holiness, Pope Francis on Salt + Light TV. Live telecast on Sunday, December 24 begins at 2:30 p.m. CT. For more information on this and other special Christmas programming, check out the website [saltandlighttv.org](http://saltandlighttv.org)



**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MEETING FOR PARENTS:** Please note that a meeting with parents (guardians) of children who soon will be preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be held on **Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. downstairs in Room 12.** This is an important meeting during which the program of proximate preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist will be outlined for parents. For more information, you may speak with our parish pastoral assistant, Sharon Camier, and/or our pastor, Fr. Robert Polz.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is a non-profit, peer support, grief resolution program, helping persons dealing with the natural grief process after being Separated, Divorced, or Widowed. It offers an opportunity for turning pain from loss, into an experience of positive growth. The program runs 10 weekly sessions, three times a year, as well as two retreat weekends that can be taken in the fall or spring. Next weekly session is *Coping with Life Alone*, starts **January 10, 2018** (registration 6:30 p.m., course from 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.) Next weekend retreat is scheduled for March 2-4, 2018. For more information call 204-275-3090 or visit our website [beginningexperience.ca](http://beginningexperience.ca), or email [contact@beginningexperience](mailto:contact@beginningexperience)

**ST. PAUL’S HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING:** St. Paul’s High School is Winnipeg’s only all-male, Catholic, Jesuit high school dedicated to educating Men for Others. St. Paul’s strives for academic excellence and the growth of the whole person in preparing young men for post-secondary education and leadership in the community. Our education is enhanced by strong extra-curricular programs combined with exceptional personal development and faith formation. A St. Paul’s education forms students into lifelong learners who are open to growth, intellectually competent, loving, religious and committed to doing justice. Please visit [stpauls.mb.ca/admissions](http://stpauls.mb.ca/admissions) or call 204-831-2327 for more information and join us at our Information Evening on **Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**, 2200 Grant Avenue, Winnipeg. St. Paul’s High School provides financial aid in the form of partial and full bursaries to qualified families.



**ST. MALO WINTER CAMPS FOR AGES 9 TO 17:** Winter camps in St. Malo for youth who desire to grow in their Catholic faith. Weekend camps in English for 8 to 12 year olds (January 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018), 12 to 15 year olds (February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018), and our annual bilingual winter REVIVE RETREAT for 15 to 17 year olds (February 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018). French-language camp dates are available on our website. Register online at [www.stmalocamps.net](http://www.stmalocamps.net) For more information email: [camps@catholicway.net](mailto:camps@catholicway.net), 204-347-5396.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:** Serena teaches a comprehensive two-hour class on the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning. The next class date is **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classes are held at the Misericordia Health Centre, 99 Cornish Avenue, Winnipeg. For more information, call or text Serena at 204-783-0091 or email [mbserena@gmail.com](mailto:mbserena@gmail.com) or check out our website [www.serenamb.com](http://www.serenamb.com)

**ST. CHARLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL KINDER FAIR:** St. Charles Catholic School invites you to its Kinder Fair on **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** The Kinder Fair will include hands-on activities for your child. We are a K-8 school, offering full day, every day Kindergarten, before and after school care programs with no waiting list, violin enrichment, K-8 French, arts and drama, as well as a hockey skills development program. For more information, please visit our website at [www.stccs.ca](http://www.stccs.ca) Please call 204-837-1520 or email [sec@stccs.ca](mailto:sec@stccs.ca) to R.S.V.P.

*For other events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, please see information posted on bulletin boards at the north and south entrances of the church, and/or go to the website: [www.archwinnipeg.ca/weekly\\_bulletin.php](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca/weekly_bulletin.php)*

Collections – deposited December 3-20, 2017	
<b>PAD (Pre-authorized debit)</b>	<b>\$ 7,710.00</b>
<b>Regular Envelopes</b>	<b>8,000.20</b>
<b>Other Identified</b>	<b>3,508.00</b>
<b>Loose Collection</b>	<b>1,249.30</b>
<b>OMPH Devotions</b>	<b>54.00</b>
<b>Flowers and Decorations</b>	<b>1,509.25</b>
<b>In Memoriam</b>	<b>2,550.00</b>
<b>Other Receiptable Donations</b>	<b>1,087.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 25,667.75</b>



Thank you so much for your ongoing support. All in all, current collection receipts show a slight improvement over last year at this time. Nevertheless, please be aware that we continue to struggle to meet our financial obligations. As previously explained, when the Anglican Parish of St. Chad’s left our partnership in 2013, we lost annual revenue of about \$60,000 towards the operating costs of our facility. Although, over the last couple of years, we have cut back on office hours and part-time custodial hours, our current payroll expenses still require about \$16,000 per month. And, of course, all our regular utility and other maintenance bills continue to come in each month and these costs gradually increase due to inflation and other factors especially as our building ages. Our insurance bill in the amount of \$13,010.00 is currently due to the Archdiocese.

Our response to Sharing God’s Gifts was excellent this year. In October Saint John XXIII Parish received a cheque in the amount of \$4,325.01 from the Archdiocese representing funds raised in excess of our parish’s Sharing God’s Gifts 2017 Appeal Target of \$30,370 as of September 30, 2017. Thank you for your participation in the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. However, the total amount of our annual Assessment (“Cathedraticum”) for 2017 to the Archdiocese is \$47,690.00. To date we have paid \$11,922.50, therefore we still owe \$35,767.50 to the Archdiocese.

**Parishioners are all encouraged to consider making a generous Christmas Gift to Saint John XXIII Parish to help us meet our current obligations, if possible, by the end of 2017.** Thank you for your prayerful consideration of our situation and thank you in advance for your helpful response.

Parishioners are encouraged to register for pre-authorized debit. Visitors may use “My Offering” envelopes available at the church entrance. New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register for pre-authorized debit or regular offering envelopes. **OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2018 ARE READY for regular parishioners of Saint John XXIII to pick-up in the parish office following Masses on the weekend or on weekdays.**