

PRAY PLEASE FOR:

Paul Kosynski & Jeanne DeBruyn

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

WEEK AT A GLANCE (Dec 10 - 16)

Mon	4:00 pm	SSVP Executive Meeting
	4:45 pm	SSVP Membership Meeting
	6:30 pm	Folk Choir Practice
	8:00 pm	AA
Tues	9:30 am	Class Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation
	1:30 pm	Celebrate the Word
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Turkey Bingo @ Tillsonburg Legion
Wed	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:30 am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion
	1:00 pm	Calendar/ Pastoral Team Meeting
	5:00 pm	Friendship Christmas Dinner
	7:00 pm	CWL Christmas Gathering
Thurs	9:30 am	Class Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation
	11:30 am	Jollymakers (Bingo & Cards)
	7:45 pm	RCIA
Fri	9:30 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	10:30 am	Reach Out Ministry Meeting
	7:00 pm	Chill Zone
Sat	9:30 am	First Confessions
Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School

Knights of Columbus Can Collection

In the event of a funeral Mass on Wednesday or Friday, Mass will be cancelled and the Mass Intentions will be offered at the funeral.

Altar Server (Dec 11 & 13) Alex Pasztor

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL TURKEY BINGO

Everyone is invited to the Nights of Columbus Annual Turkey Bingo, and Games of Chance, it all takes place this Tuesday December 11th at the Legion Hall and starts at 7:00pm.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 1/2

Regular Envelope	\$ 6024.00
Loose	\$ 251.60
Capital/Building Fund	\$ 1732.00
Total	\$ 8007.60



MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Dec 10-16)

Tues	7:00 pm	Brian Stephenson Hank Schroder Hector Verhoeve
Wed	10:00 am	Father Mike Langan Daniel McGarity Denis Turcotte
Thurs	3:30 pm	Mass - Maple Manor Odette Kurckaert
	7:00 pm	Adrian & Nellie Rockx Brent Mc Kay Craig & Jen Lamoure
Fri	10:00 am	Tullio Cecchetto Ralph Patterson
Sat	9:00 am	Mark, Andrew & David Young Jim Henderson & Family Laura Allewaert
	5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sun	9 & 11 am	Parishioners of St. Mary's



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (Dec 15/16)

Saturday (5 pm)	
Commentator:	Moma Fardella
1st, 2nd Lector:	Kathy Myny, Linda Bertling
Gift Bearer:	Merna Vermeeren
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:	Veronica Holly, Randy Keba, Dave Bertling, Jeannette Keba
Greeters:	Merna Vermeeren
Rosary:	Deacon Andre De Decker
Sunday (9 am)	
Commentator:	Mariola Plesi
1st, 2nd Lector:	Brian O'Rourke, Andrew Stancek
Gift Bearers:	Pat & Diane Collins
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:	Mary Virag, Sarah Leonard, Carol Van Moerkerke, Eric Van Moerkerke
Greeter:	Barbara Libon
Rosary:	Anne Stancek
Sunday (11 am)	
Commentator:	Heather Pelland
1st, 2nd Lector:	Kim Smith, Elizabeth Czomba
Gift Bearers:	Michael & Kathy Holly
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:	Darlene Papaioannou, Norma Roczen
Greeters:	Norbert Vanhooren, Helen Borbely Diane Monsere



Let your roots go down into Christ, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:7

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 2018

From Colleen...

For some of us, twitter is what the birds do outside our windows, usually when we want to sleep in during the morning. For others, Twitter is this app on our smart phone that allows us to make and receive posts on a social media website. I am a product of both strands of thought – the chatter of the birds telling me to get up and start my day but also a receiver of Twitter posts on my phone. One post I enjoy with my morning coffee (after the birds tell me to get up) is from none other than Pope Francis' feed, it often helps shape my approach to the day.

One of the first Pope Francis 'tweets' about Advent was "Advent is the time to welcome the Lord who comes to meet us, the time to look ahead, and to prepare ourselves for Christ's return". Fr. John's homily last weekend spoke to this idea of Christ who came, who comes and will come again to meet us. The next 'tweet' I received from Pope Francis' feed was "Advent is a time for renewing the faith, for purifying it, so that it can be more authentic." So how do we renew and purify our faith so we can be more authentic? I wondered what Pope Francis meant by being more authentic – more real or original – and it brought me to the realization that I am a child of God, we are all children of God, made in his image and likeness. So how can we be more authentic in our faith? The first reading from Baruch tells us to have hope, just as the Jewish people had hope that their exile would end and Jerusalem would be returned to its former glory, and in the second reading St. Paul knows that God will save God's people. St. Paul is full of hope and confidence!

So let us renew our hope in our God, who came as a baby, will come at the end of time for our salvation and comes to us each day in sacred Scripture, in grace-filled Sacraments, in our daily prayer and in the people and events that we encounter each day. Will that lead us to being more authentic? I hope so. I do know this: it has to start with having an awareness of where we came from, where we are going to end up and how we instill peace into our hearts, our families, our parish community, and in our world. Both the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist tell us to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' this week so let's resolve to do that by having hope and making peace real and present in our works, our attitudes and our thoughts.

This morning I received another 'tweet' from Pope Francis' feed ... its like he knew my next question to ponder would be how do we make peace? This is what he sent - "This Advent, make yourself small, make yourself humble, make yourself a servant of others, and the Lord will give you the ability to understand how to make peace." So let's gets busy my friends – be humble and be a servant of others ... Prepare the way of the Lord!

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

51 Venison St. W.
Tillsonburg, Ontario
N4G 1V1

phone: (519) 842-3224
fax: (519) 660-7290
email: stmarytils@dol.ca
website: stmarys.dionet.ca
facebook: St Mary's Parish, Tillsonburg

Parish Clergy and Staff

Rev. John Pirt, Pastor
Andre De Decker, Deacon
Jack Grim, Deacon
Brian Hanley, Deacon
Colleen Hanley, Pastoral Minister
Teena Mendonca, Business Manager
Melissa Sioen, Secretary

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri
(9 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 4 pm)

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Daily Mass

Tuesday, Thursday: 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am
Saturday: 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday: 9:30 am -10:30 am or by appointment

Children's "Sunday School"

Oct to May, @ 9 am Mass

Catholic Schools

St. Joseph School: (519) 660-2783
Msgr. O'Neil School: (519) 660-2772
St. Mary's High School: (519) 675-4435

Baptism Preparation

Contact Father John, ext. 22

Weddings

By appointment, and 6 months notice

ATTENTION: Bulletin submissions must be received by 4 pm Tuesdays, thank-you for your cooperation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is a program for children who are age 3 (or toilet trained) until they enter grade 2 to help them learn the rituals of mass and hear the Gospel story in child friendly language, through craft and song. Father John, at the beginning of Mass, calls the children forward and they process to the Parish Centre with their leader and return to you during the offertory song. This year Sunday School will be available at the Sunday 9 AM Mass. For more information please contact Colleen Hanley (chanley@dol.ca) or call the office.

ST. JOSEPH'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

On Tuesday December 11th and Thursday December 13th, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Turek's grade four classes will be coming to the Church in the morning to experience Eucharistic Adoration and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A beautiful way for our young people to meet the Lord and receive mercy. Please pray for Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Turek's classes this week and for their families.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Preparation meetings for Confirmation are the 1st Wednesday (6:30 – 8:30 pm) or 1st Saturday (10 am – noon) of each month. Our next preparation meetings are Wednesday January 2nd (6:30-8:30 pm) or Saturday January 5th (10am-noon) in the Father Langan Parish Centre. Our candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrating the Rite of Enrolment at all the weekend Masses of January 5th & 6th. Please continue to pray for the candidates, their families and their sponsors.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Our Grade 2 students will continue celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation the four Saturdays of Advent following the 9:00 am daily mass. To accommodate the young parishioners, Fr. John will hear confessions for seasoned parishioners following the children's first confessions during the Advent season.

FAMILY CATECHISM

We are a group that offers family faith formation in a welcoming setting - teaching your children the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith with other like minded parents is fun and effective! We offer classes for JK - Gr. 9, as well as an adult video and discussion. Our next meeting is on Sunday, January 6 at 2:55 pm in the Father Langan Parish Centre. For more information please visit www.famfi.ca or talk to John & Karin Lansink.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Our monthly High School Nights are back! They are the second Sunday of the month from 7-9 pm and our next night is this Sunday December 9th. These nights are open to all high school students and will include games, faith formation, prayer and of course food! Why come? Be a part of a community of your peers who share values and views that will help you navigate the prevalent culture that is at school and in the media. We will be hosting High School Nights at the Parish Centre in Room 9. Please share this with all the high school aged youth in your life and we hope to see you this Sunday!

CHILL ZONE

Chill Zone is a drop in Centre for youth in grade five and up. Youth can socialize and experience a safe community to play video and card games, participate in sports in the gym, enjoy the creativity of the craft room and find nourishment in the tuck shop! Our next Chill Zone is Friday December 14th from 7-9 pm. We are looking for adult volunteers to help lead games or sports in the gym and to help supervise throughout the year. If you are interested please contact Colleen Hanley (519-842-3224 ext. 23 or chanley@dol.ca).

THE LEGACY OF ST. PATRICK - PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

As you enjoy a 10 day tour to the Emerald Isle, you will experience the history, culture and faith of Ireland that came through the missionary efforts of St. Patrick in the 5th century. This pilgrimage includes visits to many historical churches as well as a visit to Knock, where in 1879, Mary appeared to 15 townspeople. In addition to your Irish Guide, as part of this pilgrimage, Fr. David Johnston and Fr. John Pirt will be offering daily Mass. Cost is \$2639 per person (Based on twin) - airfare extra. For further information, contact Cheryl Johnston, 855 St. Clair St., Chatham, ON N7L 0E9 Phone: 519-354-6040 or 1 877 735 5633 ext 6225 Email: cjohnston@selloffvacations.com

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE- MAY 5-14, 2019

Join us on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain & Lourdes with 206 Tours and Fr. Tom Ferrera! Anyone interested in this great opportunity can visit and register online at <http://pilgrimages.com/frferrera/>. For more information please call Carol Van Moerkerke at 519-877-2355 or Karin Lansink at 519-550-0304.

ST. MARY'S LIBRARY TABLE

The St. Mary's parish library table normally located at the back of the church will not be available until the New Year. If you have books to return, please give them to Allen Scovil or drop them off at the church office to Allen's attention.

AN EVENING WITH DR. EDWARD SRI

All are welcome to join Visitation Parish in Comber for an evening with Dr. Edward Sri on Friday January 18th at 7 pm. Many may be familiar with Dr. Sri from his videos on Symbolon and other offerings from Augustine Institute. Tickets are \$10 and available at dol.ca/dred-sri.

DAILY MISSALS

The Daily Missals are to be used in the church only (not taken home). If you would like to purchase a subscription, please contact the office (519) 842-3224.

REACH OUT MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

There is an important meeting for all volunteers who take communion to shut-ins and to the nursing/retirement homes, those who visit parishioners in their homes and nursing/retirement homes as well as any ministry (Rosary, Music, Mass Set-up) in the nursing/retirement homes this Friday December 14th at 10:30 am in the Parish Hall following the daily Mass. If you are a Reach Out volunteer and currently not assigned anywhere we ask you to please come to this meeting.

CWL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please come to our CWL Christmas dessert social on December 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the FLPC, Rm # 7. We will have a cookie Exchange. Please bring 2 dozen cookies or squares. Dress Christmas attire. Everyone is welcome !

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018

I came across a quotation this week that reminded me of the SSVP ministry of service: "I am created in the image of God. I am a God carrier. It's fantastic. I have to be growing in godlikeness, in caring for the other. I know that each time I have acted compassionately, I have experienced a joy in me that I find in nothing else." — Archbishop Desmond Tutu
The greatest gift given to the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the call to care, to have compassion, to provide support, whether material, emotional or spiritual. We respond to this call every week during our Wednesday Friendship Dinner. There we welcome: we listen to suffering, offer a hug, carry a tray, get a beverage, bring a chair, provide a coat, smile, laugh, collect dishes, and speak about God's presence and love. Also, we have begun a prayer ministry, giving our guests an opportunity to place in the prayer box intentions for which we pray throughout the month. In surrendering our needs to the needs of others, we experience the joy of friendship and community, the joy of meeting the beautiful face of God in our full, bustling dining room. At our November Friendship dinners we served 80 on November 7; 82 on November 14; 80 on November 21; and 80 on November 28. In addition, through the emergency phone line, we assisted ten single adults and twelve families with food; one single adult with rent; one family with hydro; one family with car fuel; one single adult with new boots and two single adults with medication. As always, we thank you, the parishioners of St. Mary's, for your generous support of our service. On behalf of the members of SSVP, I wish you a most blessed and holy Christmas. Anne Stancek

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES BOX SETS ARE READY FOR PICK UP

The offertory envelope box sets are available in the FLPC Rm # 5 for pick up before and after all masses on the weekend. Please contact Teena Mendonca (519-842-3224 Ext. 24) if you need assistance or have any questions.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There are special envelopes at all entrances for donations for Christmas flowers in memory of your loved ones. Their names will be in the Christmas bulletin. Thank you for your donations

ST MARY'S GIVING TREE

Now is the time to start thinking of your possible gift for the giving tree. The Giving Tree is a wonderful way to help provide for those in our community seeking assistance with food and gifts for their family this Christmas. During the first three Sundays of Advent (Dec 1-2, Dec 8-9 & Dec 15-16) you can place your gift at our Giving Tree located at the back of the Church by the large crucifix before all the Masses. Our gifts are for children up to 17 years in age. The gifts may be toys, clothing, books, toiletries, etc. Please NO war toys or used items. Please do not wrap the gifts. Gift Certificates (food or non food) are great ideas! If you would like to donate a monetary amount in lieu of a gift, put your name and address on an envelope. The cheque can be made payable to either St. Mary's Church or Tillsonburg Knights of Columbus. A tax receipt will be issued. For more information please contact Deacon Andre.



Christmas Schedule...

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm - Children's Choir
7:30 pm - Folk Choir
Midnight Mass - Sunday Choir
(Incense only at the Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Dec 31 - 5:00 pm
Jan 1 - 10:00 am