

4th Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2019

Saturday, Dec. 21	5:00 pm	St. Carthagh's	Evelyn LaVallée
Sunday, Dec. 22 (4 th Sunday of Advent – Year A)	9:00 am 11:00 am	St. Edmund's St. Carthagh's	Paul Larkin Members of the Parish
Monday, Dec. 23	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	No Intention
Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve Mass)	5:00 pm 7:30 pm	St. Carthagh's St. Edmund's	Lawrence & Greta Akey, Bernie Akey & Stan Goulah Joan Cassidy
Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day Mass)	10:00 am	St. Carthagh's	Jacob & Margaret Kvas
Thursday, Dec. 26	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	Josie Romano
Friday, Dec. 27	9:00 am	St. Carthagh's	No Intention
Saturday, Dec. 28	5:00 pm	St. Carthagh's	No Intention
Sunday, Dec. 29 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)	9:00 am 11:00 am	St. Edmund's St. Carthagh's	Jacob & Margaret Kvas Members of the Parish

Please Remember in Your Prayers: All those who are sick, including: F. Boomhour, Paul Hulsman, Neive Alderson, Norene Ruffilli, Amanda Lake, Ginger Kehoe, Margaret Dupuis-Ives, Leonard Kehoe, Terry Horrigan, Elinor McKenzie, Catherine Liggon, Debbie LaCroix, Presley Noble, Rob Montgomery, Germaine Wannamaker, Margaret-Rose Wood, Jack Tweedy, Janice Tracey, Michelle Fobert, Mary Stafford Cassidy, Ben Paul, Sharon Butler, Irene Newman, Pat Kirkey, and Deacon Peter Kelly.

Please let us know at the office if you would like to add to or remove a name from the list of the sick.

Offertory Collections:

St. Carthagh's	December 14 & 15	Regular Sunday	\$1,157
St. Edmund's	December 15	Regular Sunday	\$925

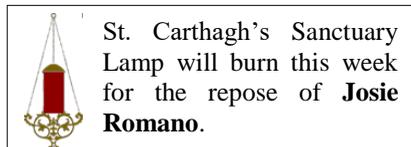
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING TO OUR CHURCHES

	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</u>
St. Carthagh's	W = WELCOME		
Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve 5:00 pm)	W – Dan Dafoe Olivia Dafoe	Sheila Scott, Carol Badluk, Dan Dafoe, Carol Genereaux	
Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day 10:00 am)	W – Don Kirkey Shirley Kehoe	Don Kirkey, Greg Donohue	
Saturday, Dec. 28	W – Tara Harrison Natalie Harrison	Maria Cockburn, Greg Donohue, Carol Genereaux	
Sunday, Dec. 29	W – Shirley Kehoe Don Kirkey	Bob & Sharon Eros, Lori Robinson, Carol Badluk	Nicole Boyce
St. Edmund's	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	
Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve 7:30 pm)	Marian Nash Tim McParland	Bill Marlin Gerard Whalen	
Sunday, Dec. 29	Beth Power Tim McParland	Vince Cassidy Jerry Cassidy	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Bible Study will resume after the Christmas Season.

The next K of C meeting is **Tues., Jan. 7**, with Mass at 6:30 pm at St. Charles Borromeo in Read, followed by the meeting at the home of Ron Durkin - 1149 Read Rd.



There is this little story of a KG teacher who told her class the Christmas story of the shepherds and the three wise men. At the end she asked them, “Now tell me, who was the first to know about the birth of Jesus?” A little girl shoots up her hand and answers, “Mary.” Of course, it is Mary! But adults miss that because we tend to expect complicated answers and we have this tendency to associate God with the phenomenal and the spectacular, such as the host of angels or the guiding star, so much so that we fail to notice God's presence and action in the ordinary and normal things of life, such as in pregnancy and childbirth. This child's answer reminds us to take a second look at the “ordinary things of life” that we take so much for granted and see God's hand in them.

The gospel this weekend begins with a seemingly casual statement: “**The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way...**” (Mt. 1:18). But for the average Jew of Jesus' time this statement would be a shock. Why? Because the popular Jewish belief in those days did not expect the Messiah to **be born of a woman** as a normal, suckling baby. Though the scribes and scholars were aware of the prophecy that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, he was expected to drop suddenly from the skies, full-grown in all his divine regalia and power. His landing space was the Temple Mount. The Jews found it hard to reconcile these expectations with the reality of this man Jesus whom they knew to be born and raised in their midst. “**We know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from**” (Jn. 7:27). They found the ordinary ways of God's coming, God's presence and God's action among his people *too simple* to be true. Like the Jews of old, the problem is not that God is not with us, the problem rather is that we do not recognize the ways of God's presence and action among us. We are often like Jacob in Bethel who awoke from his sleep and exclaimed, “**So the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!**” (Gen. 28:16).

The coming of the long awaited Messiah, the light of the world, the king of the Jews and the desire of the nations, not through clouds and lightning but through the nine-months pregnancy of a country girl, and through the normal human process of infancy, adolescence and adulthood, reminds us that God comes in ordinary, normal, daily circumstances of life. God comes to us in the people we see around us being born, growing up, aging and dying. It is often hardest to see God in the people with whom we are familiar. But if we see *the incarnation of the Son of God as a bridge between heaven and earth*, between the divine and the human, between the order of grace and the order of nature, between the sacred and the profane, maybe we will begin to discern the presence and action of God more and more in our daily lives.

An African proverb says, “Listen, and you will hear the footsteps of the ants!” This week, we are challenged to listen and hear the footsteps of God who comes into our lives in ordinary ways, through ordinary people and at ordinary moments of our lives. No need to look up to the mountain top or the depths of the ocean, for “**in him we live and move and have our being**” (Acts 17:28). And indeed, he is “Emmanuel,” God with us, even in the daily circumstances of life. Let us learn to see God in daily life. A Blessed Christmas to our cherished parishioners!

This weekend, Mr. David DeSantis, the Director of Education for Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board will address us following the 9:00 am Mass at Stoco and the 11:00 am Mass at Tweed. Welcome, Mr. DeSantis!

St. Carthagh's Parish annual 'BRUNCH' is planned for **Jan. 19, 2020**. A brief meeting will be held following the 11:00 am Mass on **Dec. 29**. Any interested parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

St. Carthagh's & St. Edmund's Collection Envelopes for 2020 are available at the back of our churches. Please pick up your box. If you did not get a box of envelopes and would like one, please contact the church office.

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

<i>Dec. 24</i>	St. Carthagh's	5:00 pm
<i>Dec. 24</i>	<i>St. Edmund's</i>	7:30 pm
<i>Dec. 25</i>	St. Carthagh's	10:00 am
<i>Dec. 31</i>	<i>St. Edmund's</i>	5:00 pm
<i>Jan. 1</i>	St. Carthagh's	10:00 am

