

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - December 13, 2015

Our e-mail address is: [saintbasil@rogers.com](mailto:saintbasil@rogers.com)

NEW WEBPAGE: [stbasilparish.ca](http://stbasilparish.ca)

### Mass Intentions this week

**Please note: Weekday Masses are celebrated in the Rectory Chapel unless otherwise indicated.**

*Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> to Dec 20<sup>th</sup>*

Thursday 1:30 pm †Souls in purgatory, Intentions  
(at John Noble) of Ann Chamberlain

Friday 9:15 am (at Assumption College)

Saturday 5:00 pm †Arthur Myers, Mary T. Goncz,  
Maria Quatrini, John & Carmina Risi, Brother Bob  
Mittleholtz, Bill Paling and Living family members



### Sanctuary Lamp this week

Intentions of Arthur Myers and repose of his soul. Requests accepted by placing an envelope with the name of loved one and a donation of \$10 in the collection basket.

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, December 14	Rev. Henryk Krajewski, C.R.
Tuesday, December 15	Rev. Laszlo Amaszka, O.F.M. Conv.
Wednesday, December 16	Benedictines
Thursday, December 17	Rev. Niaz Toma
Friday, December 18	Rev. Gary Schlack
Saturday, December 19	Rev. Piotr Jurzyk

**OFFERTORY** for last week was \$5960.00 and our Budget expenses for the week \$5,580.00.

**C.W.L. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** You can renew your Membership by placing an envelope and writing your name, address and telephone number on it along with a cheque or cash in the amount of \$21.00 and putting in the collection basket. Thank you.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of flowers in the Church at Christmas, please place your donation in an envelope and mark "Christmas flowers" with your name or envelope number on it. Many thanks!

### RECONCILIATION:

Advent is a season to prepare the way of the Lord. What better way than to celebrate God's mercy? The Sacrament will be celebrated

on Tuesday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at St. Pius X

on Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> here at St. Basil at 7pm

Several Confessors available.

### MEDITATION

How amazing it is to think that in today's second reading, Paul was actually writing from prison. While we may not know his exact circumstances, we can imagine that imprisonment in the first century undoubtedly meant horrible living conditions, likely in darkness, with very little to eat. In spite of this, however, Paul exudes a profound sense of joy and peace and gratitude in his Letter to the Philippians. How is that even possible?

It is possible because Paul knew to the very core of his being that God was with him, as real as the chains that bound him. Knowing that God was present sustained Paul and filled him with joy, even in the very midst of suffering.

God is just as real and as present in our world today as he was for Paul. In today's gospel, however, John the Baptist challenges us to make that presence known and felt in very concrete ways. Share everything you have, he tells us. Be fair and honest in everything you do. Be satisfied with what you have, not always grasping for more.

In less than two weeks, we celebrate the coming of Emmanuel. In a world much in need of joy and peace, our lives must be the witness that God is with us, here and now. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

Teresa Whalen Lux, Regina, SK

**Priestly Ordination** It is with great joy that we announce that Deacon Scott Whitfield will be ordained a priest by Bishop Douglas Crosby on **December 19, 2015**, at 10 am. The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Waterdown, where Deacon Whitfield has been ministering for the last six months. All are invited to join us for this joyful occasion as we welcome our newest Diocesan priest. ([www.HamiltonVocations.com](http://www.HamiltonVocations.com))

**ENVELOPES FOR 2016 ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE Church.** If your name or address is incorrect, please notify the office. Also, if you don't have envelopes and wish to begin using them, please contact the office and a box will be assigned to you. These envelopes should **NOT** be used before January 1, 2016. Please consider switching to "Pre-Authorized Debit" – less paper work; less work for our counters; more security for our parish! Forms can be found on the "Welcome Desk" – back of church.

## **Christmas Midnight Mass – CHCH**

His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby will celebrate Midnight Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Mass is preceded by Carols from the Cathedral beginning at **11:30 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>**. The Carols, and the Midnight Mass, will be televised on CHCH-TV and re-broadcast at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. Our thanks to CHCH-TV and the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton for this presentation of Christmas Midnight Mass.

## **HOLY DOOR**

The Jubilee of Mercy commenced with the opening of the Holy Door in Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016, with the Solemnity of Christ the King.

There are seven Holy Doors in the world. Four are in Rome, in each of the papal basilicas; one is in France at the Shrine of Saint John Vianney, the Curé of Ars; and one is at the Shrine of Saint James in Compostela, Spain. **The Holy Door in Quebec City was a gift of the Holy See and is the only one outside Europe.** All seven Holy Doors will be open throughout the Jubilee of Mercy. (Source: CCCB)

## **Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (December 9<sup>th</sup>)**

On this date in 1531, the Blessed Virgin appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac, near Mexico City. She told him that a church should be built at the site of her appearance. On another visit, Our Lady sent Juan Diego to gather flowers and present them to the bishop. When he did so, the flowers he had collected in his cloak fell away, revealing an image of the Blessed Virgin that miraculously appeared on his garment. This relic is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002.

## **BirthRight**

For over 40 years, Birthright has been providing a gentle, loving alternative to abortion for mothers distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. Thanks to all of you who make it possible for Birthright to help mothers bring their babies to birth and put their lives back together again. Your help is needed to volunteer or to offer a financial donation toward this ongoing mission of Love. For more information or to make a donation contact Ethel Fintas 519-449-5252. Birthright is a Registered Charity and can issue income tax receipts.

## **CHALICE CATHOLIC SPONSORSHIP . . .**

Chalice is the largest Catholic sponsorship organization in Canada. It has been given a top rating for International Aid & Development Charities in Canada

by Money Sense magazine, five years in a row. Chalice supports programs in 15 countries throughout the world, providing direct aid to nearly 50,000 children and aged. Gifts from the Chalice catalogue makes a significant impact in the lives of countless individuals and families. Gifts provide support in areas such as education, nutrition, health, and child sponsorship. You will also receive an official tax receipt for your purchase. Catalogues are available at the back of the Church.

**Our Advent Angel Tree** is set up at the back of the Church again this year. Please take an angel from the tree and attach it to a donation of food or a new unwrapped toy. Items will be collected weekly and distributed to local agencies to support those in our own community. Tax deductible cash donations can be made by placing an envelope in the collection basket with "Advent Angel Tree", your name, and regular envelope number indicated. Thank you once again for your prayers and generosity.

## **Mercy: A Study in Scripture**

### **A Senior Adult Workshop Series**

**7 Wednesday afternoons, starting Jan. 6, 2016 1:30-3:30pm**

### **Notre Dame Convent in Waterdown**

By exploring the theme of Mercy in the Old Testament we hope to understand better why Pope Francis is calling us to the virtue of Mercy in our lives today. This course will be facilitated by Sister Mary Heather MacKinnon SSND & David Dayler.

The cost will be \$75 includes the textbook & other resources.

Please register by Dec.18.

For further information please contact Monica at [mverin@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mverin@hamiltondiocese.com) or 905-528 7988 ext. 2238 or check the website, [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com).

## **INCOME TAX RECEIPTS**

Receipts will be issued for offerings in 2015. If you wish a receipt, please put a self-addressed envelope with, if possible, your envelope number and put into the collection basket. This will facilitate getting your receipt to you. When you start using your 2016 envelopes, please put your name & address on the first couple of envelopes. Thank you.

## **From the Catechism of the Catholic church**

Parents must regard their children as children of God and respect them as human persons. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law.

**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE** - As I grow older, there are three things I can't remember, faces, names and . . . I can't remember what the third thing is.