

ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH

Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

71 Estelle Street,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6C 2C3

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Telephone: 705-949-8883



Pastoral Team:

Pastor: Fr. Trevor Scarfone
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Rob Thibodeau
cell: 705-975-2893/
E-mail: robthibodeau@hotmail.ca
Secretary: Cathy Fabiano

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

Sunday, December 22nd, 2019

Celebration of Masses, Devotions and Sacraments

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday – Friday: 12:05 p.m.

Baptism

Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office. A preparation course is required.

Reconciliation (Confession)

Every Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45 pm
or by appointment.

Marriage

Contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the wedding. A preparation course is required.

Visitation of the Sick

If any member of your family is sick at home or in the hospital, please call and let us know.

Welcome to St. Gregory's

We warmly welcome **NEW PARISHIONERS** to our parish. You are asked to register by completing a registration form, located in the entrance or by calling the Parish Office.

During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the Apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.

Prayer for Advent: Good and Gracious God, Israel prayed for a savior, and you gave them more than anyone imagined. We want happiness, and you give us joy. We want certainty, and you give us hope. We want power, and you give us a baby in a manger. Help us to look for your coming as we prepare our celebrations. Show us your presence in those we love and in those we need to learn to love. Open our hearts in welcome to you, our Lord and Redeemer, in whatever way you choose to come.
Amen



E-mail: gregoryssm@shaw.ca / Website: www.stgregoryssm.com
[www.facebook.com/St. Gregory's Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.Gregory'sChurch)

St. Gregory's Parish News

Intentions & Readings for week of December 23 - January 5, 2020

Monday, December 23—NO SCHEDULED LITURGY

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

Antonio Nicoletta—Family—**4:00 p.m.**

Mercedes Morassut—Mary Stocco—**8:00 p.m.**

Natalina Ferlaino—Lina & family—**Midnight**

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas—10:00 a.m.

Isaiah 62.11-12/Luke 2.15-20

Annina Gallo—Jim Gallo & family

Girolamo, Rosa & Anna Gallo—Children & family

December 26 & 27—NO SCHEDULED LITURGY

Saturday, December 28—5:00 p.m.

Maria Gallo—Anita Hewgill

Rocco Turco—Wife Pina & family; Deceased Spadafora

Family members —Giovanni & Maria Spadafora

Sunday, December 29—9:00 a.m.

Sirach 3.2-6/Colossians 3.12-21/Matthew 2.13-15

Nunzio Martone—Frank Vommaro

Maria Sicoly—Kids & grand kids

Derek Vye—Evelyn & Del Vye & family

Sunday, December 29—11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 30—NO SCHEDULED LITURGY

Tuesday, December 31—5:00 p.m.

Intentions of Father Trevor

Wednesday, January 1—10:00 a.m.

Intentions of Father Trevor

January 2 & 3—NO SCHEDULED LITURGY

Saturday, January 4—5:00 p.m.

Bridget & Jim Greco—Janice & family

Domenico Disano—Wife Fragola & family

Melissa Gallo—Frank & Unice Cuglietta

Sunday, January 5—9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 5—11:00 a.m.—Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6/Ephesians 3.2-3/Matthew 2.1-12

Luigina & Vincent Bernardo—Daughter Mary

Evia Desaulnier—Pina Rosset; D'Orazio & Deieso Deceased family members—Dominic & Yolanda & family

Finance Report

Sunday December 8, 2019	\$3,217.90
Building Fund	\$25.00
Weekly Average Pre Authorized	\$385.00
TOTAL	\$3,627.90



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

*“We, the people of St. Gregory’s Community,
rooted in Gospel values
and gifted by the Spirit,
are committed to proclaim
and build the Kingdom of God”*

Parish Activities for the Week

December 23—December 29

Monday 23	NO SCHEDULED EVENTS
Tuesday 24	NO SCHEDULED EVENTS
Wednesday 25	NO SCHEDULED EVENTS
Thursday 26	NO SCHEDULED EVENTS
Friday 27	8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Meeting (Parish Hall)
Saturday 28	4:15 pm-4:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confessions (also by appointment)
Sunday 29	11:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Liturgy

Parish Happenings



THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A big thank you to the many volunteers who helped with Christmas Cheer and with the making and delivery of the fruit baskets on December 18. Your help was greatly appreciated! It was a great success!!

CWL General Meeting

Our CWL general meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020**. Service pins will be awarded in the **Church at 7:30 pm**. Meeting to follow in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you there!

2020 MEMBERSHIP FEES (\$22.00) are now due and must be paid by December 31, 2019. Please include your payment (cheque payable to St. Gregory's CWL) or cash in an envelope with your name, address & phone number. Payment can be put in the collection basket. New members are welcome!!!

Christmas Eve Youth Mass at 4 pm

Once again, we are having a youth mass on Christmas Eve! I am looking for children, teenagers, college students, etc. to participate in the youth mass. We need readers, welcomers, ushers, singers, and actors for the pageant. There will only be **2 practices** for the Christmas Pageant, **Sunday December 15 and Sunday December 22 after mass**. Please call to secure a spot and ensure we have enough participants.
Anastasia Pasiak Bellini at 705-256-0849

We are looking for volunteers to come out and decorate the church on Sunday afternoon. We appreciate and welcome all to join us!!

Parish Office Holiday Hours

Parish office will be closed **December 25** through to **January 2, 2020**
Have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!



*We offer our condolences to the families of
Margaret Florence Bertolo
Salvatore Rota*

*May you find comfort and peace in the
Eucharistic Celebration and in our faith
community during this difficult time.
May their souls rest in peace.*

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December, 2019....

We pray so that every country decides to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Holiday Mass Schedule

**December 24, 2019—
4:00 pm; 8:00 pm
12:00 am (Midnight)**

December 25, 2019—10:00 am

*December 28, 2019—5:00 pm
December 29, 2019—9:00 am
11:00 am*

December 31, 2019—5:00 pm

January 1, 2020—10:00 am

*January 4, 2020—5:00 pm
January 5, 2020—9:00 am
11:00 am*

Goings On Around Town & Beyond



JOY-Full Socks... and so much more.

My dear JOY-Full Socks supporters, each year when the JOY-Full Socks campaign begins, I feel a little nervous about whether there will be enough for those who need help. Truthfully, I shouldn't worry. For the good Lord sends me **you** every year. Generous, kind individuals who take time out of their own lives, to think of those in need. I am grateful to you and could not run JOY-Full socks without you. You are a blessing to many during this time of year.

Thanks to your generous and kind souls, the 2019 campaign was a huge success. We collected a total of **4,224 pairs** of socks!!! My heart is filled with JOY and I thank you all very much.

We delivered to 20 different locations. Thanks to your donations, we delivered more than 250 boxes and bags filled with socks, grooming products, baby products, clothing, toys, blankets, beautiful hand knit wear, and so much more!

Delivery at each of the charities was received with an abundance of smiles, hugs and even a few tears of gratitude. Recipients are quite overwhelmed by your generosity and are awestruck with the reality that others have thought of them and care about them. It is wonderful to see their appreciation.

These hugs and accolades were received on your behalf. As I stated earlier, JOY-Full Socks is a success because of each and every one of you. I am just the courier of your kindness. There are many "elves" in the background providing wonderful support. I, too, am humbled by your generosity and kindness. It is a gift to me to experience the goodness in each and every one of you.

Merry Christmas, and may God continue to bless you, each and every day.
With love and a grateful heart,
Leslie



We have done much to ready ourselves for the celebrations with family and friends this Christmas season. We need to remember why we prepare for Christmas so we may be confident that beneath the glitter of bows, paper, decorations and lights, there is cause for eternal joy.

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN”

were the first words heard by the shepherds as they saw the stars up in the heavens. One star gleamed out, though, more brilliant. No words could describe its luster. The strangeness of it left them bewildered. This star was our eternal word spoken by the prophets of old. This light leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night. Father of light, a child is born for us and a son given to us.

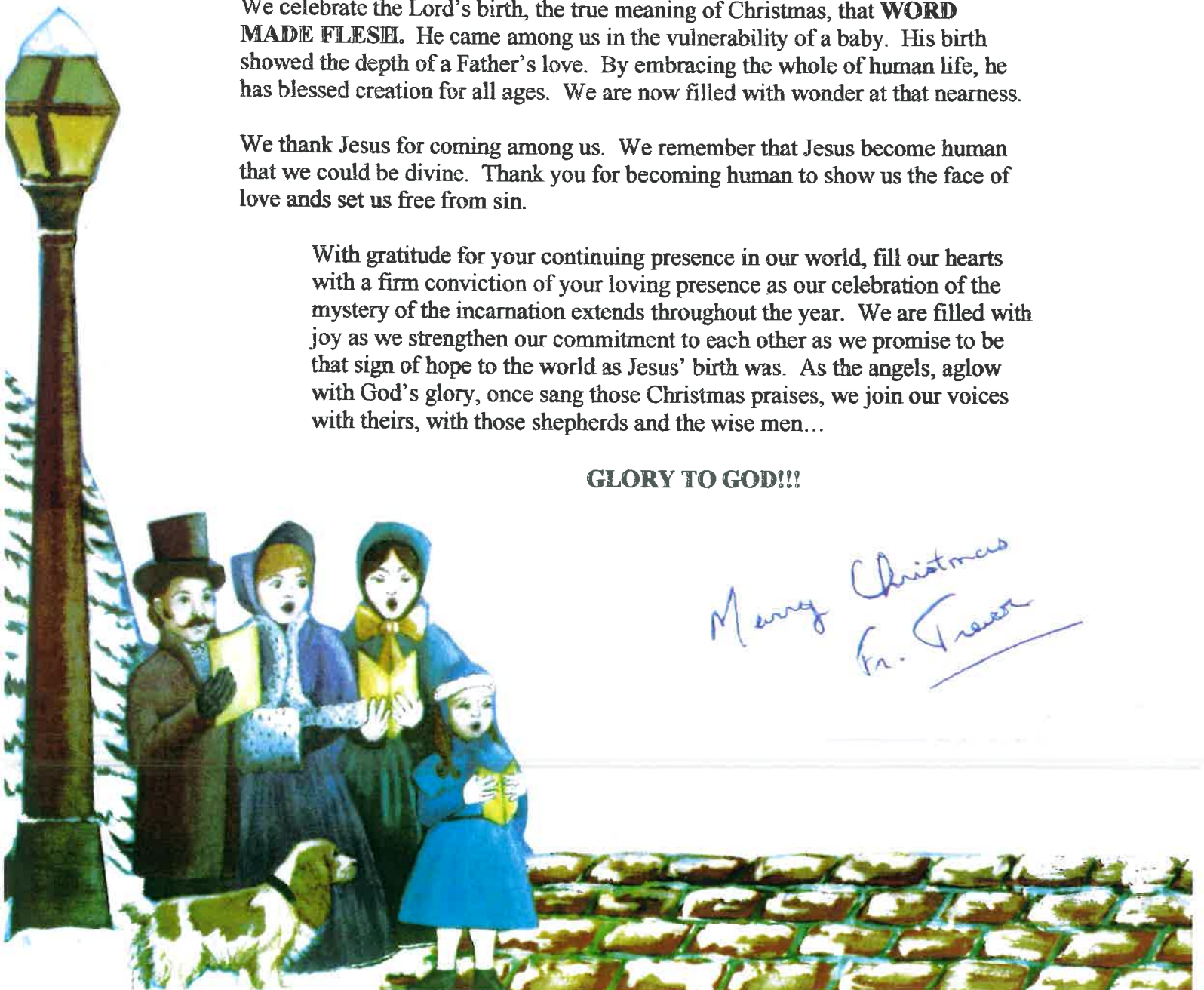
We celebrate the Lord's birth, the true meaning of Christmas, that **WORD MADE FLESH**. He came among us in the vulnerability of a baby. His birth showed the depth of a Father's love. By embracing the whole of human life, he has blessed creation for all ages. We are now filled with wonder at that nearness.

We thank Jesus for coming among us. We remember that Jesus become human that we could be divine. Thank you for becoming human to show us the face of love and set us free from sin.

With gratitude for your continuing presence in our world, fill our hearts with a firm conviction of your loving presence as our celebration of the mystery of the incarnation extends throughout the year. We are filled with joy as we strengthen our commitment to each other as we promise to be that sign of hope to the world as Jesus' birth was. As the angels, aglow with God's glory, once sang those Christmas praises, we join our voices with theirs, with those shepherds and the wise men...

GLORY TO GOD!!!

*Merry Christmas
Fr. Traver*





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Christmas message – 2019

Dear brother priests and dear deacons
Dear faithful of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

*Good news and great JOY to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. (Luke 2, 10-11)*

Christmas is a time of celebration and joy. How clearly this is seen and felt in gatherings with family and friends, in Christmas music resonating everywhere, in gift exchanges and festive decorations, etc. The joy of Christmas is also felt in a spirit of solidarity and fraternity that seems more tangible at this time of year.

All these signs of joyful celebration flow from God's own joy. Indeed, the joy of Christmas is the joy of God our Father who gives us his Son; it is the joy of Jesus who gives himself to us by becoming one of us, by living with us, close to us; it is the joy of the Holy Spirit who helps us discover in our own life the presence of the Emmanuel, God with us. The joy announced to us at Christmas is that of God who not only gave us life but who also gives himself to each of us.

Let us open our hearts to receive the life and joy that God graciously and abundantly gives us, not only at Christmas but also at every moment of our lives. Let us hear within our heart and soul the voice of God who invites us to find our own true joy in self-giving. Hence, by our simple gestures of love and kindness, we will reveal to others a glimpse of the infinite and unconditional love that God bestows upon each one of us.

Here is my wish for you and your loved ones during this Christmas season: may the Child Jesus who gives himself to us by making himself one of us be your JOY at Christmas and at every moment of the new year.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marcel Damphousse".

+Marcel Damphousse
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie
