



## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 17 DECEMBER 2023

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"*



### *Announced Mass intentions*

Sat., Dec. 16	5:00PM Mass – Sr. Rita Thibault+
Sun., Dec. 17	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners 10:00AM Mass – Marthe Theard+ Fesseha Fre & Zafu Kuflu+ Kitty & Stan Curtis+ Hartmut Benedictz+
Wed., Dec. 20	12:15PM Mass – Jenny Costanza+
Thurs., Dec. 21	12:15PM Mass – Hilda LaBrosse (Ivg)
Fri., Dec. 22	11:30AM <b>ADORATION</b> until 12 noon 12:15PM Mass – Adelaide Marcaida+ Winnie Angeles+ Queenty Yip (Ivg)
Sat., Dec. 23	5:00PM Mass – Mel Schell+
Sun., Dec. 24	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners 10:00AM Mass

### *Events Calendar ...*

Sat., Dec. 16	9:30AM Choir Practice – Church 4:40PM Rosary – Church
Sun., Dec. 17	10:00AM Children's Liturgy Knights of Columbus distributing crèche statues to children <b>WARM CLOTHING DRIVE</b> at all the Masses
Wed., Dec. 20	7:00PM Choir Practice – Church/Rm. A 7:00PM K of C Christmas gathering– Hall

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**IF YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE** in the hospital and would like them to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, you are asked to please contact the Chaplain from that hospital. Sacrament of the Sick can be received even if one is not at the point of death. It is not the last Sacrament.  
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**Holy Cross has renewed the FORMED website access for another year:** Through FORMED On Demand, you now have convenient access to a vast library of high quality and regularly updated films, talks, eBooks, and audio dramas, all of which will enrich your faith. We highly recommend our most recently featured content as you begin to explore the rich truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith. Parishioners are invited to explore the many Catholic videos, audio recordings, movies and books. Go to our parish website to join FORMED for FREE.

### *Pastor's Message...*

#### **EXULT FOR JOY**

This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. The Church is calling us to be joyful even though John the Baptist calls us to repent and produce the fruits of repentance. How come, with all the good things the Lord gives us, we are often sad and not joyful? We have one another to support; we have faith and hope: we have Jesus as our companion in life: we have the Holy Spirit to guide us, and we have a loving Father in heaven who cares.

The reason is that we are always looking at temporal and transitional things as a source of happiness. We are so tuned to our culture's perception of joy through the media and advertisements. This is why John the Baptist's call to go to the wilderness of our heart to find joy. Only in our emptiness can we find joy. Only in our brokenness can we experience the comfort of healing. In doing justice to one another, we establish peace and reconciliation. Let us rejoice. The Lord is near to those who search with patience and trust.

God bless.

Fr. Lukose CMF

**THANK YOU—A BIG THANK YOU** to the Sisters of the Queenship of Mary for leading our Advent Parish Mission. It was so inspiring to hear the vocation stories of these young Sisters. We wish all the best for their new Mother House!



### *Parish News and Community Life...*

**DONATIONS TOWARDS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Special envelopes are still available in the pews for donations towards Christmas flowers. Donations of \$20 or more will be issued a tax receipt if you enclose your name and address or envelope number. You are also welcome to bring Christmas flowers on the Third and Fourth Sunday of Advent to the Church.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS:** Parents whose children have already registered for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, we invite you and your child to the **WELCOMING CEREMONY (Enrolment) on Sunday, January 14 OR on Sunday, January 21 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.** Please attend one of these Masses and arrive **20 minutes before Mass begins** to sign-in your child's name at the entrance of the Church.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: PREPARATION FOR THE



**SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION – PARENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ, to give Grace within the Church. Children who have been initiated into the Catholic Church through the first Sacrament of

Baptism are called to continue their faith journey by participating in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Parents whose children who have already received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation and are in grade 6 are asked to attend the **PARENT MEETING on MONDAY, JANUARY 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church. Before** the Parent Meeting parents are required to do the following:

- Those children **WHO ATTEND Holy Cross and Holy Family School** have already received a letter from the parish as well as the registration and Acknowledgment Form. You are asked to complete these documents and include a copy of your child's Catholic Baptismal Certificate and have your child hand these documents back to their teacher **no later than December 15.**
- Those parents whose child(ren) **DO NOT ATTEND Holy Cross or Holy Family School** are asked to contact the parish office (613-731-7834) as soon as possible to make arrangements in obtaining the proper documents so you can bring them back to the Parish office **no later than December 20.**
- **PLEASE NOTE:** We will **not be accepting** Registration / Acknowledgment forms and/or Baptismal Certificates on the evening of the parent meeting, so please be sure to hand your documents to your **child's teacher** (if they attend Holy Cross / Holy Family School) or to the **Parish office** (if they attend another school) **by the required date.** Please note that **the Parent Meeting is MANDATORY** if you would like your child(ren) to receive the sacrament of **Confirmation**. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 613-731-7834.

**FAITH STUDIES DECEMBER UPDATE:** As 2023 comes to a close there are 6 groups who have completed Discovery, the first step of Faith Studies. Three other groups are in the process or have completed other studies (steps 2-4), for a total of 25 participants and 8 leaders. New leaders are being equipped to lead Discovery groups starting in the Spring of 2024. Watch for details of a parish-wide invite to an Encounter Event sometime in January. Info: [janeprinin@gmail.com](mailto:janeprinin@gmail.com).

## *Social Justice...*

**2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** are available for pick up on the table at the back of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. **PLEASE NOTE: If your envelope has number 401 or above, you have been assigned a new box number.** For parishioners who do not have envelopes, please call the parish office and an envelope will be assigned to you the following week. If you would like to support the parish through pre-Authorized payments, complete the forms found next to the Offertory Envelopes and drop it off to the office. **We would like to take this time to thank all our Parishioners for their generosity throughout 2023.**

**DON'T FORGET** to visit our parish website at [www.holycrossparish.com](http://www.holycrossparish.com).

## COLLECTION REPORT

~ **THANK YOU** for your generosity and support ~

**YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS** are critical for the financial health of the Parish and make a difference!

There are several methods to support the Parish:

- Offertory Envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP). PAP forms may be found on the table at the entrance of the Church.
- Canada Helps on-line donations.
- E-transfer use: [office@holycrossparish.com](mailto:office@holycrossparish.com)

## PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS (PAP)

Did you know ... Once-a-month Pre-Authorized Payments (PAP) is the same as a cash or cheque offering for the collection basket! It helps us by providing a regular, dependable flow of contributions.

## CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Regular weekend Masses:**

**Sat., Dec. 23 5:00 pm**  
**Sun., Dec. 24 8:00 & 10:00 am**

**Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Mass (Family Mass)  
8:00 p.m. Mass (Anne Hurley's Choir)

**Christmas Day – Monday, December 25**

10:00 a.m. Mass (Heather Rice's choir)

**Regular weekend Masses:**

**Sat., Dec. 30 5:00 pm**  
**Sun., Dec. 31 8:00 & 10:00 am**

**New Year's Eve – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, December 31**

7:00 p.m. **ADORATION**  
7:30 p.m. Mass

**New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Monday, January 01**

10:00 a.m. Mass

**Christmas and New Year's (Solemnity of Mary) are Holy Days of Obligation.**

**PLEASE NOTE: OUR CHRISTMAS BULLETIN** will cover a two-week period beginning on December 24. Deadline for submissions is on **Tuesday, December 19 by 12 noon**. Our **regular weekly bulletin** will resume on **January 07** and the deadline for submissions is on **Tuesday, January 02 by 12 noon**.

## *Food For Thought* ✝

*"Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!" – Pope Francis*

