



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – HOLY FAMILY – 2023 NEW YEAR'S 2024

*"Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb...  
Let us go to Bethlehem...they went with haste and found  
Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger."*



### *Announced Mass intentions*

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
	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	4:00PM Mass – Garry Brown+ William & Mary-Anne Labadie+ Meliane Rosemond+ Madelaine Lowe+ Noreen Mann+ 8:00PM Mass– Holy Cross Parishioners
Mon., Dec. 25	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 11:15AM Mass – Souls of Purgatory Jessica Bradley+
Wed., Dec. 27	12:15PM Mass-Salvino & Maria Castellano+
Thurs., Dec. 28	12:15PM Mass – Helga Burgess+
Fri., Dec. 29	12:15PM Mass-Travis & Chelsie Philips (Ivg) Anne-Marie & Jasmine Ready+
Sat., Dec. 30	5:00PM Mass – Marie-Ange Rigaud+
Sun., Dec. 31	<b>HOLY FAMILY</b> 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners 10:00AM Mass – Roy During+
Sun., Dec. 31	<b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b> 7:00PM <b>SILENT ADORATION</b> 7:30PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
Mon., Jan. 01	<b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b> 10:00AM Mass – Nelly Lung (Ivg) Garry Brown+ Souls in Purgatory
Wed., Jan. 03	12:15PM Mass – Jessica Bradley+
Thurs., Jan. 04	12:15PM Mass – Desiree Savorimuttu (Ivg)
Fri., Jan. 05	11:00AM <b>ADORATION</b> until 12 noon 12:15PM Mass – Ton & Tina Basten+
Sat., Jan. 06	5:00PM Mass – Johnny Lapenna+
Sun., Jan. 07	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners 10:00AM Mass – Warner Besserer+ Laurette Plante+

### **"THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED, BRINGING SALVATION TO ALL." Titus 2:11**

(Extract from second Reading for Christmas Mass during the Night)

In the year 2023, Christmas marks the eight hundredth anniversary of a very special event. In the small Italian village of Greccio, St. Francis of Assisi found a grotto and, on the night of December 24, 1223, he and the villagers created the first living nativity scene. Every year since then, the custom of installing a crib in our churches and chapels, in our streets, in our homes, in our squares, in our neighborhoods, has been perpetuated. For St. Francis and for us, this goes far beyond folklore. It's about making visible and living the fact that on this holiest of nights, the Son of God enters our world to bring forth the light of his Father.

Christmas celebrates the fulfillment of God's promise, announced by the prophets, to His people, whom He has always loved. Out of concern for our salvation, our happiness and our eternity, God has intervened in a unique and singular way in our time and space. The All-Powerful God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, decided to enter our world in a humble and unexpected way. Conceived of the Holy Spirit in the virginal womb of Mary, God became incarnate, and came among us as a newborn child. This non-threatening entry into our world will allow Him to reveal himself as a loving and compassionate person, eager to set us free and help us partake in the fullness of his life. It is this very same child that will be known by many as Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord and Savior who will lay down his life on the cross and rise from the dead.

"The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all." This is how Saint Paul announces to Titus the good news of the arrival of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the long-awaited hope of a people who have walked in darkness; of sinners awaiting their redemption; of a people called to become a holy nation. Jesus "gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds." (Titus 2:14)

In wishing you a Merry Christmas, I pray that you may truly experience a divine encounter and savor the joy of being loved and saved. This is God the Father's gift to you in His Son, for He wants your salvation and needs you to build His Kingdom. This is the Mission to which we have been sent! As children of God and missionary disciples of Christ, let us take to heart our calling and bring Jesus to everyone wherever they are. Merry Christmas!

*Marcel Damphousse*

✠ Marcel Damphousse  
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall

### *Events Calendar ...*

Wed., Jan. 03	7:00PM Choir Practice – Church 7:00PM K of C Executive mtg
Fri., Jan. 05	9:30AM Faith Study – Rm. C
Sat., Jan. 06	4:45PM Rosary – Church
Sun., Jan. 07	10:00AM Children's Liturgy



## Pastor's Message...

### PEACE AND GOOD WILL: THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

We live in a world filled with devastation, violence, fear, hatred, repression. Even in the midst of what is happening in Israel and Gaza: even amid the craziness of this season, conflicts with colleagues at work, Christmas is calling us to find joy and peace. Jesus was born in a land which had all the challenges as we experience now. He wept over the city of Jerusalem and wished that people may have the goodwill to listen to God's voice and harden not their hearts. But in the midst of all these chaotic and confused moments, a few found joy and peace in their hearts. That is part of the Nativity story: Mary in her unexpected pregnancy, Joseph in total dilemma of choices, the shepherds who woke up in the middle of the night and led by the angels, the 3 kings who ventured and made a long journey following a lone star!! In all these stories, there is one element that stands out. It is not a personal gain but a self giving and self surrender, knowing that God will bring out the best from humanity. Yes, God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to bring Joy to those who have goodwill to listen and obey.

Think about your own lives now. Where is it that you have experienced joy in the last few days? What gift can I give to God, poor as I am? Do I have the good will to give myself to what God wants from me?

**THANK YOU** to all who donated towards our Christmas flowers. I wish to also **THANK** all those who made our Christmas preparation a joyful one.

Wishing you the blessings of the New Year and a grace-filled New Year 2024.

Fr. Lukose CMF

## Parish News and Community Life...

**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:** Your **2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** are still available for pick up on the table at the back of the church. Starting in January when you begin using your **Initial 2024 Offertory Envelopes**, please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us keep information up to date for tax receipts. **We would like to take this time to thank all our Parishioners for their generosity throughout 2023.** If you do not have offertory envelopes and would like a box, please contact the parish office and one will be assigned to you.

## Social Justice...

**THANK YOU:** Club 55+ extends a huge "Thank You" to the many generous donors who brought in dozens of bags of clothes to pass on to people in need. And a heartfelt thank-you to those who came to sort all the clothes, so we could deliver them right away. Your good will and cheerfulness are contagious!

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**OUR CHRISTMAS BULLETIN** will cover a two-week period beginning on December 24. Our **regular weekly bulletin** will resume on **Jan. 07.** Deadline for submissions is on **Tue., Jan. 02 by 12 noon.**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE: PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION – ATTENTION PARENTS:** 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. For Parents whose children **have already received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation and are in grade 6** and you would like them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are asked to attend the **PARENT MEETING** on **MONDAY, JANUARY 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you **missed registering your child**, you are asked to contact the Parish Office **no later than January 08, 2024.** **After that date** children will have to wait until the following year or attend another parish for the Sacrament.

We will **not be accepting Registration / Acknowledgement forms and/or Baptismal Certificates for your child on the evening of the parent meeting.** These documents must be **given to the parish office before January 08, 2024.** The only forms / certificates parents are to bring to the parent meeting will be those for the sponsor. These documents will be attached to your child's already completed file.

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.

### COLLECTION REPORT

17 December 2023 – \$4,467.00 (env) / \$713.50 (loose)

~ **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.

*Unto us a Child is born*

