



Amherstburg-Harrow Catholic Family of Parishes



St. John the Baptist

225 Brock Street, Amherstburg, ON N9V 2H3

Phone 519 736 5418 - email: ahcfop@dol.ca

Website - www.ahcfop.ca

St Anthony of Padua

120 Munger Street, West, Harrow, ON N0R 1G0

Amherstburg-Harrow Catholic Family of Parishes

Pastoral Team

Pastor

Rev. Matthew Kucharski

Deacon Leonard Tetreault

Deacon Matthew Sutton

Seminarian Matthew Sawyer

Pastoral Minister

Kim Bornais

Family and Youth Ministry

Lisa Mullins

Parish Staff

Bookkeeper

Shelly Bondy

Secretary

Karen McGuire

Custodians

Matt Sutton - Amherstburg

Romy Mayea—Harrow

Parish Organizations

Pastoral Council Chair

to be determined

Finance Committee Chair

To be determined

St. Vincent de Paul Help Line

Amherstburg - 519-984-7594

Harrow - 519-971-2095

Sacraments

Baptism

Contact Kim Bornais 519-736-5418

kbornais@dol.ca

Reconciliation

Saturday - Amherstburg 11am - 12noon

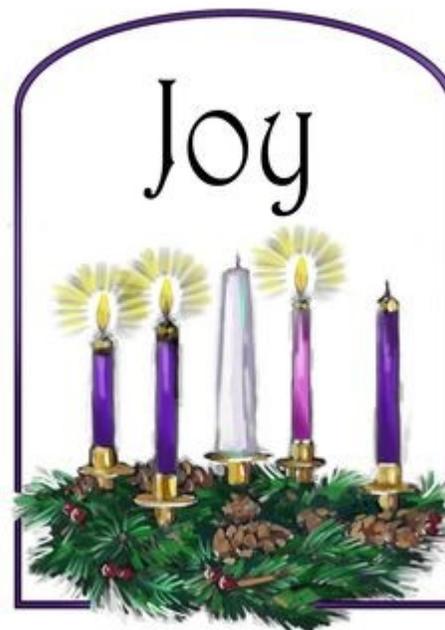
or by appointment 519-736-5418

Holy Matrimony

Contact the rectory office one year

prior to your wedding

December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent



Mass Time and Location

Weekday

Tuesday 6:00pm - Harrow

Wednesday 9am - Amherstburg

Thursday 9am - Harrow

Friday 9am - Amherstburg

Weekend

Saturday 5pm - Amherstburg

Sunday 9am - Harrow

Sunday 11am - Amherstburg

Bulletin Notices

All submissions must be in writing or
emailed no later than Tuesday at 4:00 pm

Office Hours

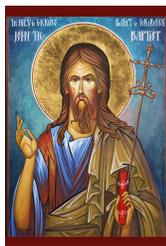
Monday ~ Closed

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Closed for lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.



Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Weekday Mass & Mass Intentions

Fr Matt will live stream Mass daily at 9am and will include your Mass Intention requests:

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

- † Ross Shepley by Maria Gomes
- † Paul Renaud by Eleanor Renaud & Family
- † Annina DeAngelis by Dan DeAngelis
- † Antonio Faria Pereira by Teresa Pereira

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

- † Filomeno Fiorito by Carmelina Fiorito
- † Katherine Leskiw by Anna & Gino Savo
- † Mary E Dow by the Wed. Ladies Card Group
- † Ken VanDenDriessche by Lisa Mullins
- Sp. Int. Amherstburg CWL Members
- Sp. Int. by Denise Orsi

Thursday, December 17, 2020

- † Manuel C. Gomes by Kathy & Al Gomes
- † Cecile & Ross Shepley (17th. Ann.) by Kathy & Al Gomes
- † Anna Palumbo by Mary & Eric Conte

Friday, December 18, 2020

- † Mario Rosati by Concetta DiCarlo
- † Valentino DeThomasis by Anna & Gino Savo and Family
- † the Vandermuren Family deceased and living by Drina
- † Vincenza Malizia by Mien & Bill Reurink
- † Rie Mabesoone by Mien & Bill Reurink

Please join us every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm

For Adoration

at St John the Baptist Church - 225 Brock Street Amherstburg



Divine Mercy Hour at St John the Baptist Every Friday afternoon at 3pm in the church proper

Sunday Chuckle

A fella goes ice fishing for the very first time. All of a sudden, he hears a voice. "There are no fish under the ice!" He ignores it and moves to another area, cuts a hole and tosses his line in. Again he hears the booming voice: "There are not fish under the ice!" He nervously looks up and asks, "Lord? Is that you?" "No, this is the rink manager!"



December 6, 2020

St. John the Baptist Parish

Regular Sunday Offertory: \$ 8,021.10
St Vincent de Paul—Amherstburg \$2,255.00

Pre-Authorized Payments: (PAP)

Regular Sunday Offertory \$1,654.33
Capital Account \$ 814.66

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Regular Sunday Offertory \$ 1,302.00
Diocesan Assessment \$ 320.00

Pre-Authorized Payments: (PAP)

Regular Sunday Offertory \$440.00
Capital Account \$ 42.40



LOCKDOWN

I am sad to say, but Friday afternoon the Bishop made the announcement that all parishes in the Windsor/Essex area are moving to the grey/lockdown level. The key directive is the one that states all “public Masses and services in our churches are suspended, effective Monday, December 14th.” Masses this weekend will be celebrated according to our “normal” criteria, i.e. 30% capacity, pre-registration, sanitizing, etc. The lockdown will be in effect for a minimum of 28 days. We will notify you when we are open again. This means we will not be having any public Masses or services for Christmas or New Year’s. We will keep you posted as new information is made available. Any new developments will be posted on our Facebook page and our website (ahcfop.ca). We will be considering a schedule for people to come to the church for private prayer, details to follow on-line. Also note that our parish offices are closed. This is a difficult decision for all of us, please keep everyone in our Family (pastoral team, staff and parishioners) in your prayers.

Reminder about Live Streaming the Masses from St. John the Baptist

Due to the lockdown, we will be live-streaming our Masses from St. John the Baptist. If you do not wish to watch the Mass as it is being shown live, it will remain on our Facebook page and you can watch it whenever it is convenient for you. Masses will be live-streamed/recorded on Tuesday – Friday at 9:00am and Saturday at 5:00pm (which is the Sunday liturgy). You can watch the Mass by going to our Facebook page, Amherstburg-Harrow Catholic Family of Parishes. You do not have to have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook.com and search for our parish page.

Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

Due to COVID-19, we will not be having any communal Reconciliation services. However, we have a few times scheduled for Reconciliation: Dec. 16th 10 am-noon and 6:30-8:30 pm and Dec. 18th 2:30-4:00 pm at St. John the Baptist; Dec. 17th 10 am-noon and 6:30-8:30 pm at St. Anthony of Padua. With the new lockdown level, **we can only have 10 people in the church at a time for confessions, so we will not be able to allow many people to sit in the church to wait.** If you choose to come to the church, you may have to wait outside. Due to social distancing, we cannot use the confessionals but we will be using other “rooms” in the church. To ensure as many as possible can receive the sacrament, **please refrain from conversations or spiritual direction issues during your confession time.** This will be first come, first served, so please be patient. My thanks to Fr. Dave and Fr. Jim for offering to help. Just a reminder, the Pope and our bishop have also assured us that, under these unusual circumstances, offering to the Father a humble and sincere confession of our sins with an act of contrition, is an acceptable way to reconcile with God until such time for proper confessions are possible

12 Days of Christmas, through story-telling

To help us through these last days of Advent, the pastoral team is going to have story-time each night. Each evening, beginning on December 13th, at 7pm we will post on our Facebook page a story read by a member of our pastoral team. Let us gather as a Family to share some stories to inspire and teach us as we prepare for the birth of our Saviour.

Reminder about the Weekly Advent Prayer Service

One of the ways the pastoral team is trying to reach out to our parishioners and to encourage prayer during this special time of year, is to create a weekly Advent prayer service. We encourage you to check out our weekly video as a way to enter more deeply into this sacred season of preparation. Each Sunday, if you have an Advent wreath, perhaps you can gather around it as we pray and you can light your candles at the same time!



Sacraments: We are looking for a few volunteers to help us with our online Confirmation preparations. All materials and training are provided. One hour, biweekly meetings from January until May. If you are interested please contact Lisa in the parish office.

If you would like your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation this year please contact Lisa in the parish office.



Family and Youth: Join us for nightly story time for the 12 days of Christmas beginning on Sunday December 13th at 7pm on our Facebook page



Matthew's Musings

We made it to another weekend in Advent! Thank you for all the support you have been giving the Advent Prayer Services. As the need for getting creative in our outreach continues, we appreciate your willingness to participate in our online ministry both on our website and our Facebook page. This past week we celebrated the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8th. On December 8th 150 years ago, the Church named Saint Joseph the Patron of the Catholic Church. To commemorate this significant event, Pope Francis named the coming year (from Dec 8, 2020 to Dec 8, 2021) the Year of St. Joseph! In a family consisting of Christ and the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph does not always get the recognition he deserves. This year provides us a great opportunity to learn more about him and use him as a model of virtuous living. I look forward to unpacking more about this awesome Saint with you in the future.

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Kids Meal	\$6.00
Chicken or Fish	

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From the Pastoral Minister

Dear parishioners,

In the Gospels, Jesus has commanded us to pray for others: our family, friends, and even our enemies (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28). In essence, when we pray for others, we are imitating Jesus, who intercedes with God the Father on our behalf (Romans 8:34; John 17:9).

Praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ is one means by which we share one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Praying for others shows our love for them. It is also a great comfort to be the recipient of prayers on our behalf. What a beautiful gift God has given us. We are experiencing a difficult time and it is affecting us in different ways. Although we cannot gather in person, we remain united as the members of the mystical body of Christ. Prayer unites us.



Our Family of Parishes offers **2 ways that we can pray for others:**

There is a private **Facebook prayer group** that you can be a part of, to place any prayer intentions or find out how others need prayer: "**Amherstburg-Harrow Catholic Family of Parishes Prayer Group**". Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1586611011490080>

Also, to include those who are not on Facebook, I have set up a "**Prayerline**" with an email address (ahfamilyprayers@gmail.com) that will send out prayer intentions twice a week. If you would like to be included in this email, please contact me at kbornais@dol.ca.

There are many **excellent prayer resources** on www.formed.org. If you have not signed up for Formed (it's free!), I encourage you to do so (details are in this bulletin). Here is a wonderful video on prayer. It is called **Prayer: A Surge of the Heart**. It looks at the true meaning of prayer, the different types of prayer, and how we can grow in our spiritual lives. It addresses how to overcome difficulties and temptations, how to find inspiration in the lives of the saints, the centrality of the Holy Mass, and the ultimate goal of prayer. You can find it at this link:

<https://watch.formed.org/prayer-a-surge-of-the-heart/videos/prayer-a-surge-of-the-heart>

Please know that I am keeping you in my daily prayers. Feel free to reach out to me if you need prayers.

God bless you.

Kim

EXPLORE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERIES



Why are we here? What is life all about? What happens when we die? These are some of life's deepest questions, rooted in the human heart's deepest desires: happiness, love, beauty, meaning. Where can we find the answers to these questions and these desires? Until satisfied, we are left questioning, longing, and searching.

The Search video series guides viewers through an arc of seven episodes, examining the great big story of everything—life and death, sorrow and happiness, science and faith—as astrophysicists, psychologists, astronauts, neuroscientists, professors, athletes, artists, and the beauty of the cosmos all point to one big (and perhaps surprising) conclusion: that Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church have the best and most satisfying answers to every one of the questions and desires of the human heart.

Embark on the adventure, discover the purpose, and begin **The Search**.

Beginning: Thursday January 14, 2021, and continues for 7 weeks

Where: Online through Zoom

Register: <https://forms.gle/3dV2QSMaAusRnNZo9> (or contact Kim for more info)

"This was amazing. I had goosebumps. The visuals, the music, and most of all, the message was on point. I can't wait to watch more!" Sarah

Advent Reconciliation

St John the Baptist

December 16: 10am-12noon; 6:30pm-8:30pm

December 18: 2:30pm-4pm

St Anthony of Padua

December 17: 10am-12noon; 6:30pm-8:30pm

To ensure as many as possible can receive the sacrament, please refrain from conversations or spiritual direction issues during your confession time. This will be first come, first served, so please be patient. Reservations are NOT required.

Christmas and New Years Masses:

The 12 scheduled Masses will quickly fill up. If you want to attend Christmas Mass and/or New Year's Mass our phone line 519-736-5418 ext. 119 will be answered from 9am until 4pm beginning on Tuesday, December 8th (***please do not call before December 8th as reservations will not be accepted!***). This line will remain open until the Masses are full. You are ONLY registered if you speak to our phone volunteer, no emails or voicemails will be accepted. It will likely be impossible to accommodate everyone who wants to be here. The other alternative is, we will be live streaming the 6PM and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve; and the New Year's Eve Mass at 5PM on December 31st. on our Facebook page Amherstburg-Harrow Catholic Family of Parishes. You may also watch the recorded Masses at a later time on our website, once they are posted.

When registering we will need to know the Mass you wish to attend, the name (s) of those attending, and a contact number. **SEATING WILL BE PRE-ASSIGNED.** This will ensure that we are in compliance with capacity restrictions and that all safety protocols are complied with. At Mass, it is **very important** that you follow the **directions** of our **Ministers of Hospitality at all times.**



St John the Baptist

Christmas Eve

4pm 6pm
9pm Midnight

Christmas Day

8am 11am

Mary, Mother of God

5pm (Dec 31); 11am (Jan. 1)

St Anthony of Padua

Christmas Eve

4pm 6pm

Christmas Day

9:30am

Mary, Mother of God

9am (Jan 1)



Reservations are **required** for the Christmas and New Year's Masses.

Please be considerate of your fellow parishioners. Do not make reservations for family members who may not attend.

No walk ins or standbys—seating assignments will be made to ensure maximum capacity.

Seating preference will ONLY be given to those with disabilities.

Do not assume you have a seat reserved. **YOU MUST CALL** and speak to the reservation person to verify your seat.

We understand that these rules are harsh but it is for your safety and the safety of those around you.

Please be kind.

Weekly Weekend Mass Pre-registration Reminder

Here is your weekly reminder to avoid disappointment and to help Karen in the office with her weekly seating plan, to pre-register. **Please remember, you need to pre-register to attend Mass every weekend you wish to come to Mass.** Typically, pre-registration will open for the following week and pre-registration has closed for the previous week. As well, **there is a new link for each week's registration.** So please enter the link below or go to our website www.ahcfop.ca and click on the link there. If you do not have access to online registration, you can register by calling 519-736-5418 on Tuesday morning at 9am. If nobody is available to answer the phone, please leave a voicemail message at ext. 110 (Karen's). Your message should include your name, phone number, the Mass you are registering for and the number of people you are registering. Registration will close at 12noon the Friday before the weekend in question.

The pre-registration link for December 19 / 20 :

FROM THE OFFICE OF
BISHOP FABBRO

With the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit moving into the Grey/Lockdown Level of Public Health measures on Monday, we must, unfortunately, make the changes **effective Monday**, as outlined below. Charity means we must make these sacrifices to help ensure our neighbours are safe. We must care for others in our communities and our fellow parishioners, even if it means we cannot gather for a short time.

We thank all levels of government for their flexible approach to implementing these public health restrictions and their continued vigilance to keep us safe. I would also like to thank you, the faithful of our diocese. Your dedicated efforts during the pandemic have demonstrated that we are able to provide safe spaces in our churches.

I have not made these changes lightly. These new measures will further restrict participation in the sacraments and call forth sacrifices from the faithful in the Windsor-Essex area who have been drawing spiritual nourishment from the sacraments. The severity of the pandemic, however, means we must do our part, out of love, to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. While **Windsor-Essex** is in the Grey/Lockdown level, the following directives **take effect Monday** and remain in place until the area is moved back to the Red/Control level:

- Public Masses and services in our churches are suspended. The faithful are asked to continue to pray at home and watch Mass online. Priests should continue to celebrate Mass privately.
- Where the boundaries of a Family of Parishes cross county boundaries, all churches in the Family would come under the Government's "Grey/Lockdown" requirements.
- Churches may open for private prayer, with a maximum occupancy of 10 people and with all other safety and cleaning protocols in place.
- Weddings and Baptisms may be celebrated without a Mass, but provincial occupancy restrictions, a maximum of 10 people, including the priest, must be observed.
- Funeral wakes or services may also be held in the church with the same restrictions, or in a funeral home, with the restrictions put in place there.
- Parish teams are encouraged to keep in contact with parishioners through telephone calls or other electronic means. Such calls could be a simple chat, praying a decade of the Rosary with the person or asking how we can be of help.
- Priests may hear Confessions, by appointment, or in church, provided gathering restrictions of a maximum of 10 people, including the priest, are observed.
- Parish offices are to close, and employees are asked to work from home. Employees may enter offices and churches to carry out essential duties only.
- All regular meetings and social activities in parishes are cancelled. Sacramental preparation can continue online. Celebrations of First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation will be postponed.
- Events in parish halls and meeting areas should be cancelled unless they are deemed an essential service (e.g., childcare, Alcoholics Anonymous, social services).
- Priests may preside at outdoor burial services but must obey gathering restrictions of a maximum of 10 people including the priest.
- Mausoleums are closed to visitation. Interments are permitted with a maximum of 10 people including the priest. Cemetery grounds can remain open for individual and family visits.

For **London-Middlesex** in Red/Control, church capacity limits are unchanged at 30 percent. There are changes, however, **effective Monday** to gathering limits and hall capacity limits. The details can be found at this [link](#).

This is a time for us to unite in prayer. May we soon be able to resume public worship in our churches without restrictions. May God comfort those who have lost loved ones and return to full health those who are ill. May God keep our frontline healthcare workers safe and give them strength to care for the sick.

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London

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OPTOMETRISTS
Dr. Anthony DiPasquale,
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80 Richmond Street 519-736-2406

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