



WEST

MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC
FAMILY OF PARISHES

"A mission-oriented church that forms disciples of Jesus"

All Saints, Strathroy

allsaints@dol.ca

Sacred Heart, Delaware

sacredheart@dol.ca

Sacred Heart, Parkhill

shparkhill@dol.ca

St Charles Garnier, Glencoe

stcharles@dol.ca

Office: 124 Front St. E., Strathroy, ON N7G 1Y9

519.245.0644

www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca

December 24, 2023

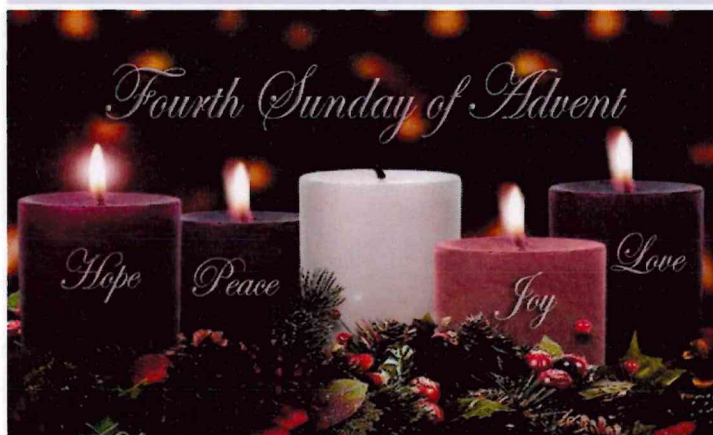
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 25, 2023

Christmas—The Nativity of the Lord

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Please keep in your prayers Sunday, December 24

- ◆ the Church throughout the world, that through our worship and work we reveal for all, the dawn of God's saving Word made flesh.
- ◆ peoples of every race and nation, that the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace encourage a new birth of justice and righteousness.
- ◆ the weak and powerless of our world, that they hear the good news and are welcomed at the manger of Christ.
- ◆ Catholic families, that they pray for and nurture the gift of vocations to the priesthood and call to ministry with their children.
- ◆ all of us gathered at this Christmas feast, that through the grace of Christ's coming, our lives reflect the light and love of Jesus.
- ◆ those disciples who have died, and those who mourn their loss during this holy season, that through Christ's promise of Resurrection, they glorify and praise God for all eternity.
- ◆ Rev. Steven Huber C.S.B., Rev. Seejo John, Mrs. Julie de Gouw Pastoral Minister, Rev. Joseph Onome Oghenejabor, Deacon Tim Raaymakers, Rev. James Roche



Please keep in your prayers Sunday, December 31

- ◆ Deacon Rudy Pflanzner, Rev. Canon Mitchell Kaminski, Rev. Frank Leslie, Deacon Gason Mabaya, Deacon Gary Flewelling



Christmas Message from Fr. Thom

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas!

This year I wish to share with you an excerpt from Max Lucado's book, *Because of Bethlehem*. I believe his Christmas reflections to be some of the most inspiring thoughts I have read in recent years. I pray that these excerpts will lead you more deeply into the spirit of Christmas as they have done for me...

Any doubt of the Father's love for his people disappeared the night God was wrapped in barnyard towels so the hay wouldn't scratch his back!

Through a scandalous pregnancy, an imposed census, an untimely trip and an overcrowded inn, God triumphed and Christ came.

In spite of chaos, Christ came.

In spite of sin and scandal, Christ came.

In spite of racism and sexism, Christ came.

Though the people forgot God. Christ came.

In spite of, and out of, the pandemonium, Christ came.

The surprise pregnancy, the sudden census, the long road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Unpleasant and difficult, yet they resulted in the world's greatest miracle. Everything before this happened so this moment would happen. God used the struggles to accomplish his will. Do you need that reminder? Don't we all?

Had Mary and Joseph been Queen Mary and King Joseph, the innkeeper would have responded differently. But no trumpet sounded. No herald proclaimed. No courier announced their arrival.

There was only a knock.

A knock at the door...

by a common couple...

at a late hour...

when the inn was crowded.

So the innkeeper missed the opportunity.

Many still do. They miss the chance to open the door. They let the birth of Jesus pass them by. The miracle of Bethlehem still happens. God enters the hamlets of our lives and speaks to us. He speaks through scriptures, sunsets or the kindness of a friend. He sings to us through Christmas carols. He calls to us through Christmas sermons. He reaches out through the Christmas story.

"Here I am!" Jesus invites. "I stand at the door and knock". Will you let him in?

May your Christmas be blessed with peace.

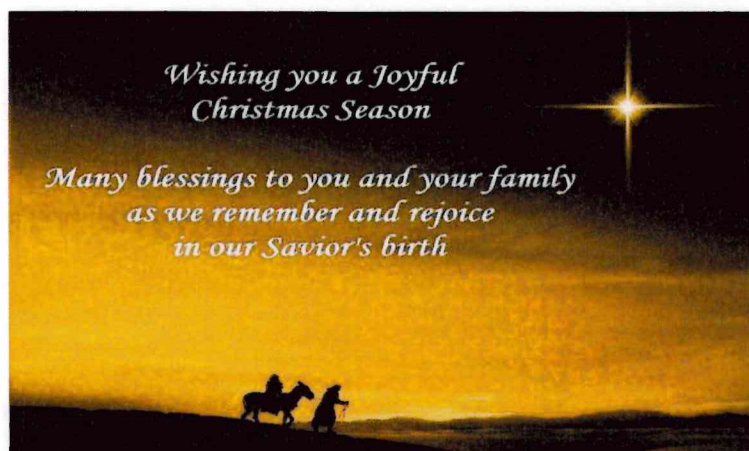
Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thom



At a glance ...

- SSVP—Thank you very much for all your donations through out the year. We will not be collecting in December but will resume at the end of January.
- If you have a child/children aged 8 or older, who are not yet baptized, you are invited to attend a “catch-up” preparation session with Father Thom on Sunday January 14 at All Saints, after the 11 am Mass. Contact Julie for more information or to register.
- REMINDER: Volunteer Appreciation Social on Friday December 29, from 2 to 4 pm. See you there.
- See the website for information and dates about a new Bible Study offered at all church locations in January.



EDGE - All youth from the West Middlesex Family of Parishes in grades 5-8 are invited to join EDGE for upcoming nights of fun and food. Parents are required to sign their child(ren) in at 6:30PM and sign them out at 8:00PM.

Mark your calendars with the following dates and locations
 January 17 at All Saints
 February 21 at Sacred Heart
 March 20 at All Saints
 April 17 at Sacred Heart
 May 15 at All Saints

*Please note that these dates/locations are subject to change. Check the bulletin for announcements regarding Edge.



We are very excited to welcome everyone to our September Take A Break on **Monday, January 8, 2024 from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm.**

Please come and join us for fellowship with your children at the Sacred Heart Parish

Hall. Lunch will be provided by the Sacred Heart CWL and will be served at 11:30am. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 3, along with any dietary restrictions.

We are planning on hosting our Take a Break Days on the second Monday of each month.

TammyVandersanden	tvandersanden@execulink.com
Lucy Hendrikx	lulouhendrikx@gmail.com
Anne Roelands	pandaroelands@gmail.com

From the office

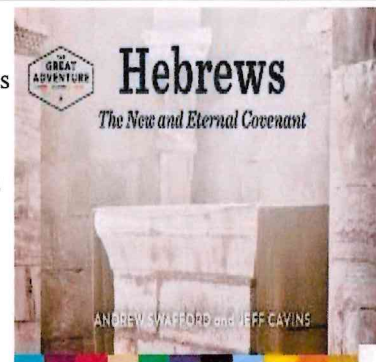
The office will be closed from noon on Friday, December 22, 2023 through and including Monday, January 1, 2024. Regular office hours will begin on Tuesday.



It's that time of year to start preparing for our next bible study! We invite you to join us in January, dates to be announced for locations soon, to study the 8 week Ascension Press *Hebrews*:

The New & Eternal Covenant.

Do We Realize How Richly We've Been Blessed?



Embark on a guided tour of the “Holy of Holies” of biblical theology. The book of Hebrews is like a little Catechism. It is steeped in rich truths that are foundational to our Catholic Faith, but its highly refined theological concepts can be difficult for even the most seasoned Bible scholars to unpack.

If you would be interested in being part of a Bible Study Core Team to help offer this study in your parish, please contact:

All Saints Team:

Danielle Lima (daniellelima77@gmail.com) and
 Ruth Alcainho ruth.e.dino@hotmail.com

Sacred Heart Team:

Michelle Peters (michpeters7@gmail.com)

St Charles Team:

Joanna Simpson (jmsimpson@gmail.com) and
 Barb Gerber (bdgerber@bell.net)

All Saints

Wednesdays, beginning January 17, 7-9 pm

Sacred Heart

Mondays, beginning January 15, 7-9 pm

St Charles Garnier

Thursdays, beginning January 11, 2-4 pm

If someone you know is home-bound or unwell, and they would like a visit by a priest, please call the office to get on the list. 519-245-0644.



Our Family of Parishes Confirmation information meeting for all Confirmation Candidates and their parents, will be on:



**Thursday, January 8th, 2024
 7:00pm, in the Parish Centre
 All Saints church**

All Saints, Strathroy-Weeks of Dec 27 - Jan 5

Confession times: Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45pm

Tue Dec 26 - NO MASS

Fri Dec 29, 9:00am Mass

Special Intention of Dana Driesman

Bob Small—Peggy and Family

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**Tue Jan 2, Rosary 6:00pm – Mass 6:30pm**

Francisco DaPonte & Deceased Members of DaPonte & Rocha families—Judite DaPonte

Leonel & Maria Teresa Goncalves—Family

**Wed Jan 3, Mass 9:00am**

Michelina Nappi - Scala Family

Nellie Brun—Friend

Joanne Sanders—Elizabeth Glenn

**Thu Jan 4, Rosary 6:00pm – Mass 6:30pm(Port/Eng)**

Arthur Macedo - Family

Pais e Sogros de Maria Jose Botelho

Daniel Medeiros - Lucia e Mariano Martins

Manuel Quadros - Maria Quadros

Ana Luz, Connie Medeiros, Lenny Correia,

Jimmy DaPonte & MaryJo Pereira—Carminha

**Fri Jan 5, Mass 9:00am followed by Adoration**

Laurindo Carvalho & Souls of Purgatory - Amelia Carvalho

Adriaan Wynen - John VanHeeswyk

For all Souls in Purgatory - John VanHeeswyk

In Honour of the Holy Spirit - Jina Andrade



## **Sacred Heart, Parkhill**

**Weeks of Dec 27 - Jan 5**

Confession times: Tuesdays 5:30– 6:15pm

**Tue Dec 26 - NO MASS**

**Thu Dec 28, 9:00am Mass**

Deceased Members of VanderVloet & Meeuwssen families - Estate

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Tue Jan 2, Mass 6:30pm

Bill Boere - Family

Thu Jan 4, Mass 9:00am

Special Intention for Anna Paul - Candace Schiestel



St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Weeks of Dec 27 - Jan 5

Confession times: Wednesdays 5:30– 6:15pm

Wed Dec 27, 6:30pm Mass

Josef Sitar - Family

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**Wed Jan 3, Mass 6:30pm**

Norma Mann—Rich & ML DePelsmaecker

**Fri Jan 5, Mass 9:00am followed by Adoration**

Special Intentions of Brian & Joanna Simpson—Kelly

Special Intentions of Ben & Sarah Small—Kelly



## From the Diocese of London

### Cursillo! Are You Interested?

From the London and Area Cursillo movement: Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning 'a little course'. Cursillo, which begins on a Thursday night through to Sunday afternoon, helps us to look at ourselves and our relationships with others and God, through a series of talks by others who have made a previous weekend. Day one: we look at ourselves, Day two: we consider God's love for us. Day three: we consider the world around us and how we can be a Godly influence to those around us. All who make the weekend find a deeper joy in their faith, their Church, and their community around them. Need something to boost your faith and spirit? Consider joining us on February 1-4, 2024 for the men's weekend, or Feb. 8-11, 2024 for the women's weekend. Call Eileen and David Sleightholm, your diocesan contacts at 519-524-9400 for more information.

### Job Opportunities

St. Peter's Seminary is presently in search of a skilled **Maintenance Custodian** with plenty of energy to become part of their custodial team. An individual who can do detailed work, works well with others, takes pleasure in the art of cleaning and possesses the ability to stay attentive within a dynamic work environment is being sought. Visit [www.stpetersseminary.ca](http://www.stpetersseminary.ca) and search for "Employment" or [click here](#). The Diocese of London is seeking a **Receptionist** (Temporary, Full-time) a **Housekeeping & Laundry Aide** and a **Director of Liturgy**. Details on the Diocesan website

### Upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend

Over 80% of couples report that they saw a notice in their parish bulletin. Retrouvaille Weekend February 9 - 11, 2024. Retrouvaille has helped rebuild marriages for over 44 years and over 175,000 marriages worldwide. We CAN help your marriage. To register contact <https://www.retrouvaillelondon.com/>, [retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com) or call 519-243-0687. "Only one marriage matters: yours."

### Holy Hour of Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised always to give your Church shepherds. In faith, we know your promise cannot fail. Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, we pray you raise up sacred ministers from your holy people, that the sacrifice in which you give your body and blood may be daily renewed in the world until we come to that kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Tues, Jan 9**  
**at Sacred Heart, Parkhill and**  
**at All Saints, Strathroy**

**Wed, Jan 10**  
**at St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe**

Following the 6:30pm Mass, please join us for a Holy Hour of Prayer to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

**PRIESTHOOD**  
Not An Ordinary Life



DIOCESE OF  
LONDON

## St. Charles Glencoe—CWL NEWS

**2024 CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** has begun. Welcome to share Fellowship & Support the Leagues Pillars : Faith, Service & Social Justice. Envelopes for your info and dues available at parish entrance. Welcoming our younger ladies, to consider becoming a member of the largest Women's Organization in Canada (League's Membership counts when presenting 'Resolutions' to our Government)

**Next CWL meeting Wednesday January 24, 2024 at 7:00pm in parish hall.**

Prayers for World Peace in our troubled times.

FAITH, HOPE & LOVE



## All Saints Strathroy—CWL NEWS

Catholic Women's League membership dues for 2024 are still being accepted. You can put your \$40 dues in an envelope in the collection basket.

Please mark it clearly with your name, phone number and email address.

**Our next general meeting is Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 1:30pm in the Columbian Room.**

We hope you can join us.

Wishing everyone a holy Christmas and blessed New Year.



## Sacred Heart Parkhill—CWL NEWS

Catholic Women's League Membership renewal time is once again upon us. Contact a CWL member for more information.



If you wish to receive the bulletin sent directly to your inbox, or to get any last minute updates or changes happening across our family of parishes, please go to our website and sign up by clicking on the button above. It's that easy! Never miss another bulletin or update again.

Subscribe  
  
Flocknote!

**Pastoral Team/ Staff office: 519-245-0644**

**Fr. Thom Blondin, Pastor ex. 22**

**Fr. Christian Amogu, Associate Pastor ex. 25**

**Deacon Henry Tomaszewski**

**Deacon Jim Vandersanden**

**Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister ex. 26**

**Olga Ferreira, Office Administrator ex. 21**

**Anna Garcia, Secretary ex. 0**

**Marg VanderBurg, Secretary ex. 24**

*\*personal emails can be found on the website*

*\* messages can be left at the office for both Deacons*

## Leave a Legacy

Leave a legacy of faith  
by remembering the  
Church in your Will.

By planning a gift  
now to your parish,  
the seminary or the  
diocese, you can support the Church  
today and for generations to come.

[www.dol.ca/legacy](http://www.dol.ca/legacy)



**SAVE A FAMILY PLAN**

IN INDIA SINCE 1965

More information can be found on our website.



**Compassionate  
Community Care**

Helpline 1-855-675-8749



**WEBSITE: [westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca](http://westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca)**

**All Saints, Strathroy**

Email: [allsaints@dol.ca](mailto:allsaints@dol.ca)

**Sacred Heart, Delaware**

Email: [sacredheart@dol.ca](mailto:sacredheart@dol.ca)

**Sacred Heart, Parkhill**

Email: [shparkhill@dol.ca](mailto:shparkhill@dol.ca)

**St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe**

Email: [stcharles@dol.ca](mailto:stcharles@dol.ca)

## Office Hours

**Monday through Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm**

### Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)

5:30—6:15pm Tuesday at Sacred Heart Parkhill church

5:30—6:15pm Wednesdays at St. Charles Garnier church

4:00—4:45pm Saturdays at All Saints church

Also by appointment, or just ask a priest anytime.

### Sacrament of Baptism:

**Congratulations! Baptism for Children Aged 8 and Older**

We all know how busy life can be! If you have a child/children aged 8 or older, who are not yet baptized, you are invited to attend a "catch-up" preparation session with Father Thom on Sunday January 14 at All Saints church, after the 11 am Mass. Contact Julie at the office for more details or to register, [jdegouw@dol.ca](mailto:jdegouw@dol.ca) or 519-245-0644 ext. 26.

**For infant baptisms for children aged 7 and younger, contact Julie at the office to arrange a baptism.**

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Congratulations! Please call the office to make an appointment.



## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**WEST MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES**

**All Saints, Strathroy**

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am/11:00 am

*\* 11:00 am will be livestreamed each week*

**Sacred Heart, Parkhill**

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am

**St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe**

Sunday 9:00 am

## Revenue & Expenses November 2023

|              | All Saints            | Sacred Heart          | St. Charles  |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Revenue      | \$ 40,339.80          | \$ 6,371.68           | \$ 13,197.94 |
| Expenditures | \$ 48,550.88          | \$ 13,068.11          | \$ 12,462.61 |
| Surplus      | <b>\$ -(8,211.08)</b> | <b>\$ -(6,696.43)</b> | \$ 735.33    |

**Thank you for supporting the work of Christ, through his Church.**

# *Christmas Flowers donation in Memory of...*

*Jeff LaMantia*

*Jeronimo Gomes*

*Deceased family of Martin de Groot*

*Fr. Paul Crouch*

*Robert Brunet*

*Edna & Willie DeLeemans*

*Lucienne and Albert Matthys*

*Lawrence Buren*

*Cor & Ryan Groenewegen*

*Hector Emery*

*Ray Emery*

*Winnie & Bill Campbell*

*Deceased family & friends of Minnie Campbell*

*Doug Gilliland*

*Deceased Members of Godts &*

*VanMassenhoven families*

*Deceased Members of Aarts & Denys families*

*Deceased Members of Girdauskas Family*

*William Timmers*

*Manuel Gomes*

*Francisco Da Costa*

*Paul LeBlanc*

*Tony Vanderheyden*

*Mary Murphy*

*Stanislaus D'Souza*

*Pat Stapleton, Mary Trudell, Maureen Breda*

*John Paiva*

*John Paiva, Urb & Annie Mader*

*Fernando Faria & Deceased Family*

*Laurindo Carvalho*

*Harold Pennell*

*Anne Pearson & John Pearson*

*Joe Kennes*

*Carlos Camara & Deceased Pereira family*

*Helio Mendonca & Deceased Mendonca & Pereira Family*

*Deceased Goncalves & Garcia families*

*Kevin Maillet*

*Kyle Gerber, Mary Gerber, Carl Gerber*

*Eleanor & Don Branchflower*

*Claire Lamb*

*Jeffery Brooks*

*Todd LaMantia*

*Nick Fragassi*

*José & Maria dos Anjos Ponte*

*Maria do Carmo Sousa Massa*

*Marie and Ed Windle*

*Thomas Guiney*

*Andy Sabol Sr.*

*Frances, Harry & John Verboort*

*Ben Rops & Ray Hanson*

*Jerry Lecker*

*Cleo & Ardina Gubbels*

*Matthew Arnold*

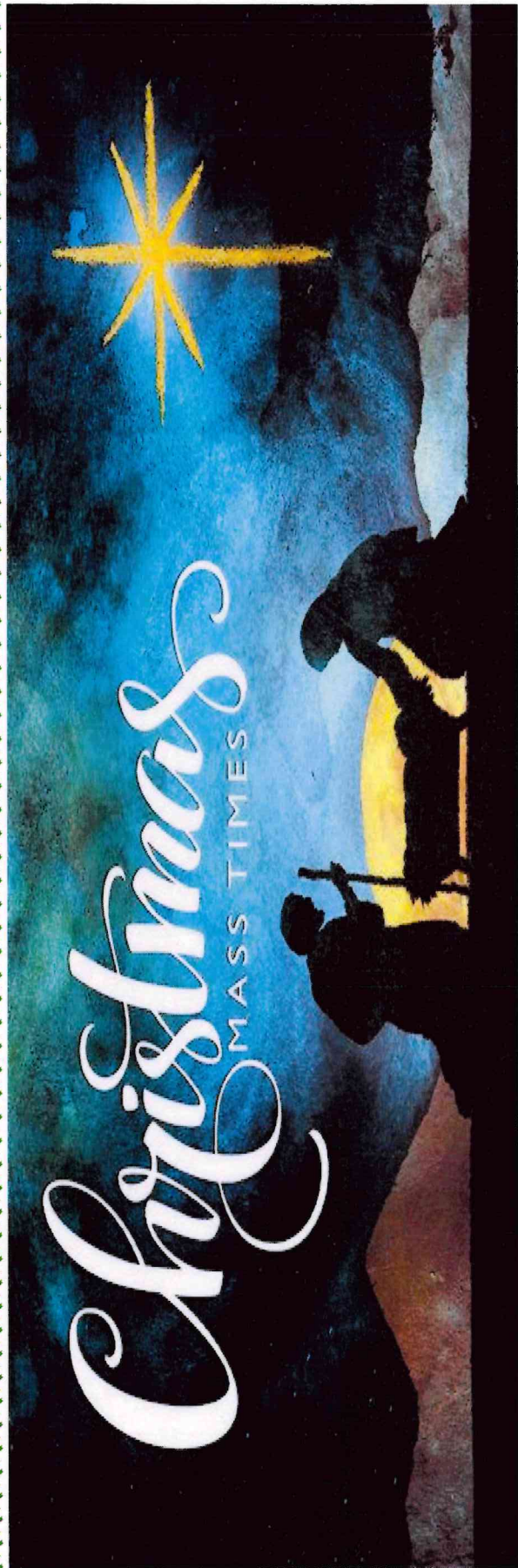
*Tina Driesman*

*Horacio Duarte & Deceased Members of Duarte, Ponte & Correia Families*

*Deceased family of Todd & Shelley Stepanuik*

*Pieter Bakker*





*Regular Weekend Mass times: Saturday, Dec 23 – 5pm Mass at All Saints and Sacred Heart  
Sunday, Dec 24: 8am All Saints / 9am St. Charles Garnier / 10am Sacred Heart / 11am All Saints*

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

| DATE                                | ALL SAINTS CHURCH SITE | SACRED HEART CHURCH SITE | ST. CHARLES GARNIER CHURCH SITE |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve | 4:00pm                 | 4:00pm                   |                                 |
|                                     | 9:00pm (livestreamed)  | 6:30pm *Incense          | 6:30pm *Incense                 |
|                                     | 12 midnight *Incense   |                          |                                 |
| Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day |                        |                          |                                 |
|                                     | 11:00am (livestreamed) | 10:00am                  | 9:00am                          |

*Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> 5pm Mass at All Saints and Sacred Heart  
Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 8am All Saints/ 9am Mass St. Charles Garnier/10am Mass Sacred Heart/11am Mass All Saints  
\*Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 5pm St. Charles Garnier and Sacred Heart  
Feast of Mary Mother of God Monday, January 1, 2024 10:00am at All Saints*