



Infifax



1. The Advent Season

Almost everywhere there is great excitement as Christmas approaches: houses are decorated, Christmas parties are beginning, planning for gifts to our loved ones is underway.

All of that should not make us forget the essential that an excellent advertisement by the Knights of Columbus reminds us of: ***“Tell the children that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday”***.



To celebrate this birthday in a spiritual way, I know that many people get involved with preparing food baskets for the poor of our different communities. This is an excellent initiative that expresses very well what we call the “spirit of Christmas” ... this spirit of sharing and giving that extends the gift that God the Father gave to us by sending his only Son to share our human condition. Often this process of sharing happens with the faithful of other Christian denominations, which is a beautiful sign of Christian unity.

Another valuable way to spiritually celebrate Christmas consists of receiving the sacrament of forgiveness and reconciliation. In the first reading of the Second Sunday of Advent, the prophet Isaiah invited us to *“Prepare the way of the Lord ... Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill be made low, the uneven ground shall become level.”* The ways of the Lord should be first of all be prepared in our hearts: flatten the mountains of our pride or our egotism, lift up the valleys of our discouragement and our lack of hope. Let us take advantage of the few days that separate us from Christmas to encounter the Lord in the person of his priest. In this way, we will make a much larger place in our hearts for him.

2. Feast of Christmas

To each one of the faithful of the Diocese of Timmins I wish a Christmas filled with the joy that the Lord Jesus brings to the world through his birth.

On Christmas Eve I will celebrate the 10 p.m. mass at the Cathedral, then midnight mass at *Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix* church. I will be pleased to greet the faithful gathered on these occasions and likewise on Christmas Day at the 11 a.m. mass at the Cathedral where I will be present.

3. Feast of St. John the Evangelist, December 27th

On December 27th I will celebrate the second anniversary of my episcopal ordination as Bishop of Timmins. That Saturday I will preside at the 9 a.m. mass at the Cathedral. I will pray especially for the faithful whom God has entrusted to me.

4. Wishes for the year 2015

To offer my good wishes on the occasion of the 2015 New Year, I will be present at the Cathedral on December 31st at the 6 p.m. mass and on January 1st at the 11 a.m. mass.

In order to wish a Happy New Year to the faithful of the southern part of the diocese, I will celebrate the masses of the Epiphany :

Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 5 p.m.: Holy Name Parish, Kirkland Lake.

Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 9 a.m.: Holy Trinity Parish, Englehart.

Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 11 a.m.: *Assumption* Parish, Kirkland Lake.

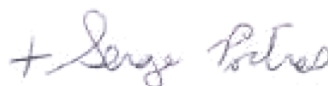
5. Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: January 28, 2015

As I highlighted in *Infofax* 26, our Diocese does not have a seminarian preparing for ordination to the priesthood. The Lord reminded that the first thing to do is to pray for the Master to send labourers into his harvest. (Mt 9: 38)

For this purpose I will preside at a bilingual hour of Eucharistic adoration for vocations to the priesthood on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 7 p.m. in Saint Anthony of Padua Cathedral. During this time of prayer, the two diocesan Vocations Directors will give a personal testimony: Father John Lemire for the anglophone sector and Father Simon Drapeau for the francophone sector.

This prayer time will be followed by a fraternal sharing in the parish hall. It would be important for each parish from the northern region to delegate representatives to attend this hour of prayer.

With my blessing!



Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins