

**4th Sunday of Advent  
Dec.21, 2025 Year A**



**208 Prentice Ave.  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6C 4P9**

**Pastor - Rev. Boguslaw Jaroszek**

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
*Krystyna F. Chair*  
**C.W.L. President** *Margaret H.*  
705-256-5512

**Prayer Line Chair** *Mary H.*  
705-759-1689

**Living Rosary Chairs** *Laurie W. &  
Diana O.*

**Kitchen Manager - Janina L.**

Office: 705-253-5523

Secretary Maria S.

Tue. to Thurs. 9 to 1p.m. Registration is ongoing. Call the office.

**E-transfer is now available for donations**

**Email:** holyfamilysecretary@shaw.ca

**Website: under construction**

**For emergency contact:  
Fr. Boguslaw @ 705-253-5523**

<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	<b>Sat.</b> - 8:30am - Bilingual - 4:00pm - English
	<b>Sun.</b> - 9:30am - English - 11:00am - Polish

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** See Announced Masses

**SACRAMENTS:**

**Reconciliation:** 30 minutes before & after Mass

**Baptism:** Meet with Fr. Boguslaw  
Instructions required

**Marriage:** Contact Office at least eight months before desired date  
Instruction required

**Children's Sacraments:**  
Contact Fr. Boguslaw

**Hospital Visits:** Notify Nurse at hospital to call "Priest on Call".

**Home Shut-ins:** Contact Parish Office

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**

**6. St. Stephen, 1st.Martyr (Dec.26)** The first Christian martyr, stoned to death two years after the Crucifixion of Jesus. Just like the Lord, he died forgiving his executioners. He was also one of the first Deacons. He is represented as such, with a pile of rocks in his hands, on his vestments, or on his head. He is the patron saint of casket-makers, deacons, and headaches. **POLISH TRADITION:** The St. Stephen's Feast is well celebrated in December. Father blesses wine and shares in fellowship with the parishioners. Plan to attend the 11 a.m. mass on December 26.

**7 . Octave of the Nativity- (Dec.25 to Jan.1)** It is the eight-day liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church that starts on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and ends on January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, treating each day as a continuation of the Christmas feast with special prayers (like the Gloria) and feasts within, such as St. Stephen, St. John, and the Holy Family. It's a period of extended celebration for Jesus' birth.

**8. St. John, Apostle (Dec.27)** One of the Twelve Apostles \*author of a Gospel. \* he was made the guardian of Mary at the Cross.\* known as the Apostle of Charity. St. John the Evangelist had the experience of living with Jesus—walking at his side, watching him\* he experienced living with Jesus, listening to his teaching and witnessing the performed miracles, as well as receiving signs of personal love. John was mending nets with his brother James, when they accepted, full of trust, the call of Jesus to follow him. At one time, the brothers secretly asked Jesus to have the highest place in his kingdom. Jesus explained that real greatness comes to those who serve. John witnessed the glory of Jesus' transfiguration, and he was even invited to be with Jesus during his agony in the garden. The love that Jesus professed towards John was obvious. When he was the only apostle standing at the foot of the cross, Jesus entrusted to him his mother, Mary. It is said that when St. John was very old, people had to carry him to where the Christians assembled to worship. Each time he preached, he gave the same homily: "Little children, love one another." that is the most important commandment. His symbol as a Gospel writer is the eagle. An eagle soars higher than other birds, and John's ideas reach heights that the other Gospels do not. Tradition holds that John is the author of three letters and the Book of Revelation. He was exiled to the isle of Patmos, where he died. St. John, pray that we may understand the mysteries of our faith more and more! He is the Patron Saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors.

**9. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (First Sunday after Christmas)** - It honors the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They are The Holy Family which each family hopes to imitate. This Feast, instituted in 1893 by Pope Leo XIII, helps to inspire each of us to live in their example of charity and Christian virtue, becoming good role models for our children.

**10. Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Dec.28):** King Herod was greatly troubled when astrologers(3 Wise Men) from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews, whose star they had seen". Herod lied and told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." However, he became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the baby boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." Let's pray for the souls and salvation of all those little boys that Herod murdered.

**11. OUR GIVING TREE** Thank you for your continuous contribution of **donations:** toiletries, warm clothing for kids or babies . The volunteers delivered the goods this week bringing joy and warmth to many local families. God bless you all!

**12. FROM THE BOOKKEEPER DESK:** Donation Envelopes for 2026 are ready to be picked up from the back table in the Church. **As always they are alphabetically organized. Please check your last name, not the previous number, because it could have changed.** If you can't find yours, call or approach the office and talk to Maria. **DO NOT USE THEM UNTIL NEXT JANUARY 1, 2026** to avoid mistakes in our accounting books and your future Tax Receipt. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND INVOLVEMENT** supporting our Parish!

What are we doing during Advent: in the time of waiting for the Lord's coming? What do we expect from the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord? Just memories? Or perhaps something new? God gives us signs so that we can see what work He is doing for us; what does He want to give us? What does He expect from us? He wants us to look for this—His sign, see it, and accept it. This sign is the Virgin Mother and the Child, whose name is: "Emmanuel—God with us." This Child brings "grace and peace from God our Father." God has heard the prayers of His People. The heavens have opened, and a Saviour will be born for us. And today we pray that through His Passion and Cross we may be led to the glory of the resurrection. The prophet encourages King Ahaz to ask for a sign for himself. Ahaz doesn't want to ask for a sign, but God gives Ahaz and the entire house of David a sign. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son..." His symbolic name—Emmanuel—contains the entire truth—"God with us!" Thus God assures us that David's line will endure, that the son to be born will take over the kingdom and establish it forever. The prophet calls God's messenger "Son of the Virgin"—a prophetic foreshadowing of the "Son of the Virgin," whose birth the Angel announces in today's Gospel. "Hear therefore, O house of David:... Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." Accepting the Angel's words with faith in our hearts, we cry out: "Come, O Lord, You are the King of glory." We stand before You, Lord, as the next generation of those who seek the face of God. Paul writes the Letters to the Romans, whom he greets and practically recounts the entire Gospel. About Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of David, about His resurrection and exaltation, about His Presence in the community of believers. It is in Jesus that the prophets' announcements were fulfilled. And in Him – in Jesus – you too are called to follow Christ. Yes! Jesus was born of Mary, betrothed to Joseph, a descendant of David: The words "God with us" – appear at the beginning and end of Matthew's Gospel, but they are also the central thought of today's Liturgy of the Word of God. Joseph, a just and good man, decides to secretly leave Mary, whose mystery he does not understand. But now he himself is initiated and invited to cooperate in God's work. Unlike Ahaz, Joseph accepts the sign and task given to him by God; He becomes

...the legal father of Jesus, the helper of Mary, and as such gives the Child the name – Jesus – (Jehoshuah), which means – God saves.

**READINGS: (a)** Isaiah lived around the year 735 B.C. and warns about a possible sign that will announce some divine intervention. King Ahaz had more faith in a treaty with the Assyrians than in God. It is faith in the Lord what approaches us to God, if not, our existence would be meaningless. God came to stop the darkness and confusion (sin) of humans, and Christmas is that reminder! **(b)** St. Paul explains who the Saviour Jesus is. He is fully man, a descendant of King David, but made Son of God in power. Paul's task is to bring to obedient faith all the Gentiles. It is only this, having obedient faith in Jesus that we will be enlightened out of the darkness of the human condition, and we will be saved. And it is in the Lord Jesus that God steps in to save us: "Emmanuel=God is with us".



### FROM CHURCH AND PARISH

**1. HOLY FAMILY PARISH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** A reminder that you could donate to the Christmas Fund in memory of a loved one, and help with the purchase of flowers to decorate our altar for the holidays. Please, place your donation (cash, cheque, or e-Transfer are available) in a plain envelope with the word FLOWERS, your name and your current 2025 envelope number. Your donation will be added to your Income Tax receipt if received by December 31, only.

**2. From the CWL:** Would once again like to extend a sincere "THANK YOU" to the Prince Township Volunteer Firefighters who came out to help with the distribution of Christmas Cheer packages this year. "We could not have done this without you"! God bless you.

**3. HOLY FAMILY FEAST:** All parishioners are invited to our only Bilingual Mass at 10:30 a.m. next Sunday, 28. We invite them to bring some of their best baking or cookies for a time of fellowship for our Patron, at the Hall, afterwards. Coffee and tea will be available.

**4. FROM THE OFFICE:** Please note our hours during the holidays: Dec.24, 25, and Jan. 1 CLOSED. Dec.30 regular office hrs. (9am to 1pm). NOTE: Dec. 31 open 1 to 5pm. Back to normal schedule on Tue. Jan. 6.

**HOLIDAY MASSES SCHEDULE: Wed. Dec.24 @ 9:30 a.m. and CHRISTMAS EVE @ 8:00 p.m. —Thurs. Dec. 25 Christmas @ 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.—**

**Fri. Dec.26 @ 11 a.m. & 3: 00 p.m. —Sun, Dec. 28 Our Patron Saint**

**@10:30 a.m. and fellowship to follow in the Hall— Wed. Dec.31 @ 9:30**

**a.m. & 4:00 p.m. —Fri. Jan. 2 First Friday @ 3 :00 p.m.**

**5. St. John of Kanty (Dec.23)** a Polish priest. He became a professor of theology at the University of Krakow. His students were inspired by not only his brilliance in theology, but his generosity and compassion towards his students and the poor. He lived a very selfless and simple life, sleeping very little and eating only what was necessary to survive. Throughout his life he made four pilgrimages to Rome, always carrying his luggage on his back.

### ANNOUNCED WEEKLY MASSES Mon. Dec. 22

**Tues. Dec. 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest**  
9 :30 a.m. + Diana Cyr from Marion, Robert Leach

**Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve -Office closed-**  
9:30 a.m. Personal Intentions  
8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass-  
For all parishioners

**Thurs. Dec.25 Nativity of the Lord– office closed-**  
9:30 a.m. + For Gilda, Tullio Gualtieri from Laura & John  
11:00 a.m. Za parafian

**Fri. Dec. 26 St. Stephen, 1st. Martyr–**  
**Octave of the Nativity — office closed-**  
The hour of God's mercy & day of atonement for our sins and the sins of the whole world  
11:00 a.m. For all parishioners  
3: 00 p.m. For all parishioners

**Sat. Dec. 27 St. John, Apostle– Patron of Youth**  
8:30 a.m. + Josephine Zalewski by Krystyna Ferguson  
4: 00 p.m. + Halina, Chester from Krysia Kubis-Biemann & family

**Sun. Dec. 28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**Holy Innocents, Martyrs— Octave of the Nativity**

10:30 a.m. Bilingual Mass followed by fellowship in the Hall sharing baked goods, coffee-tea

### Daily Readings Dec.22-28

**Mon. Dec.22** 1 Samuel 1.-24-28; Canticle 1 Samuel ; Gospel Luke 1,46-56  
**Tue. Dec.23** Malachi 3.1-4; 4-6; Ps 25; Gospel Luke 1.57-66  
**Wed. Dec.24** 1Reading Isaiah 62.1-5; Ps 89; 2 Reading Acts 13.16-17, 22-25; Gospel Matthew 1.1-25  
**Thur. Dec.25** Isaiah 62.11-12; Ps 97; 2 Reading Titus 3.4-7; Gospel Luke 2.15-20  
**Fri. Dec.26** Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59; Ps 31; Gospel Matthew 10.17-22  
**Sat. Dec.27** 1John 1.1-4; Ps 97; Gospel John 20.2-8  
**Sun. Dec. 28** 1Reading Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14; Ps 128; 2 Reading Colossians 3.12-21; Gospel Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

### Pray for the sick:

*Richard, Judy, Angus, Patty-Anne, Deacon Larry, Joan, Lillian, Alice, Rita, Mike, Anna, Fred, Yvonne, Sister Norma, Lucrezia, Frances, Carmen, Nisha, Ralph, Richard, Ruthann, Marcel, Mary, Dustin, Cathy, Margaret, Dominic, J.P., Erich, Rosemary, Susan, Alicja, Stanley, Agostino, Janina, Mariola, Alfonso, Vince, Alessio, Hans & all those who request prayers.*

### December – Pope's Prayer Intention:

We pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

### Grudzień – Papieska intencja modlitewna:

Módlmy się, aby chrześcijanie żyjący na obszarach ogarniętych wojną lub konfliktem, zwłaszcza na Bliskim Wschodzie, byli