



MASSES OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 7 - Feast: St. Ambrose
7:30a.m. - Doug Fortune, Aloiz Semlak.

Tuesday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:30a.m. - Celestina Cabling, Michael & Mary Kennedy.
6:30p.m. - Living & Deceased CWL Members.

Wednesday, December 9 - Ferial: Weekday
7:30a.m. - Lorenzo Pellizzari,
Intentions of Sister Christine & Sister Rochelle Perrier.

Thursday, December 10 - Ferial: Weekday
7:00p.m. - Annette MacMillan, Joanne Heydon.

Friday, December 11 - Ferial: Weekday
7:30a.m. - The Deceased Members of the Lovell Family,
Tom Semlak.

Saturday, December 12 - Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe
5:15p.m. - Peter & Reta Steffler, Francesca Calenda,
Pietro Agnoletto.

Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent
9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

Stewardship of Treasure:

Thank you for your gift of \$9305.00 in support of your parish community in gratitude for God's many blessings. Thank you for your donation of \$1856.00 to World Mission Sunday in October.

Banns of Marriage:

3/ Francesco Stagliano & Danielle K. Sargent
1/ Joseph B. Bouchard & Kathryn B. Dupuis

TREES OF LIFE FOR ADVENT

At the Sacred Heart Altar the Tree of Life is for those who died from October 2008 to the present, and were born to eternal life. You may put a paper ornament provided on the tree with the name, birth and death date of your loved one. A donation box is provided there for money towards the cost of the Christmas flowers for the Church. The other Tree of Life is at the St. Joseph Altar and is for those baptized into new life in Christ during the past year. Take a moment to have a look and pray for them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: PREPARE THE WAY!

In the year 270 the Roman emperor Aurelian established December 25th as the feast of the unconquered sun. This feast, which occurred at the time of the winter solstice, was adopted by the Christian community following the Council of Nicea (325) and given a new meaning. Instead of celebrating the birth of the unconquered sun, they celebrated the mystery of the Incarnation, the birth of Christ who is "light that shines in the darkness" (Jn.1:5). Early on, the Christian community decided that the best way to mark the birth of Christ was with the celebration of the Eucharist. By the late sixth century a series of three Eucharistic celebrations took place in Rome at Christmas at St. Peter's. Following the construction of the Basilica of Mary Major in Rome, around 440 and the addition of a side chapel corresponding to the Cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem, there developed a vigil at the basilica in the evening before the feast. A nighttime celebration of the Eucharist concluded the vigil. Over the years the Midnight Mass enjoyed great popularity drawing people to the light and darkness motifs of the feast. In the opening prayer of the Mass we pray, "Father, you make this holy night radiant with the splendour of Jesus Christ our light. We welcome Him as Lord, the true light of the world."

During Advent:

- we invite you to pray for one another
- we invite your participation in our Advent Project for Sister Christine and Michael House
- we invite the children to help feed hungry children throughout the world by their donations to Calice

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2009

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Tuesday, December 8th - St. Michael School
- Friday, December 11th - St. Paul School
- Saturday, December 19th - 4:00-5:00p.m.
- Tuesday, December 22nd - 8:00a.m.-12noon,
2:00-5:00p.m.
- Wednesday, December 23rd - 6:30-7:30p.m.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist:

- Thursday, December 24th - 5:15p.m.; 8:00p.m.;
12:00midnight (Celebrant Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki)
- Friday, December 25th - 9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.
- Saturday, December 26th - 5:15p.m.
- Sunday, December 27th - 9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

PARISH NEWS

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

We are in great need for any boy or girl in grade four or above who is interested in becoming an altar server. Please contact the parish office. Training will be provided.

2010 SUNDAY MISSALS

The 2010 Sunday Missals are available at the back of the church and the Tower Entrance. Cost is \$4 and an envelope may be found in the missals and placed in the Offertory Collection.

2010 PARISH ENVELOPES

We are now preparing the parish envelopes for your 2010 weekly donations. If you are using envelopes regularly you will automatically receive a new set of envelopes and please note that our numbering system is being updated. Some people ask for envelopes and never pick them up. If you have moved within the past year please contact the office so that our records are updated and that you will receive your proper income tax receipt for 2009. Your financial support is important and much appreciated as together we respond as good stewards for the financial welfare of our parish community.

CWL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues (\$15.00) can be dropped off in the offertory collection at any time. If you do not have a pink offertory envelope, please use any envelope with your name and CWL membership written on the outside of the envelope. You help us help others.

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is taking applications for Christmas food vouchers for people in need living within our parish boundaries. Applicants must come to the parish office to pick up an application form. The deadline of receiving applications is December 11th, 2009. If you know someone in need in our parish please tell them about this offer.

CWL MASS

CWL Mass Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30p.m. followed by a brief meeting and at 7:45p.m. we welcome our special guests the Black Family Musicians. Refreshments will be provided. We are asking for a free will donation to help defray their costs of moving their equipment. Also donations of mitts, scarves, hats and socks for Wyndham House will be appreciated. Come and be a part of this wonderful evening, we would love to have you join us.

COOL SQUAD

Santa's milk and cookies event December 13th at 2-5p.m. in the Church Hall. There will be cookies to decorate and eat while watching Christmas movies. Contact Tim O'Brien at ourladyyouthgroup@hotmail.com.

CRYSTAL OF PEACE

The University of Guelph Choirs and Guelph Chamber Players present "Crystal of Peace" Sunday, Dec. 6th at Church of Our Lady at 7p.m. In addition to traditional Christmas Carols, the concert will feature classical, international and gospel selections sung by the University's five choirs. Tickets are \$10 for students/seniors and \$15 general and are available at the door or contact Karen Bygden at 519-824-4120 ext. 52991.

VOCATION VIEW:

Who, today, is willing to make ready the way of the Lord, to clear Him a straight path? Good, I prayed you would.

CATHOLIC TRUSTEE WORKSHOP

St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto is presenting a series of six consecutive Saturday workshops from 10a.m. to 3p.m. for anyone in the province who is considering running for the position of a Catholic Trustee in the 2010 election. A fee of \$100 will be charged for the series and must be paid by cash by December 20th, 2009. The series begins January 9th, 2010.

OTHER NEWS

NOVENA TO INFANT JESUS

The Sisters of the Carmel of St. Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Infant Jesus Dec. 16th - 25th. Do you need spiritual support? Send your prayer intention slip with your name and address to Carmel of St. Joseph, RR #1, St. Agatha, ON, NOB 2LO.

COMMUNITY CAROL SING

16th Annual Community Carol Sing at St. George's Church, Saturday, December 12th at 2p.m.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH LOTTERY

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown Lottery 2010 of 12 monthly draws of \$1000 and 52 weekly draws of \$100 Jan. 1- Dec. 26th, 2010. Early Bird Draw of \$500 Dec. 25th. All winning tickets go back into the drum for more chances to win. If interested call 905-689-4857.

WHITE MASS

The fourth annual WHITE MASS will be celebrated by Bishop Bergie Tuesday, December 8th at 7p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 19 Viewpoint, Hamilton for the intentions of Health Care Professionals, Pastoral Care Workers, Clergy and Religious Counsellors. All are welcome to attend.

ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT

Advent Taize Retreat December 11th -13th Friday evening until Sunday noon, \$180. Call 519-824-1250 ext. 266.

JUST A THOUGHT!

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?