



**MASSES OF THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 11** – Ferial: Weekday

**7:30a.m.** ó Thomas Smlak, John Downey, Fortunata Limina

**Tuesday, December 12** – Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe

**7:30a.m.** – Tom Powers, Ray Conforzi

**Wednesday, December 13** – Feast: St. Lucy

**7:30a.m.** – Peter & Ethel Murphy, Renaud J. Maltais

**Thursday, December 14** – Feast: St. John of the Cross

**7:00p.m.** – Nada Wyman, Marisa Finoro, Deceased  
Members of the Shea & Walinga Families

**Friday, December 15** – Ferial: Weekday

**7:30a.m.** – Theresa Fior, Jean Millar, Intentions of  
Donna Figlomeni

**Saturday, December 16** – Ferial

**5:15p.m.** ó Gioan Do Quang Bui, Nancy, M. Carmela &  
Dominic Cosentino, Jack White & Deceased  
Members of the White Family

**Sunday, December 17** – Third Sunday of Advent

**9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.**

**Stewardship of Treasure:**

Thank you for your gift of \$16,304.75 in support of your  
parish community in gratitude for God's blessings.

+We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family of John  
(Jack) Harcourt who was called to eternal life. May he and  
all our loved ones rest in peace with God.

**PARISH NEWS**

**CHALICE**

We received a thank you note from CHALICE for the  
generous response of 23 additional sponsorships that were  
received on their recent visit to our parish and for some  
financial donations. Deacon Michael wrote many destitute  
families in the developing world will soon have their lives  
improved and will benefit from the commitments made at the  
Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate.+

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: "PREPARE THE WAY"**

In the year 270 the Roman emperor Aurelian established December 25<sup>th</sup> as the feast of the unconquered sun. This feast which occurred at the time of the winter solstice was adapted by the Christian community following the Council of Nicea in 325AD 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 "a 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 440AD and the addition of a side chapel corresponding to the Cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem, there developed a vigil at the basilica on 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 you to participate in our Advent projects for the Drop-In-Centre and Michael House
- we invite the children to help feed hungry children throughout the world by their donations to the Chalice Christmas Smiles Campaign

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** – 8a.m. to 12noon; 2p.m. to 5p.m.

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 3:30p.m. to 5:00p.m.

**EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS**

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 5:15p.m.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – 9a.m. & 11a.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – 5:15p.m.; 8:00p.m.;

**12Midnight preceded by Carols at 11:30p.m.**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** – 9a.m. & 11a.m.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS CAKES**

Each year the Knights of Columbus sell an assortment of delicious Christmas Cakes and Cookies, in support of various local charities. A table will be set-up at the main entrance of the Church to sell these goodies during the first 3 weeks of December after each Mass.

**5:15P.M. FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS**

If you have a child in JK to Grade 4 who would like to play a role in our Christmas Pageant please sign up at the online link: <http://bit.ly/2zYldTH> or if you have a child in grade 5 to 8 who would be interested in reading the scriptures, we would also ask that you indicate that role on the online form or email [coolpageant@gmail.com](mailto:coolpageant@gmail.com) with your son or daughter's name, age and if they have played a role in the past.

Rehearsals: Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> following the 11a.m. Mass for 45 minutes (no angels need to attend); Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> . everyone to attend; December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1p.m-2:30-p.m. all attend, costumes will be distributed and tried on this day.

**MORE TIPS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS**

- give appropriate gifts . know the recipient and give what they need not what you want to buy
- give alternative gifts eg. 25% of what you spent last year to the truly needy whether locally, nationally or internationally. Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, so that the artisans receive a fair price for their work
- give of yourself, or something baked, sewn, handmade etc.
- put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them and then take turns opening them so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked
- make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance may make you feel defeated and lonely.

**ADVENT 2017**

Each year parishioners have been generous in supporting the Drop-In-Centre and Michael House Pregnancy Centre. Due to the celebration of Christmas the day after the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent we will be collecting donations on December 10<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup> allowing delivery of goods for distribution before Christmas. During the four Sundays of Advent the children will be invited to donate towards CHALICE and their Christmas Smiles Campaign to feed the hungry children.

**2018 CHURCH ENVELOPES**

Church envelopes will be available this weekend. We are very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners. You may also apply for our deft program where your donations are given automatically from your bank account. Please do not ask for envelopes if you have no intention of using them. Last year over 150 people never picked up their envelopes and this is an unnecessary expense for the parish.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

- Memberships of \$25 are now due. Your membership envelope is in your box of church envelopes or use a plain envelope marked CWL.
- Please nominate yourself or someone else for the different positions on our executive as elections will be in January. Forms and eligible members are posted on the bulletin boards.
- Our December 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting will begin with Mass at 6:30p.m. and our guest speaker will be Teresa Hartnett who will present a reflection %God's Grace Filled Presence+. Please bring appetizers (finger foods) for the meeting as well as collecting items for Women in Crisis . listed on blue paper on bulletin boards.

**MINI-BUS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

Guelph & Area Right to Life is gathering change to support pro-life advertisements on the back of seven city buses in Guelph. There are several ads, containing much-needed educational information about abortion, euthanasia, and local crisis pregnancy support. There will be a %mini-bus+to fill with change included in each bulletin this weekend. They can be returned to the church on the weekend of January 21<sup>st</sup>/ 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. Thank you for your support!

**OTHER NEWS****FOSTER PARENTS**

Family and Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington are in need of foster parents. See the poster on the bulletin board and for more information call 519-824-2410.

**REEL JUSTICE – A JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL**

The Church teaches that social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel and an essential part of the Church's mission. There are so many issues of injustice all over the world, it is hard to know where to begin. Join us for a movie and discussion evening at St. Joseph Parish Guelph December 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-9p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Guatemala Adult Summer Service Trip July 7-16, 2018 with the non-profit %One by One: The Latin America Project+. \$2,600 per person. Details to follow in the New Year.

**ADVENT NOVENA**

The Filipino community of St. Joseph Parish invite you to a Simbang Gabi novena from December 16<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. These nine day novena Masses are held in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary starting Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m.; December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12noon; Monday to Friday Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7p.m.; December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5p.m.

***JUST A THOUGHT:***

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