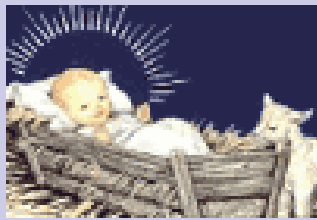


4TH SUNDAY

OF ADVENT

22 DEC. 2013



St. Columban Parish

36 Fourth St. West, Cornwall, ON K6J 2R6

Masses: Sat Vigil: 7 p.m., Sun: 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.,
Weekdays: 7:30 a.m.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD TO MY LIFE

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus is Emmanuel:
God with us!

Further Reflection from the Catechism:

CCC: 496-511
CCCC: 98-99
YOUCAT: 80-84

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

In today's Old Testament reading, the prophet Isaiah tells the people that they will be given a sign of God's love. The sign is the birth of a child to a young girl. The name of the child is to be Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The people hopefully expected the prophet's word from God to come true within a short time. But today, Christians understand this passage to be a foretelling of the virgin birth of Jesus.

In the Gospel today, Joseph is gently urged to trust God in a time of uncertainty and fear. Mary is found to be with child and such a pregnancy was viewed as a breach of sacred law at the time. Joseph first decides to divorce her quietly, but then an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream. Joseph listens to God's message and plans to take Mary as his wife, believing that the child in her womb is conceived through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph is a descendent of David, Joseph's acceptance of Mary gives Jesus a place in the family line of David.

Joseph is told by the angel of the Lord to give the child the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. The name Jesus means, "God saves," which indicates the child's mission. In this Gospel the words of the prophets are fulfilled in the miraculous events surrounding the conception and birth of Jesus.

A KEY THEME:

Virgin birth describes the entrance of Jesus into this world. Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit is responsible for Jesus' conception in the womb of Mary. The miracle of Jesus' birth reveals God's power and grace breaking into the world.

The Catholic Church teaches that the virginal conception emphasizes the belief that the Messiah has only one father—his heavenly Father. Therefore, Jesus is truly God. He has an earthly mother, Mary, and therefore is also truly human.

Mary wholeheartedly accepted God's plan of salvation. The virgin birth reveals the miraculous action of God in Jesus' entrance into this world. Through the birth of Jesus, God has come to live among us. God is with us.

THINKING ABOUT IT

- Why is the birth of Jesus a sign of God's love?
- What do you think it was like for Joseph to hear and obey God's message?
- What is the significance of the name Jesus?
- Why is the virgin birth God's loving miracle?
- Mary and Joseph said yes to God's plan. How can you say yes to God?
- How does listening to the story of Jesus' birth help you to celebrate Christmas?



THE GOSPEL IN LIFE

How can you spread the joy of Christmas to someone in need this week?

Excerpted from RCL Benziger Lectionary Resources



PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Dan VanDelst, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Marcel Brunet, Deacon

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Kelly Poitras

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Evenings by appointment

BAPTISMS

By appointment 1 month in
advance

MARRIAGES

Please give 6 months notice

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.
Also by appointment

OFFICE PHONE

613-932-9616

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

stcolumban@alexandria-cornwall.ca

WEBSITES

PARISH FOUNDATION
www.stcolumbans.com
DIOCESE
www.alexandria-cornwall.ca

FOR TIMELY PUBLICATION, PLEASE
E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO
stcolumbanbulletin@sympatico.ca
BY 4 P.M. FRIDAY
(ONE WEEK PRIOR TO REQUIRED
WEEKEND PUBLICATION)

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, December 21st

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions

6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions

7:00 p.m. Bertha, Donny, Robert & Sharon Depatie
by Joe, Pauline & family

Sunday, December 22nd

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Parishioners

9:30 a.m. Cyril Dumond and deceased family members
by wife Viola & family

11:00 a.m. Germaine Lafrance (16th Anniversary of death)
by Gilles & Diane Lafrance

Monday, December 23rd

7:30 a.m. George Watson by wife Isabel & family

Tuesday, December 24th **Christmas Eve**

5:00 p.m. Eric Surgeson by Janet, Stephanie & Louisa

7:00 p.m. Msgr. Rudy Villeneuve by Ron Welsh

Midnight Barbara & Lola Parisien by Joe Parisien & family

Wednesday, December 25th **Nativity of the Lord**

9:30 a.m. Intentions of Parishioners

11:00 a.m. Anunciacion Cespon & parishioners by a parishioner

Thursday, December 26th

8:00 a.m. Special Intention for Fr. Matthew Brunet by Ron Welsh

Friday, December 27th

7:30 a.m. For a Personal Intention by Johnny Peters

Saturday, December 28th

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions

6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions

7:00 p.m. Gerald Parisien by Joe Parisien & family

Sunday, December 29th **Holy Family Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Parishioners

9:30 a.m. Those Remembered in Memoriam
by The Patrons of St. Columban

11:00 a.m. Catherine & Rheel Deschamps by Bea Tardiff

Monday, December 30th

7:30 a.m. Gerald Parisien by Isabel Parisien & family

PASTOR'S NOTE

You will notice a change in the book table in the size of the *Living with Christ* that is available for purchase. The publisher has discontinued the small print version and now only publishes the larger print size. The book table will continue to carry it for those who want the daily readings.

The larger print and format comes at a higher cost. Starting in January the book table will be charging \$3.25 for each monthly edition of the *Living with Christ*. Thank you for your understanding.

Father Dan

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

At Christmas time, we as Christians remember the birth of Jesus and celebrate in faith that the Son of God came among us, as one of us. He was born as a child like any other in very simple surroundings. So simple for the greatness of the Son of God.

He came for all of us, from the person on the street to the rich in their castles. In Him God came to save us from sin and death. Through the full gift of Himself on the cross and His resurrection, death has been transformed from an end to an entry into eternal life.

As we remember His birth we remember the humble beginning of His great mission among us. In the face of the child Jesus we see the great love of God for us.

Let us welcome that love even more deeply into our hearts and put Jesus at the centre of our lives today and everyday. Great are the works of the Lord.



Merry Christmas and God bless you!

Your pastoral team,

Father Dan and Deacon Marcel

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. Luke 2:7

IN OUR PARISH

ST. COLUMBAN - CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Vigil Tues. Dec. 24th - 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 12 midnight

Christmas Day Wed. Dec. 25th - 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S - MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve Tues. Dec. 31st - 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day Wed. Jan. 1st - 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS - CHRISTMAS

Tuesday December 24th Closed at 12 noon

Wed & Thurs. December 25th & 26th Closed all day

OFFICE HOURS - NEW YEARS

Tuesday December 31st Closed at 12 noon

Wed. & Thurs. January 1st & 2nd Closed all day

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING 2013 TAX RECEIPTS

We need to close the Parish Financials Books on Dec. 27th. All money received after December 27th will be credited for 2014. If you wish that your donations be included on your 2013 Income Tax Receipt; please bring it in before Dec. 27th.

BISHOP MARCEL – CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas is that time of the year when we remember those we love in a very special way. It is a time for visiting, a time for fostering relationship, a time for sharing and a time for being present to one another. We do so in remembrance of Jesus Christ's coming into our world. In receiving God's gift of His Son, we in turn bring Christ to others through our visits and gifts we share. I wish and pray that all of you may experience a Christmas filled with peace and serenity.



I will remember all of you in the Celebration of the Eucharist, especially on Christmas Day.

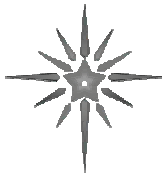
*+ Marcel Dampousse, Bishop
Alexandria-Cornwall*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – CCCB

This year, I feel like wishing my friends a 'lucid' Christmas. It's a beautiful word which comes from the Latin 'lucidus', illuminated, well-lit. It applies well to the Christmas season with its candles and votive lamps, its colourful light bulbs, its glowing hearths and shining windows as families and friends gather late into the night. It also recalls the glory of the angels in the darkness of a field near Bethlehem, announcing the birth of Him who would one day call Himself 'the light of the world' (Jn 8:12). It evokes the star that guided the Magi who came from so far away to that encounter that would fill them with joy (Mt 2, 10).

However, 'lucid' is also said of a person who is conscious, alert & perceptive. We cannot celebrate Christmas lucidly when we lock ourselves up in a romantic fantasy bubble that blinds itself to the reality that surrounds us. A lucid Christmas does not close its eyes to the desperate poverty of so many people in our world. A lucid Christmas does not forget a neighbour's depressing loneliness nor a cousin's emotional pain. It does not hide from youth's concerns about the future and old age's regrets about the past. To celebrate Christmas with lucidity means reaching out to others, especially the unloved and the forgotten. It means opening your heart and wallet to share your small wealth with those who have even less. It means carrying in mind and in prayer the victims of natural storms - hurricanes and earthquakes - and human storms - wars and terrorism - that afflict so many parts of our global village. It means refusing to get carried away by the extravagance of a consumerism that only sees in this time of year an opportunity to max out the cash registers.

Yes, I long for a lucid Christmas, enlightened by the Father who said "Let there be light" (Gen 1.3); by the Son, "the morning star come to visit us" (Lk 1.78); and by the Spirit dwelling in us as "tongues of fire" (Acts 2:3). May our own lucidity, purified by the grace that comes from above, allow our world to shine a bit with this kingdom of justice, peace and joy (Rom 14:17) that the child of the manger came to inaugurate among us. To each and every one, I wish a LUCID CHRISTMAS!



+Paul-André Durocher,
Archbishop of Gatineau,
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

IN THE DIOCESE

FAMILY BREAKFAST

St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall – everyone welcome
8:30 A.M TO 12 NOON, SUNDAY, 22 DECEMBER

St. Francis de Sales Parish extends an invitation to attend a
**RETIREMENT PARTY FOR
FATHER GEORGE MALONEY**

St. Francis Parish Hall.

Best wishes only.

2 TO 4 P.M., SUNDAY, DEC. 29TH

Join us in wishing Fr. George a well deserved retirement.



FAMILY BOWLING CHALLENGE – 26 DEC. TO 3 JAN.

Cosponsored by Nativity Bowling and the Diocese
Teams of 3 to 6 players. Cost \$6/person includes two games
and your shoe rental. Winning family will be awarded a
Free Family Bowling Night & our Family Challenge trophy.
For details & to sign up visit www.nativitybowling.com

THE DIOCESE'S 4TH ANNUAL FREE FAMILY SKATE

on Pad 3 at the Benson Centre.

1:30 TO 3 P.M., SUNDAY, 29 DEC.

Families are invited to participate. There will be cookies and
hot chocolate for all – our gift to you.

Nativity Bowl & Agora Catholic Centre has 2 ways for you to
RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Bowling – groups of 4 to 6 are invited to choose 1 of 3 time
slots (4:30, 6:30 or 8:30) for 90 minutes of bowling, shoes,
pizza, popcorn, party favours and a New Year's countdown.
\$15/person. Celebrate with family, both young and old.

Dance and Light Lunch – in the JPIL Hall at the Agora Centre.
Tickets \$25/person. Tickets for both events available at Nativity
Bowl or call 613-933-0590. Music & lights for both parties
provided by Xtreme Soundzz.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL – K OF C HALL

Hot & cold buffet at midnight.

Door Prizes & Spot Dances

8 P.M. TO 1 A.M., TUES, 31 DEC.

Call 613-932-7600 for tickets
\$20/person



WHY DO CATHOLICS OFFER MASSES FOR THE DEAD

Catholics believe in the Communion of Saints, whereby
the Church is made up not only of members here on Earth and
those in Heaven, but also of those who are undergoing a
process of purification (Purgatory).

Prayers offered for the dead is our effort to help our loved
ones in their process of purification. The most important prayer
of course is the celebration of the Eucharist. Therefore, it is only
natural that Catholics would celebrate the Eucharist and ask the
community to pray for departed members.

In every celebration of the Eucharist we are asked to
pray, not only for the living community, but also for those who
have died.

Document prepared & approved by the Presbyteral Council, Oct. 2013

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