

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE

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Pastor: Rev. Thomas Riopelle

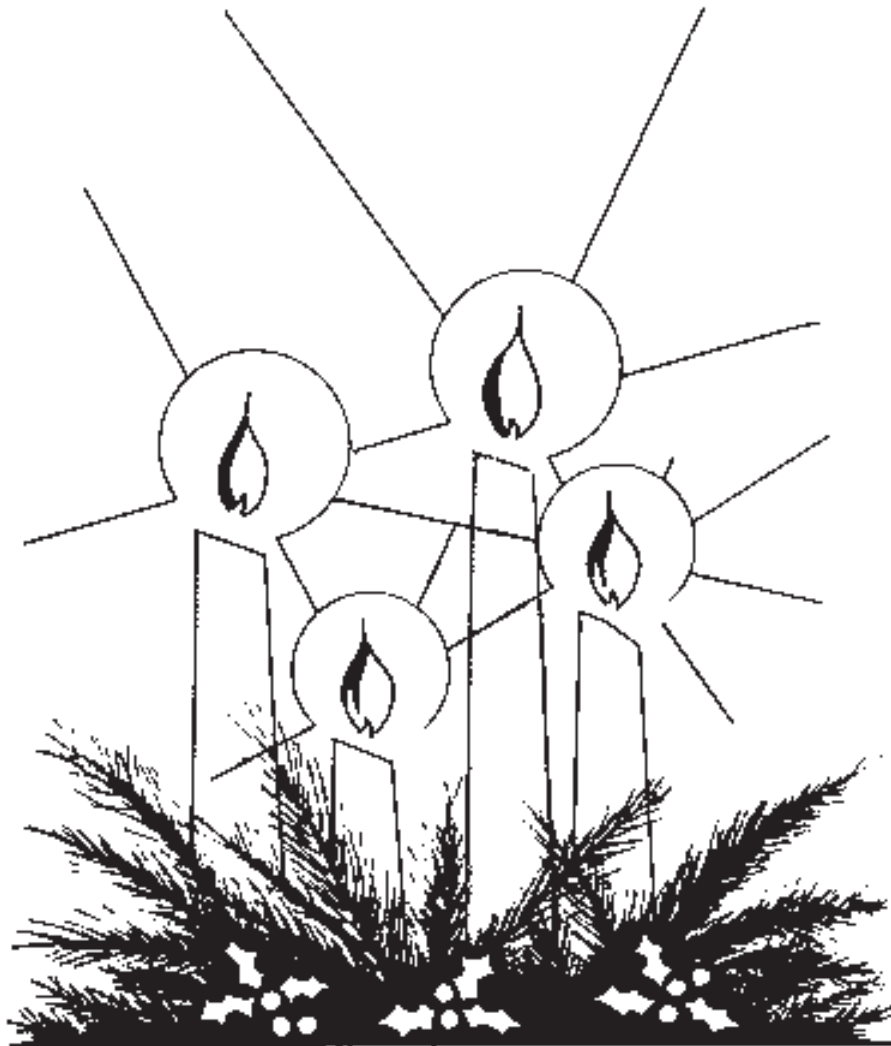
Deacons: Deacon Greg Vaughn

Deacon Fred ("RICK") Jardine

Office Administrator: Christine Altherr

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Maintenance: Steve Short



# Advent

## EMMANUEL

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being. The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well.

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Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24



## CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! **This is Emmanuel!**

—From *God's Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications, p. 73

There are three Gospels which can be proclaimed on Christmas Day, each of which is for a different time of day. In the Gospel of Luke (proclaimed at night), we are presented with pastoral images of the birth of a child. Contrasting to this, in the Gospel of John (proclaimed during daytime), we are presented with the theology for understanding the birth of Christ. We are challenged to hold not only the warm memories of a tiny baby born long ago in poor conditions but to hold in mind the whole person that suffered, died and rose again for our salvation.

| <i>Mass Times for<br/>Christmas and New Year's Day</i>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Nativity of the Lord<br> | Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 6:00 pm<br>8:00 pm<br>10:00 pm                             |
|   | Wednesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>   | 10:00 am<br><small>11:00 am at Valley Stream Manor</small> |
|   | Mary, Mother of God<br> |  |
|   | Tuesday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>   | 5:00 pm  |
|   | Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 10:00 am<br><small>11:00 am at Valley Stream Manor</small> |

**No Midnight Mass  
this Year on Christmas Eve.**

The Parish Office will re-open on  
Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**CHRIST  
THE SAVIOR  
IS BORN!**

### Feast of St. John the Apostle, Evangelist

Friday, December 27th

St. John, the son of Zebedee and the brother of St. James the Great, was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He became the 'beloved disciple' and the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Saviour made him the guardian of His Mother.





***We wish all our parishioners,  
their families and friends a  
Happy and Holy Christmas and  
Best Wishes for the New Year !***

*Fr. Tom, Deacon Greg, Deacon Rick,  
Christine, Pearl and Steve*

**Mass Intentions**

- Sat, Dec 21 – 5:00 pm**  
 † Gerald & Frances Kluge by Betty Morris  
 † Monica & Andrew Ryan by Joan & Ron Houlahan  
 † Mary Hellard by Debbie, Joan, Sandy, Rick and children
- Sun, Dec 22 – 8:00 am**  
 The intentions of all our Parishioners
- Sun, Dec 22 – 10:30 am**  
 † Noreen Quinlan by Elaine McVeigh  
 † Sr. Nancy Wilson by Diane Law  
 † Deceased family members  
 by Piotr & Maria Smetny-Sowa
- Tues, Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm**  
 † Bun Patterson by Betty and family
- Tues, Dec. 24 – 8:00 pm**  
 † Quentin Darr by the Darr family
- Tues, Dec. 24 – 10:00 pm**  
 The intentions of all our Parishioners
- Wed, Dec. 25 – 10:00 am**  
 † Charles Anthony Gray by Oy Gray and family
- Sat, Dec 28 – 5:00 pm**  
 † Anton Boehler by Heidi Chisholm  
 † Jeannette Ranger by Diane and Larry Ward
- Sun, Dec 29 – 8:00 am**  
 † Deceased members of the Grace family  
 by Bill and Pat Berdnikoff
- Sun, Dec 29 – 10:30 am**  
 The intentions of all our Parishioners
- † *indicates deceased*

Used stamps are sold by Miriam Centre for revenue and this is a big source of funds for them. With the decrease in post mail, they are getting fewer and fewer stamps to sell and truly appreciate that people are still collecting them on their behalf. Knights of Columbus would appreciate you bringing used postage stamps to the Church and depositing them in the containers at each entrance. Just tear them off the envelopes, leaving some paper with them. These will be brought to Miriam Centre and used as a revenue source.

Archbishop Prendergast's Christmas message is available on the diocesan homepage (<http://www.catholicottawa.ca/>) .

***Please remember the sick and their families who journey with them:*** Doris Whitney, Lloyd Weatherdon, Leslie Roche, Ivan Goodin and all those who are suffering from long-term chronic disease or mental illness. ***Prayers and sympathy for those who have died.***

**Envelopes for 2014:** Every year, we have to reallocate numbers to take account of people who have left the parish. These numbers get reassigned to new parishioners. ***Please do not assume that last year's number is still assigned to you and do not use envelopes issued to you in previous years. This could mean someone else will be getting credit for your donation.*** Please help us by filling in your name and address on your envelopes for the first few weeks of the new year.

| <u>COLLECTIONS</u>   | Reg. Collection | Valley Stream Manor | Redwoods |              | * Budget requirement | (Deficit) / Over | Building & Mortgage |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>   | \$4,977.01      | + \$219.90          | \$ 0.00  | = \$5,196.91 | - \$4,800.00         | \$396.91         | \$1,010.00          |
| Special Collection:<br><i>Sharing Our Christmas</i>  | \$5,413.30      |                     |          | = \$5,413.30 |                      |                  |                     |
| * Total Weekly requirement <u>\$5,350</u> = \$4,800 Basket collections + Pre-Authorized Contributions weekly average of \$550 (\$2,400/4.36) |                 |                     |          |              |                      |                  |                     |

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