St. Ambrose Church

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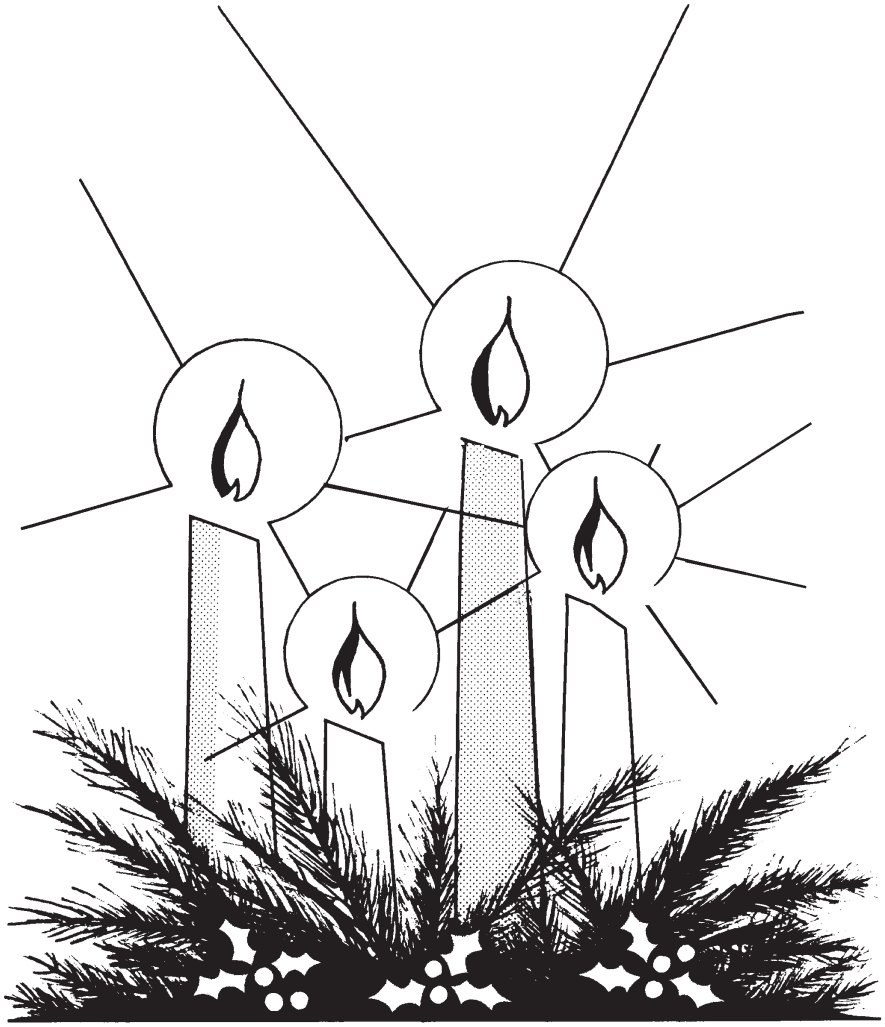
Fr. Gary Schlack - Pastor
Rev. Mr. Nick Cherri - Deacon
Barbara Roy - Administrative Assistant
Myra Klaassen - Parish Ministry
Carol Renner - Housekeeper
Sandy Figueiredo - Sacristan/Custodian



Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We have been preparing for Christmas now for almost four weeks. For most of us the pace has been a mad rush to find gifts, wrap presents, decorate homes and squeeze in parties. It is almost as if we cannot trust that Christmas will happen without our work and effort. But, Christmas will come whether we are ready or not. Jesus does not ask us to make all kinds of secular preparations for His coming. All He asks is that we trust in Him and open ourselves to His presence in the person of Jesus.

Elizabeth recognized this trust in her cousin Mary, the minute she laid eyes on her. With Jesus already alive in her womb, Mary arrives to help her cousin Elizabeth. You might think Mary would be scurrying around her own home making preparations for her child's birth. But Mary knew that her preparations would not hurry the birth of her child or insure the child's well-being. Instead, Mary, trusting in the providence of her God, reaches out to another in need. She goes to take care of her cousin Elizabeth.

What a Christmas this would be if our preparations consisted of trusting in the providence of God and looking for others who need our care, and leaving Christmas to come in its own time. If we took time to be with our families, instead of running to parties and activities, we might discover that Jesus is already in our midst. If we look for the hungry to feed or the homeless to shelter, we might find Jesus already there in the hearts and souls of the poor. If we cut down on our gift buying and share with those who are less fortunate, we might find some peace in the frantic pace of this season.

On this Christmas we could be doing more than remembering the birth of a baby two thousand years ago. This Christmas we could tell each other the stories we have of meeting Jesus in the experiences of our everyday lives. Jesus reveals Himself to us through others. We could be recounting stories of redemption we have seen when people have been given hope in the midst of despair, faith in a world without trust, and love in a society riddled with alienation and loneliness. If we could only trust God's will, as Mary did, we could begin to live in a world where Christmas never ends and Jesus is discovered daily in a million human disguises.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 21
7:00 pm – the intentions of Anne and John Davis
+ ALL SOULS – Theresa Tran
+ MARIA CABRAL – Tony Etelvina
+ MANUEL DeVARGAS - Maria
CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm and 7:30 – 8:30 pm
*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm**

Wednesday, December 22
7:00 pm + MARK VALENTINO CHAVES – Idla and family
+ OLIVIA OLIVEIRA – Manuel deAlmeida
+ OLIVE & JOHN FERNANDES – Patricia
- intentions of Fr. Aleks - from Carmen de Sousa
- intentions of Balbina Ferreira
CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm and 7:30 – 8:30 pm
*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm**

Thursday, December 23
7:00 pm + OLIVIA OLIVEIRA – her family
CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm and 7:30 – 8:30 pm
*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm**

Friday, December 24 – Vigil of Christmas
6:00 pm + CATHERINE DECKER – Keith and Caitlin
8:00 pm + DOROTHY McCAUSLAND – her family
12:00 midnight – for the intentions of all parishioners

Saturday, December 25 - Solemnity of Christmas
9:00 am – for the intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am – UWE USGAR – Anneliese & Klaus
(There is no 5PM Mass on Saturday, December 25)

Sunday, December 26 – Feast of the Holy Family
9:00 am – for the intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am – for the intentions of Daniela and Frank Cekan on the occasion of their 50th anniversary
CONFESSIONS: 8:00 to 8:45 am and 10:15 am to 10:45 am

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve – Fri. December 24th
6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 12:00 midnight

Christmas Day – Sat. December 25th
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
(There is no 5pm Mass on Saturday Dec. 25th)

Due to physical distancing, seating is limited.
First come, first seated.
Face masks are required to enter the church.

Prayer at Christmas Dinner

God of great tenderness, in love You give us this Christmas feast to be our joy and delight.
Bless us as we gather around this table, with our individual hopes and dreams, surrounded by family and friends, nourished by the bounty of Your hands. Form us into Your people once again, and grant to each of us the promise we find in the Christ Child. Amen

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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 1st 2022

(Holy Day of Obligation)

In Canada, **January 1st**, New Year's Day, is celebrated as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - a day devoted to our Blessed Mother. **Masses will be**:

December 31st 5:00 pm
January 1, 2022 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
(*There is no 5pm Mass on Sat. January 1st*)

Christmas Midnight Mass – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, will celebrate Midnight Mass on December 25, 2021. The Mass will be preceded by Carols at 11:30 p.m. on December 24. The Carols and the Mass will be shown live on Salt+Light Television and CHCH-TV. Admittance to the Cathedral for Midnight Mass is by **ticket only** – a limited number of tickets are still available by contacting the Cathedral at (905) 522-5744.

Message from our St. Ambrose Parish Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference

We were really hoping to have the wonderful small army of volunteers come out this year to help deliver Christmas hampers as was done in so many years in the past.
Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of the pandemic still with us, your parish Society of Saint Vincent de Paul conference team has decided to go with the same format as last year. The members are delivering envelopes only that contain a generous grocery store voucher and gift cards for all the children. This is a common format with many other parishes and agencies this year.
We thank you all for your continued generous support of those in need in our parish neighbourhood.
We wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Prayer and Blessing for your Christmas Manger

In its present form the custom of displaying figurines depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.
The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. It be blessed by a parent or another family member.

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.
Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

Prayers for the Sick at St. Ambrose Church
Weekly on Wednesdays
(including Dec 22 and 29**)**

Myra Klaassen will be leading prayers for the Sick and will also pray the Rosary on Wednesdays, beginning at 1:30 pm. Please use the church side door Chapel entrance on South Street.

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