St. Ambrose Church

210 South Street, Cambridge, ON N1R 2P4 519-621-2013

E-mail: stambrose@golden.net www.stambrosecambridge.ca

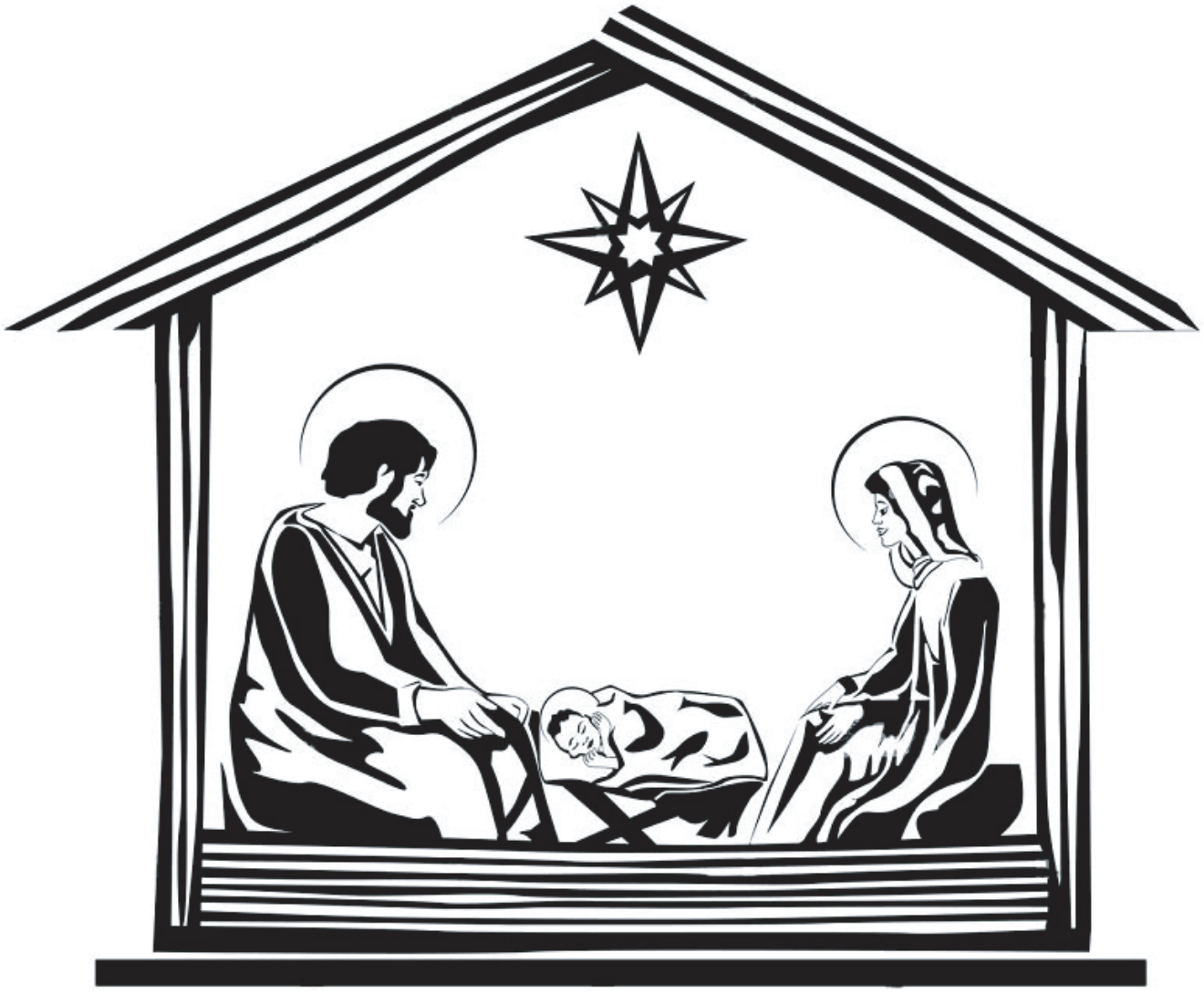
Fr. Gary Schlack - Pastor

Fr. Michael King, retired - in residence Rev. Mr. Nick Cherri - Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Klaassen - Deacon Barbara Roy - Administrative Assistant

Myra Klaassen - Parish Ministry Sarah Kwiecinski - Youth Ministry

Sandy Figueiredo - Sacristan/Custodian Carol Renner - rectory housekeeper



Oh Come
Let us Adore Him

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As we are so close to Christmas Day, it is a fitting time to reflect on what it was like for Mary to contemplate the great mystery of her title as the ***Mother of God*** as she looked upon her Son, our Saviour, in the manger during the Nativity.

We do not know if Mary knew all the things Jesus would do, but it is lovely to reflect on the progression of baby to Saviour. If a question could be asked of Mary, we could ask how she found the strength to trust God so fully. What God asked of her was radical and unprecedented. At a young age she assented to a plan that would completely change her life and from which there was no going back. God gave her some amazing grace.

Mary delivered her Son with Joseph in a place with questionable cleanliness. We do not know how she felt; we only know that she did it because that is how God ordained it. Imagine her fear and uncertainty. She was far from home and her own mother. In those days, women labored in the company of other women who assisted in the birth process. Mary had only some barn animals to keep her company, in addition to her husband.

Imagine her great elation when she saw Jesus' face, held his tiny fingers, and touched his little baby belly. The love must have exploded in her heart. She knew He was God's Son, so not only was she gazing at *her* child she was gazing at God Himself.

Imagine her awe of the little miracle of a baby. Imagine her face when she met the Person she carried inside her body for nine months. Try to envision Jesus as a baby, it makes His humanity more real. Imagining her performing the daily duties of mothering. Jesus relied on Mary to care for him, feed him, change him, swaddle him, and hold him near her heart. Our own mothers would have done the same! Mary was given a great honour when she became Jesus' mother.

For Mary, the Nativity was not a beginning as much as it was a fulfillment of God's promise. For the rest of us, His birth was the beginning of our salvation. When Mary delivered Jesus, it was the start of her hands-on motherhood helping prepare Jesus for His earthly mission, but it was also the realization of God's promise that she will conceive by the Holy Spirit and bear His Son. Her job was far from over, but the beginning had ended. She had to give her Son to the world because He belonged to the world too, not just her. Thus began our opportunity for salvation, through the birth of a Child in a humble manger.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
6:00 pm + DAVID GINGRICH **-**Maria DaSilva
8:00 pm – for the intentions of all parishioners
12 Midnight – Pontalba Family; Waddle Family; Scarfone Family; MacLean family; Julianelli Family; Wilson Family; Nahm Family

Monday, December 25 – Solemnity of Christmas
9:00 am – for the intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am + MARIA FITA – Myra and Paul Klaassen

Tuesday, December 26 – St. Stephen
8:00 am – for the intentions of Carol and Barb & families
CONFESSIONS at 8:30 am to 9:30 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 – 9:30 am

Wednesday, December 27 – St. John
1:00 pm – Prayers for the Sick - everyone welcome.
Please enter through parking lot side door.
7:00 pm Mass + SOULS IN PURATORY – John Pham
- intentions of Sofia Polson and Jacob Yu
+ TINA FERNANDES – Mark and Deb
+ JOSEPH NGUYEN – Thanh
CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm

Thursday, December 28 – Holy Innocents
8:00 am – for the unborn and world peace – Maria Correia
CONFESSIONS at 8:30 am to 9:30 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 – 9:30 am

Friday, December 29
8:00 am + ANN & FRANK DeSOUSA, ED TEIXEIRA – Marie & Theresa
CONFESSIONS at 8:30 am to 9:30 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 – 9:30 am

Saturday, December 30
CONFESSIONS at 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm
5:00 pm + MANUEL DeVARGAS – Maria
+ FRANCISCO FARIA – his wife
+ MARIA USSEL HINERMAN – Annette & Bill

Sunday, December 31 – Feast of the Holy Family
9:00 am + JOE GROZELLE – Doreen & Tony
11:00 am – for the intentions of all parishioners
CONFESSIONS: 8:00 to 8:45 am and 10:15 am to 10:45 am

St. Ambrose Parish

Come home for Christmas!

Christmas Mass schedule:
December 24 at 6:00 pm
8:00 pm
12:00 Midnight

December 25 at 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 1st 2024

(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, 2024 **9:00 am**
11:00 am

Christmas at the Cathedral Basilica
December 25, 2023 at Midnight Mass

The traditional Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton will be celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI and will be livestreamed on their YouTube channel. Preceded by choral music.

Mom & Tots Pray & Play: Do you want to introduce your child/children to Eucharistic Adoration? Do you need some quiet time praying with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? If so, this program is for you. Bring your children to adoration, and when you're ready you can drop them off to enjoy supervised play with other children for the remaining time while you adore alone. This will be held the LAST Wednesday of each month from 10:00-11:30am in the Adoration Chapel and Children's Liturgy room at St. Ambrose Church. Registration is required, please **email momtotsprayplay@gmail.com** Please **register** for the upcoming date of **Wednesday, December 27th!**

The Church Office will be closed Dec 25 to Jan 1st.
The office will be open for **limited** hours Jan. 2 to 5.

Prayer for Christmas Dinner

Dear Heavenly Father, love brought Jesus to the earth, and love brings us to this Christmas table.

As we share this holiday feast, may we also share with one another a joyful and loving heart.

We pray for those who are lonely, and for those of our family who have passed away; please keep them in your loving embrace.

May our celebration of Christmas be filled with kindness. And may the memories of today warm our hearts for years to come. Amen

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Happening in January 2024 – **Meeting for Parents of Grade 2 students, regarding the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation** – Thursday January 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm.
Mark your calendars!

IMPORTANT - St. Clement Church in Preston has changed their Mass schedule:

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday at 4:30 pm
Sunday at 9:30 am; 11:30 am; 4:30 pm

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday	No Mass		
Tuesday	12:15 pm	Wednesday	12:15 pm
Thursday	12:15 pm	Friday	12:15 pm
Website:	stclementsparish.ca		

"Renewed by Love"

Marian Residence Fundraiser

The Marian Residence Retirement Home, which is a not-for-profit Catholic retirement home in Cambridge, is owned and operated by the **Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate**. They are renovating their residence and would welcome donations. They are a registered charity. Their goal is $500,000.00.

Donation cheques can be made payable to "Marian Residence Retirement Home" and sent to 640 Hillview Rd. Cambridge N3H 5H3.

They also have a GoFundMe page which will provide tax receipts as well. Search for "Renewed by Love" on the GoFundMe platform, website - **gofundme.com**
Donations received are tax deductible.

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