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Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 9am to 12noon and 1pm to 4pm

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Maurice Restivo CSB – *Pastor* Fr. Jim Stenberg CSB – *Parochial Vicar*

Kevin Mannara CSB – *Seminarian* Dcn. Paul Bezaire – *Deacon*

Fr. Matthew Durham CSB – *In Residence* Sr. Lise Jolie, SNJM – *Business Manager*

Sr. Connie Harrington, SNJM – *Youth Programs* Marilyn Morrison – *Bereavement Ministry*





Nativity of the Lord—December 25th, 2016



From The Pastors Desk...

Christmas is here! I think I can speak for all the members of the pastoral team and all the staff in wishing everyone a happy and holy celebration of Jesus' birth.

I've told the story before, and probably will again: I still remember clearly a scene when I was in Grade 6. Sr. Philomena asked the class which was more important, Christmas or Easter. I said Christmas; most of the class said Easter. She said that Easter was the correct answer, because anybody can be born; only God can rise from the dead. She didn't convince me then, and I still haven't changed my mind. Of course, Easter is supremely important; the resurrection of Christ from the dead is the basis for our faith. Yet he could never have died had he not first been born. I still find it amazing that God decided to come and be part of the history of the human race, of *our* history—and not as an observer, but rather as *one of us*! That is an extraordinary claim, yet that is our faith. No other religion says that their God became fully human, yet remained fully God. Not only did God become human, he came as a child born in difficult circumstances. St. Luke tells us that he was born in a makeshift place in Bethlehem, several days journey from his hometown of Nazareth. Then early in his life St. Matthew tells us he was forced to become a refugee, having to flee into Egypt. It's not what we would expect to happen to our God.

Today Christmas tends to be a hectic time. By the time you're reading this, though, so much will be in the past. We celebrate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and then it's over. Time to clean up and get ready for the next holiday—which, in the stores, will be Valentine's Day. For the Church, though, it's different. These past four weeks we've been in Advent, and now the Christmas season *begins*. I invite you to at least leave up your nativity set until the feast of the Epiphany. Christmas officially ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year falls on Monday, January 9. During all this time be assured of my prayer that the Christ Child be born again into your hearts, and that he may fill you with the blessings of life and joy.



J. Maurice

**A Savior
has been born
for you**



Congratulations —to our pastor, Fr. Maurice Restive, CSB, who celebrates the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this Tuesday, December 27. **"May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment."** (From the Rite of Ordination)

Liturgy Corner by Kevin Mannara

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche, or nativity scene, for Christmas Eve 1223. Francis made the practice popular, but his was not the first.

This blessing at home may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

Blessing of a Crèche

Begin with a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1-8 or Isaiah 7:10-15

The leader prays: 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.

All respond: Amen.

Quotable Pope Francis

For the grandeur of God's kingdom is not power as defined by this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing all things.

Reflection for the Week

In what sense is the birth of Christ happening in our time, in our space and in our life?
How is this happening in your life?



Saturday, December 31st, 2016

New Year's Eve Mass

5:00pm

Sunday, January 1st, 2017

New Year's Day

9:00am

11:00am

7:30pm

ROSARY CHAPEL CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



December 24th, 25th and 26th - Closed

December 27th to 30th - 8am to 8pm

Daily Mass - 8:00am ONLY

There will be no 12:10pm Mass on Tuesday,

December 27th and Thursday

December 29th and no 5pm Mass on

Wednesday, December 28th.

Week at a Glance

Monday, December 26th

Tuesday, December 27th

7:00pm Latin Mass (McEwan Campus-Church)
7:00pm Cenacle of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Rosary Chapel)

Wednesday, December 28th

Thursday, December 29th

10:00am Card Games (McEwan Campus-Basement)
6:30pm Choir Practice (McEwan Campus-Church)
7:30pm Nar Anon (Rosary Hall)

Friday, December 30th

9:00am SVDP Forgotten Harvest Produce (McEwan Campus)
3:00pm Divine Mercy Hour (Rosary Chapel)
6:30pm Confessions (Rosary Chapel)
7:00pm Apostolate of Fatima Mass & Rosary (Rosary Chapel)

Saturday, December 31st-NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:00am SVDP-Meeting/Home Visits (McEwan Campus-Basement)
5:00pm Mass (McEwan Campus-Church)

Sunday, January 1st-NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am Mass (McEwan Campus-Church)
11:00am Mass (McEwan Campus-Church)
2:00pm Latin Mass (McEwan Campus-Church)
7:30pm Mass (McEwan Campus-Church)

A Lifeline for Marriage – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way.

For confidential information about or to register for the February program call 1-800-705-6356 or email: 1015@retrouvaille.org or visit the web site at www.retrouvaillewindsor.com or facebook.com/retrouvaillewindsor/esssexcounty



**THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FROM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 2016
AND WILL REOPEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2017**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



HOUR OF POWER

Will start back up on
Thursday, January 12th, 2017
7:30pm to 8:30pm in Rosary Chapel
Every other Thursday Evening.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



MERRY CHRISTMAS
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Sunday Collection

PLEASE NOTE: SUNDAY COLLECTIONS WILL NOT BE RECORDED IN THE BULLETIN FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, DUE TO PUBLICATION DEADLINES. THEY WILL BE PUT IN THE BULLETIN IN 2017.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 26th

NO MASS-CHAPEL IS CLOSED TODAY

8:00am

Tuesday, December 27th

8:00am †Carlo Dal Bello by his Wife & Children
†Nikac Prena by the Family
†Illene Rafael by the Family

12:10pm

NO MASS TODAY

Wednesday, December 28th

8:00am †Maria DeRubeis by latonna Michelina
†Helen Janisse 10th Anniversary by the Family
†Fred & Margaret Pierce by the Family

5:00pm

NO MASS TODAY

Thursday, December 29th

8:00am †Fiore, Irene & Quaglia Family by Dilia Tesolin
†Lucy DiLuca by her Parents

12:10pm

NO MASS TODAY

Friday, December 30th

8:00am †Valent Scicluna by Joseph & Kenya Spiteri
†Lucy DiLuca by her Parents

Saturday, December 31st—McEwan Campus

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00pm For the Intentions of the Assumption Parish Parishioners

Sunday, January 1st—McEwan Campus

NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am For the intentions of the Assumption Parish Parishioners
11:00am For the intentions of the Assumption Parish Parishioners
7:30pm For the intentions of the Assumption Parish Parishioners

Sanctuary Light Memorial

For the week of December 25th

Rosary Chapel

†For the Deceased Members of the Conn & Carruther Families

Assumption Parish-McEwan Campus

†Suzanne Silva by Nina Furtado



Christmas in Heaven – Candlelight Prayer Service for those grieving the loss of a loved one during this Christmas season.
Wednesday, December 28th, 2016,
At 7:00pm

St. Francis Mausoleum
Heavenly Rest Cemetery

Presider: Fr. Chris Bourdeau

Music: Songbird

Pastoral Minister: Mary Heath

Candles are provided.

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Mass for the Deceased in Resurrection Mausoleum
Heavenly Rest Cemetery

Tuesday, January 3th, 2017

4:30pm

All those grieving the loss of a loved one are welcome.

Presider: Fr. Gary Goyeau

The Pope's prayer intentions for December

Universal: End to Child-Soldiers

That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization: Europe

That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

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