

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST-GANANOQUE  
ST. PHILOMENA - HOWE ISLAND  
Roman Catholic Church**

**Pastor: Fr. Christian Ifezue**

270 Stone Street S., Gananoque, Ontario K7G 2A1 Office: 613.382.2017  
Email: [stjohnstphil@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnstphil@gmail.com) Fax: 613.382.5002 Website: [stjohnsgananoque.ca](http://stjohnsgananoque.ca)

Parish Secretary: Anne Marie Young  
Tuesday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



*May the Blessings of this  
Holy Season be with you Always.*

**The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
**January 1, 2023**



**New Year's - The Solemnity of Mary,  
The Holy Mother of God**

Saturday, December 31  
5:00 p.m. - For the People  
Sunday, January 1  
10:30 a.m. - For the People

**St. Philomena**

Saturday, December 31  
7:30 p.m. - For the People

**WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST. JOHN'S**

Weekday masses will not be said during the month of January and the first two weeks of February. Father Christian will be away. Please pray for his safe travel and safe return.

**January 8 - The Epiphany of the Lord**

**St. John**

Saturday, January 7  
5:00 p.m. - † Basil Brosso

Sunday, January 8  
10:30 a.m.- † Anna & Hugh McGlade

**St. Philomena**

Sunday, January 8  
7:30 p.m. - For the People

While Father Christian is away Father Louis DiRocco is coming to say weekend Masses at both St. John's and St. Philomena. Thank you Father and welcome!

*May you shine the Light of Christ  
in the New Year*

**READINGS FOR January 8, 2023**

**First Reading:** Isaiah  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 72.1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6  
**Gospel:** Matthew 2.1-12

**St. Mary's Drop-In Centre Looking for Volunteers**

260 Brock St., Kingston. Volunteer your time to help one of our teams: We need your help with staffing shifts, collecting/organizing donations, working at our Community Garden, and fundraising. Our guests regard the church as a safe haven and we continually hear that our loving volunteers make all the difference. We strive to see Jesus in all those who come through our doors (Mt 25:40). We are always in need of more volunteers, particularly to staff the shifts at the Drop-In Centre and to provide pastoral care to our guests. To volunteer, please get in touch with Paty Velazquez, Coordinator. Email: paty@stmaryscathedral.ca; Phone: (613) 546-5521

Dear Friends, you will notice that the bulletin, for a few weeks, is reporting the financial information late or not at all. This is due to the fact our publisher required that several bulletins to be completed ahead of the regular schedule; to accommodate Christmas timelines for their vacation. We will catch up in the new year! Thank you for your understanding.

	<b>Weekly Contributions: Dec 18/22</b>	
<b>Thank you!</b>	<b>St. John</b>	<b>St. Philomena</b>
<b>Regular Offering:</b>	<b>\$1,599.00</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>
<b>Priest Retirement</b>		<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$66.30</b>	
<b>Fuel</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>\$475.00</b>	
<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>EFT</b>	<b>\$5,115.35</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>

**Ministry Schedules:**

<b>St. John</b>	<b>January 7</b>	<b>January 8</b>
<b>Rosary:</b>		
<b>Greeters/Ushers:</b>	Mary Haeler	Gerry Brosso
<b>Lector:</b>	Maureen Dier	Mary Elizabeth MacDonald
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Ann O'Neil	Mary Elizabeth MacDonald
<b>St. Philomena</b>	<b>December 31</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>		TBA
<b>Holy Communion:</b>		Fr.



**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1st. It is a holy day of obligation for Catholics, meaning that Mass attendance is required; unless authorized otherwise by the Archbishop (example pandemic).

The use of the word “Solemnity” here is a designation used for certain days within the liturgical (church-based) calendar of the Church. Solemnities are the highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary’s motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her part in the life of Jesus, and emphasizes that He is both human and divine.

Mary can be properly called “Mother of God,” not in the sense that she came before God or is the source of God, but in the sense that the Person that she bore in her womb is indeed true God and true man.

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. It is fitting to honour Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ.

When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honouring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honouring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human.

Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honour we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honours Mary as the "Queen of Peace."

Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus* (1974), called the Solemnity of Mary “a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (cf. Lk 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace.”



There are still 2022-2023 missals available for a donation of \$5.00 and can be found at the back of the church. Thank you.



**The Pope’s Intention for January: For Educators**

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who helped with the many preparations required for our special celebration of Christmas: the servers and lectors, the decorations and flowers, the music!

I would also like to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts, cards and prayers generously given to me here at St. John’s and St. Philomena.

May the peace, joy and love of Christ reign in your hearts now and in the coming year 2023.

Father Christian

Church Donation envelopes are here! You can find them at the back of the church, please pick yours up. If you don’t see one for you, or there is a mistake please call the office to advise, it will be rectified the following weekend.



Thank you for your patience.



**Catholic Women’s League Meeting**

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the sacristy at St. John Parish. Everyone Welcome!



**FOR THE WEEK OF  
December 30 - January 6  
Thankfulness for Blessings Received**



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