

# **Holy Spirit Catholic Parish A Welcoming Community**

**1489 Shea Road, Stittsville, ON K2S 0G8**

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## **PASTORAL TEAM**

Father Geoffrey Kerslake, Pastor, [pastor@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:pastor@holyspiritparish.ca)  
Alex Ducharme, Youth/Sacramental Coordinator, [youth@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:youth@holyspiritparish.ca)  
Tamara Fortin, Administrative Assistant, [admin@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:admin@holyspiritparish.ca)

*prepare the way...*



# **ADVENT**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Dec 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent



Isaiah 7.10-14  
Romans 1.1-7  
Matthew 1.18-24

### Dec 25 – Nativity of the Lord



Isaiah 52.7-10  
Hebrews 1.1-6  
John 1.1-18

### Dec 28 - Feast of the Holy Family



Sirach 3.2-6,12-14  
Colossians 3.12-21  
Matthew 2.13-15,19-23

#### Parish Calendar

**Mon, Dec 22**  
**Tue, Dec 23**  
    **9:00 am**   **Mass**  
**Wed, Dec 24**  
    **4:30 pm**   **Mass**  
    **7:00 pm**   **Mass**  
    **9:00 pm**   **Mass**  
**Thu, Dec 25**   **Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**  
    **10:00 am**   **Mass**  
**Fri, Dec 26**    St. Stephen  
    **9:00 am**   **Mass**  
**Sat, Dec 27**    St. John  
    4:15-4:45 pm   Reconciliation  
    **5:00 pm**   **Mass**  
    6:00 pm   Holy Land Art Sale  
**Sun, Dec 28**    **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**  
    **9:00 am**   **Mass**  
    10:00 am   Holy Land Art Sale after both Masses  
    **11:00 am**   **Mass**

\*Confession available before morning Mass 8:30-8:50am

*Please note: The Parish Office will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am.*

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Masses** - First Come-First Seated. Parishioners will be seated by ushers. Please, no seat saving. Doors open one hour before Mass.

Wed, Dec 24 at 4:30 pm, 7 pm & 9 pm

Thu, Dec 25 at 10 am

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Sat, Dec 27 at 5 pm

Sun, Dec 28 at 9 & 11 am

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Wed, Dec 31 at 5 pm

Thu, Jan 1 at 10 am



**St. Teresa of Kolkata:** "My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heart full of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ."

**Pre-Christmas Humour:** As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

Donate to our Parish  
or Youth Ministry



#### Mass Intentions

**Tue, Dec 23 – 9:00 am**

Intentions of Warren Bahen

**Wed, Dec 24 – 4:30 pm**

†Ben & †Blair Sauve by Marcel

†Betty (G. G.) Stringer by Family

**Wed, Dec 24 – 7:00 pm**

Deceased Parents & Relatives of Rachel & Fred Palubskie

**Wed, Dec 24 – 9:00 pm**

For the intentions of all parishioners

**Thu, Dec 25 – 10:00 am**

†Margaret, †Jack, †Rita & †Paul Droogh by McCaffrey Family

†Hugh Carroll by Carol & Family

†Phil Rocco by Grace

†Jean & †Joe Kennedy by Family

†Alphonsus Dwyer, †Norman Glover & †Lisa McGrath by Alice Dwyer & Family

**Fri, Dec 26 – 9:00 am**

Intentions of O'Hara Family

**Sat, Dec 27 – 5:00 pm**

†Carias Hotte by Michel

†Carlos Pinto by James Riordan

Intentions of Anita Ormos by Marion & Patricia

Intentions of Jolan Matusik by Marion & Patricia

†Rajadurai Manmathan by Rita

**Sun, Dec 28 – 9:00 am**

For living & deceased members of the Catholic Women's League

†Phil Rocco by Mary Jeffrey

For poor souls in purgatory by Suzanne O'Hara

Deceased family members of Eileen Garvey

†Gerry Payer by Jacques & Jeannie

†Connie O'Brien by David O'Brien & Family

**Sun, Dec 28 – 11:00 am**

For the intentions of all parishioners

**Please pray for those who are sick:**

**Please pray for those who have died:**

†Indicates Deceased.

**Support Christians in the Holy Land Through Craft Sale:**

after weekend Masses on December 27 and 28, we will have representatives of families from the Holy Land who make olive wood religious articles to support themselves. Christians are a tiny minority in the Holy Land and their population is shrinking due to instability, lack of jobs and opportunities. Making articles from olive wood from trees in the Holy Land is a major source of work (along with tourism) for Christians living in the land of Jesus. Please come out and see some lovely crafted goods that would make a lovely present for First Communion, Confirmation, birthday or (next Christmas!) gifts.

For e-Transfer please send it to [admin@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:admin@holyspiritparish.ca) and use the password: Holyspirit (all one word with a capital H).



**Reflection:** The scripture from the Book of Isaiah today foretells the circumstances of Christ's birth in clear language: "the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall call him Emmanuel." The title "Emmanuel" means "God with us." The point of the birth of Jesus Christ is that God has come to us, to be with us, to deliver his people from sin and death. It is something quite extraordinary to think that God would choose to enter into his own creation and to do it in so ordinary a manner: he came to us as a little child. Isn't it an amazing experience to hold a tiny infant in your arms? Think about what it means that God came to us as an infant the next time you get to hold a newborn baby. Imagine for a moment what it means that God would put himself in the arms of Mary and Joseph, in a stable: God being cared for in humble circumstances by his creations.

Fr. Geoff

We are in the process of preparing our system to generate CHARITABLE RECEIPTS for 2025. If you have made an address change in the past year, please contact the Parish Office so that we can update our records. We wish to remind our supporters that if you wish to receive credit for contributions in 2025, donations must be received **and deposited** on or before the end of 2025. Revenue Canada does not permit charitable organizations to backdate receipts, and we are bound by that regulation. So please have your year-end donations in by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025**, and your e-transfer donations in by December 23, 2025 before 3PM, or your donations must be calculated as donations for 2026.



**"Return" – A Discussion Series on Bringing Catholics Back to the Church** Have you ever wondered how to help friends, children, or other loved ones reconnect with their Catholic faith? Join us for "Return," a five-part discussion series offering guidance, support, and practical tools for reaching out to those who have drifted away from the faith. The discussion will draw on Brandon Vogt's book *Return: How to draw your child back to the Church*. **When:** Immediately following the 9:00am Mass for one hour in the Conference Room on Sundays, Jan 11 & 25, Feb 8 & 22, and Mar 8. Let's come together as a parish family to learn, pray, and grow in our mission to welcome others home. All are welcome to join any or all of the sessions!

#### CHRISTMAS DÉCOR & RESOURCES

If you would like to donate toward the decorations & resources in celebration of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, in memorial or in thanksgiving, please complete this form and put it, along with your cheque made payable to Holy Spirit Parish, in an envelope marked *Christmas Décor & Resources* and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office. All names will be printed in our bulletin in the new year.

**(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Name of person(s) or intention: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person making the donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. (613) \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount (circle one): \$25 \$50 \$100 or \_\_\_\_\_

#### Christmas Mass Schedule:

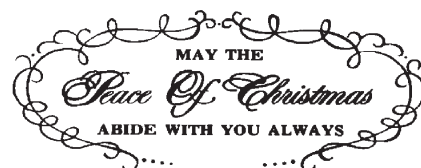
You may have noticed that in the past, the first Mass of Christmas Eve at 4:30 pm is very crowded. We are blessed to welcome many visitors for Christmas and are glad they can join us! Many are visiting family and friends and our hospitality is an important sign of God's welcome. If large crowds are a little intimidating, you may wish to consider attending the 10am Christmas Day, or the 7 or 9pm Mass Christmas Eve. The 9pm Christmas Eve Mass will have a more contemporary Christmas music sound (but with the hymns we know and appreciate) - if you have older teens or young adults in your family, you might consider coming to this Mass. One note: unfortunately, we can't "save seats" for family arriving later because of the need to seat people up to our legal maximum capacity and the only way to fairly do that is for a person to be physically present in the pew.

#### Christmas:

**St. Thérèse of Lisieux:** "A God who became so small could only be mercy and love."

**Merry Christmas!** What is the meaning of Christmas? In the Gospel of John, we learn an amazing answer: the marvellous exchange. You might be wondering what does that expression, "the marvellous exchange", mean? Does it have something to do with taking back the gift I don't like on Boxing Day to swap it for something I like better? In fact, it relates to the words in St. John's Gospel: "the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us." Jesus is God's Word - in his person he is not only the messenger of God's merciful, redeeming love, he is also the message himself. The expression he "dwelt amongst us" is a paraphrase. The literal meaning is God "pitched his tent" amongst us. God came down from heaven to be with us, to live amongst us. More than that, he came to share the human condition in every way but sin. He "humbled himself to share in our humanity." What makes Christianity unique amongst all other religions is that the Creator chose to enter into his own creation, lowering himself to share in the condition of his creation. God became human so that we might become more like God: this is the marvellous exchange. God joins in our humanity so that in Christ we might have a share in his divinity. Merry Christmas! Fr. Geoff

**Thank You** A big thank you to the staff, all the volunteers, and parishioners who contributed to making our Christmas Masses so special! Whether it was decorating the church, having extra choir practices, cleaning up between Masses or serving as a Lector, Server, Usher, Sacristan, Choir Member, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or any number of small, hidden forms of assistance, it was a Holy Spirit parish family combined effort - thank you and may God bless your family! Fr. Geoff





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