

# The Third Sunday of Advent

## Masses this Week

### Tuesday, December 13 - St. Lucy

5:00 p.m. + Norberto & Odilia Branco - *Maria Branco*  
 + José U. Moura - *Maria Moura*  
 + Maria Tavares - *Maria DaCosta*  
 + Betty Bolger - *Stan & Marjorie Bolger*

### Wednesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

8:00 a.m. + Manuel & Maria Chaves - *Maria Sousa*

### Thursday, December 15

5:00 p.m. + Lorne Cooper - *Madeline & Family*

### Friday, December 16

8:00 a.m. + Joe Brasil & Family - *Fernanda Brasil*

### Saturday, December 17

5:00 p.m. - Sung Mass  
 + Brian & Bruce Shannon - *Brigitte & Audrey Shannon*  
 + José & Filomena Resendes - *Maria L. Chaves*  
 + Luiza DaCosta - *John & Maria DaCosta*  
 + David Borges - *The Borges & Vicente Families*  
 + Patrick Reidy - *Cindy & Mike*

### Sunday, December 18 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. - Said Mass at the Altar of Our Lady  
 9:00 a.m. - Sung Mass + José Goulart - *Maria Goulart*  
 11:00 a.m. - Sung Mass

## This Week In Our Parish

### Tuesday, December 13

5:30 p.m. - Holy Spirit Prayer Community (Church)  
 6:00 p.m. - C.W.L. Potluck (Parish Hall)

### Thursday, December 15

9:00 a.m. - Advent Marian Celebration (Christ the King School)  
 10:00 a.m. - Advent Marian Celebration (St. Peter School)

### Saturday, December 17

10:00 a.m. - Baptism Preparation (Church)  
 4 - 4:30 p.m. - Confessions (Church)

### Sunday, December 18

12:15 p.m. - Baptisms (Church)

## Preparing For Next Week

Isaiah 7: 11 - 14 ; Psalm 24;  
 Romans 1: 1 - 7; Matthew 1: 18 - 24

## Offertory

Envelope Contributions Last Week	\$4,278.30
Loose Collection	\$ 520.15
Total Collection - Thank you	\$4,798.45

## Liturgical Ministers - December 17 & 18

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Greeters</b>	D. Dal Bello <i>Vol. Needed</i>	P. O'Donnell B. Sousa	S. Bolger M. Bertoni
<b>Lectors L1</b>	P. Cooper	D. Fitzgerald	C. Terpstra
<b>L2</b>	B. Miller	C. Parry	L. Jenkins
<b>Communion</b>	H. Nearing T. Nearing	S. Braga A. Sousa	H. France R. France

If you are visiting today,



## St. Patrick's Parish welcomes you.

Please take your bulletins home with you. We request that you do not leave bulletins and other items in the pews. Many thanks.



## C.W.L. Christmas Potluck Dinner

All ladies of the parish are invited to the C.W.L. Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Tuesday, December 13th**. Please bring your place setting, a favourite dish to share and a wrapped bunko prize. Join the ladies at the 5:00 p.m. Mass; dinner will follow in the parish hall. A collection will be taken for Haven House. It would be appreciated if you could bring along the 2017 CWL dues of \$20.

## Christmas Flower Donations

Donations are invited towards the flowers that will decorate our church and sanctuary during the Christmas season. Special envelopes are available at all three church doors. Donations may be placed in the collection basket during the weekend Masses. All donations must be received by **Sunday, December 18th** in order that a list of memorial and thank offerings may be included in the Christmas bulletin.



## 2017 Offering Envelopes

2017 offering envelopes are now available in the parish hall for pick up. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please complete a parish registration form. You may also choose the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) donation option. EFT forms are located in the narthex of the church.

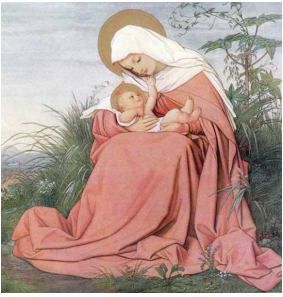
## Christmas Choir

All parishioners are invited to join the Parish Choir for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses at St. Patrick Church. There will be one rehearsal on **Wednesday, December 14th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome. For more information, call Pauline Ronzio at 519-622-4949.

**Please note that there will be no adoration or Benediction on Friday, December 16th.**

## Diocesan Prayer Calendar

Mon., Dec 12	Rev. Mariusz Durbajlo
Tues., Dec 13	Rev. Michael Downey
Wed., Dec 14	Benedictines
Thurs., Dec 15	Rev. Drago Gacnik, S.D.B.
Fri., Dec 16	Rev. Allen Varlaki
Sat., Dec 17	Rev. Peter Ciallella, C.S.



## Gaudete Sunday

On the third Sunday of Advent, the penitential purple of the season changes to rose and we celebrate “Gaudete” or “Rejoice” Sunday. *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week

comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Our celebration of the coming of our Saviour into history is opening us up to experience his coming to us this year, and preparing us to await his coming in glory.

## St. Patrick's Parish Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve - Saturday, Dec. 24th

5:00 pm (preceded by the Nativity play)

7:00 pm

10:00 pm (Incense will be used)

### Christmas Day - Sunday, Dec. 25th

10:00 am - *only* (Incense will be used)



## Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide - Did You Know?

The Government of Canada passed legislation in June 2016, legalizing euthanasia/assisted suicide. Despite wording intended to protect doctors and facilities, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is forcing health care workers to arrange for the killing of their patients. No other country does this. Provinces across Canada do not do this. Yet, Ontario refuses to protect doctors who object to ending the life of their patients. Please visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more and write directly to your elected Member of Provincial Parliament.

## Using the Door by the Choir

*The weather outside is frightful...* In consideration of our musicians and choir, please do not exit by the choir door if you are leaving mass before the end of the final hymn. Should you find it necessary to leave the church before the final hymn has concluded, please exit through the main doors of the church. Thank you.



## Abstaining from Meat on Fridays

It is a traditional doctrine of Christian spirituality that a constituent part of repentance, of turning away from sin and back to God, includes some form of penance, without which the Christian is unlikely to remain on the narrow path and be saved (Jer 18:11, 25:5; Ez 18:30, 33:11-15; Joel 2:12; Mt 3:2; Mt 4:17; Acts 2:38). Christ Himself said that His disciples would fast once He had departed (Lk 5:35). The general law of penance, therefore, is part of the law of God for man.

The Church for her part has specified certain forms of penance, both to ensure that the Catholic will do something, as required by divine law, while making it easy for Catholics to fulfill the obligation.

Thus, the 1983 Code of Canon Law specifies the obligations of Latin Rite Catholics:

**Canon 1250** All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.

**Canon 1251** *Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless (nisi) they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Canon 1252** All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevertheless, pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

Therefore, the law of abstinence requires a Catholic 14 years of age until death to abstain from eating meat on Fridays in honour of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products such as margarine and gelatin which do not have any meat taste.

On the Fridays outside of Lent the Canadian bishop's conference obtained the permission of the Holy See for *Catholics in Canada to substitute a penitential, or even a charitable, practice of their own choosing. They must do some special penitential/charitable practice on these Fridays. (In truth, very few people undertake this conscientiously). For most people, the easiest practice to consistently fulfill will be the traditional one – to abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year. During Lent abstinence from meat on Fridays is obligatory.* Taken from an answer by Colin B. Donovan, STL.

## Hearing The Call To A Vocation To Serve The Church?

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Michael King, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 email at [mking@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mking@hamiltondiocese.com)