

Please pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill. For our parishioners, their families and caregivers, including: Marilyn Hawkins, Theresa Rock, Ann and Lorraine Leduc, Andrea DeMeo, Neil McCarthy, Sheila Gasnick, Emily Miller, Andrea Redway, Lorraine Leduc, Patrick and Alice Cornwall, Jim and Clare Dashney, Garry MacDonald, Audrey Bazinet, Elaine Lynch, Gus and Molly Fraser, Andrew Thibault, Anne Marie Miller and JoAnn Powell.

Mass Intentions

December 24th - Christmas Eve

6:30PM – For Gennaro DiNardo
Requested by the DiNardo family

10:00PM – For Joseph and John Cornwall
Requested by Muriel Cornwall

December 25th - Christmas

10:30AM – For Joseph and John Cornwall
Requested by Muriel Cornwall

Sunday, December 30th

9:30AM – For Kenneth Kennedy
Requested by Alma Kennedy

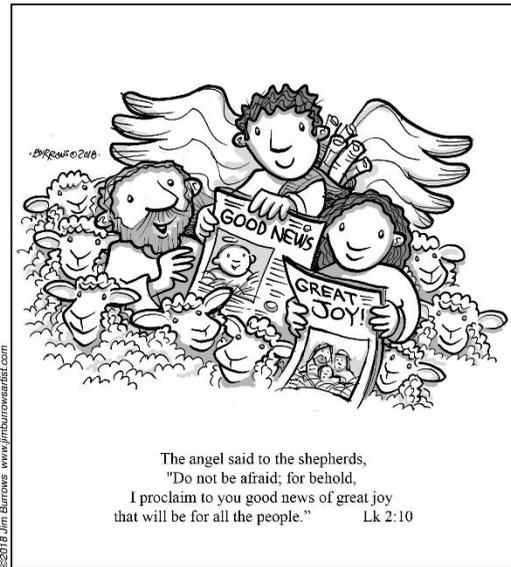
And

9:30AM – for Hilda, Albert and John Greene
Requested by Alma Kennedy

Sunday, January 6th - Epiphany

9:30AM – For Gennaro DiNardo
Requested by Fred and Anne Marie Miller

The Little Ones Jim Burrows



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, **December 24th** to Tuesday, **January 1st** inclusive. The exception is **Monday, December 31st**. The office will be open as normal that day.

NO WEEKDAY MASS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH



HOSPITALITY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 6TH: Please join us in Mary Beattie Hall after Mass today for coffee and some treats on the Solemnity of Epiphany. Take the time to get to know your fellow parishioners. We are a warm and welcoming community and we look forward to getting to know you.

Fr. Pierre's Christmas Message

Next to Easter, Christmas is the second most important feast day on the Christian calendar. Nine months ago (on the feast of the Annunciation), our Blessed Mother Mary said 'yes' to the Archangel Gabriel's message from God, and conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today, our Savior is born in a humble manger, surrounded by poor shepherds and farm animals. Isn't it amazing that the Savior of the world, and conqueror of sin and death, would come to us as a small and innocent child, and first appear to poor people!

During these first moments of our Lord's birth amongst us, the Savior of the Universe wants to show us that he loves us, whether we are rich or poor, and that he wants us to feel disarmed around him. How can we be threatened by a small child, after all?

This year, there has been much darkness in our world. In addition to the rise of terrorist acts around the world, unemployment and natural disasters, we are witnessing the abandonment of Christian morals and values, in exchange for the secular god of moral relativism (the belief that all opinions and value systems are the same and equal).

Yet, in the midst of this darkness, a Savior has been born, and His light has overcome the darkness, and shined upon us. The victory over the powers of darkness has been won through the merits of Our Lord's death and Resurrection from the dead. Yet it's up to each of us to claim this victory for ourselves, by living as children of the light, for the sake of ourselves, our children, and for the common good of society. Therefore, let us pause a moment of the crèche of the infant Savior and make this our pledge to *"let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light!"* (Rm. 13:12)

God bless you, and have a blessed and holy Christmas and Blessed 2019!

Fr. Pierre



Archbishop's Christmas Message 2018

Christmas Day comes soon after the longest night of the year.

It follows that one of the prayers in Advent invites God to let the splendour of His glory dawn in our hearts to scatter the shadows of the night.

Unfortunately, the darkness of these days is not just a seasonal disorder. Anxiety and depression have invaded our culture, particularly among younger people. The scandal of the sexual abuse of minors by priests and its cover-up by bishops has roiled the Catholic Church worldwide. The domestic church—the family—is increasingly stressed by separation, single parenthood, addiction, and shortages of time and money. Youths are less likely to turn to faith for consolation and wisdom.

Yet God remains faithful to us. The celebration of Christmas is an opportunity to meet the God who came to earth to give meaning to life. I encourage you to visit the crèche in your parish and to contemplate the mystery that it reveals.

Adored by shepherds and wise men in Bethlehem, Jesus offered the message he would give later in his ministry, "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11.28).

God is close to you in the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger. All your needs are so near to his heart that he gave himself freely to bear your burdens.

That's the message of Christmas, if you will but give yourself time and quiet to let it touch you.

Merry Christmas!

✠ Terrence Prendergast, SJ
Archbishop of Ottawa