

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – SOME MUSINGS

“With many other exhortations, John proclaimed the good news to the people,”

Many years ago there was a radio programme called “The Rest of the Story.” It was narrated by Paul Harvey in which he took an historic event, or a story we’d come to know, and gave the background and what happened after. I’ve found that by looking into the background of the stories I’ve become accustomed to hearing I can become more aware of the events that surround that story. That’s certainly true of the story of John the Baptist. When I hear the gospel proclaimed at Mass, I usually go home and again read the story that came before and after the events described. I’ve found that doing so enables me to understand a little more fully the events that were going on around that time and to appreciate more fully their impact on my life.

Shortly after baptizing people, proclaiming a baptism of repentance, a return to the covenant relationship, John is imprisoned by Herod and ultimately murdered by him. Did John know the consequences of what he was doing? I have no answer to that question. Whether or not he knew didn’t stop him from doing what he’d been born to do; what he’d been commissioned for from the beginning. What a lesson for us! Each of us is commissioned for some task; given gifts meant to be used for the good of the world. And we’re meant to use them well and wisely. We are baptized to be His messengers; we are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at our Confirmation. These are not empty rituals – these rituals are meant to strengthen us to do His will here so we can live eternally with Him. What a wonder that is!

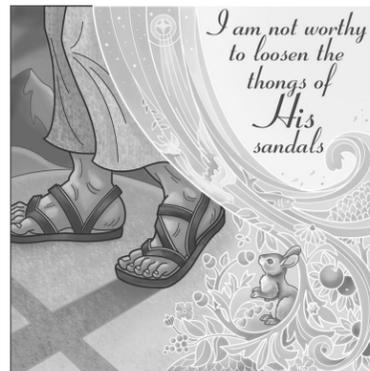
It can be difficult in this modern world to see and appreciate the miracles that God sends us each day. When our task seems overwhelming and burdensome, to carry on in the face of trial and sorrow can be difficult. But that shouldn’t stop us from being the voice in the wilderness. The words “do not fear” “be not afraid” echo through the Scriptures but in the throes of fear and despair it can be hard to believe them. But let’s believe them regardless. John came out of the wilderness to baptize and announce the good news that the Messiah would soon appear. We, too, need to come out of our own wilderness and announce to a weary and worn world that the Son of Man has come and will come again.

I looked out my window the other morning to see the bare, dark trees, frosted with white snow and I was reminded again that there is both good and wicked, light and dark, in our world and what we look for and anticipate will come. When we see only the barren and dark that’s what our lives will reflect; but when we see the white frosting, our hearts are filled with hope and joy and we exude that to those around us.

As we draw closer to Christmas day, we need to take some time and allow the silence to fill us with the joy that birth brings – a joy that ours is a loving God, Who sent His Son to redeem us, to bring us back to the covenant where He is our God and we are His people. As the snow covers the ground, let’s let the peace of Christ come over us, making us a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart for His own. And as we light our Advent candles, let’s allow the light of His love crack the hardness of our hearts and fill them with the hope of His coming in glory.

During these last weeks of Advent let’s rejoice that He loved us so much that He came to be one of us. And let’s cry out with wonder and awe, “Unto to us, a Child was born!” as though it were the very best news we’d ever heard.

Wishing you a week of Advent awakening and many small miracles. Betty Bruch



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DECEMBER 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Church
24 Albert St.
Langton, ON



St. Michael’s Church
978 St. John’s Road
Walsh, ON



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael’s)
Sunday – 10:30 am

Daily Mass

Tues. – 5:00 pm
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

Reconciliation

20 min. prior to weekday mass
Sat. 4-4:45 pm
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael’s)

Mailing address

Box 8, Langton, ON N0E 1G0

Phone: 519-875-4438

E-mail: sacredheartlangton@dol.ca

Fr. Thomas e-mail: tckuriacko@dol.ca

Parish Clergy

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor

Jack Grim, Deacon

Brian Hanley, Deacon

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

Baptisms – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required

Schools – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael’s, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Advent, I offer you my warmest greetings in the Lord. In this busy season, we take time to mark the beginning of a new liturgical year and prepare spiritually for Christmas. The light shining from our Advent candles reminds us that God’s Son was made flesh in order to bring light into a world darkened by sin. We recall our own baptismal mission to spread his light and illuminate every corner of the world. In the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

My hope for you at Christmas is that you will have the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends, as well as with your parish community, to pray, reflect and celebrate together.

When we take a moment to reflect on the families and parishes of our diocese this past year, we thank God for the many blessings we have received. One particular focus has been on our common mission as intentional disciples of Jesus. Earlier this year, I instituted a commission that will serve the parishes, pastoral teams and parishioners who, together, make up the Diocese of London. We are calling the commission “Equipping the Saints for Ministry: The Diocesan Commission for the Families of Parishes.”

At the beginning of the year, two pioneer Families of Parishes were activated: the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes and the Catholic Family of Parishes in Norfolk. They have made a number of changes from which all of us will benefit, as we seek to take up our Gospel mission with new energy and enthusiasm. I thank them for their hard work. In the new year, I plan to announce the next Families that will be activated.

Over the summer, the Church was rocked by the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and the news of terrible scandals of clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by bishops. Our diocese too has been hit hard by these scandals. As your bishop, I have pledged to do all that I can to create a safe environment for our children. Recently, we strengthened the policy which governs how our diocesan personnel and volunteers are to be safely recruited, screened, trained and monitored. This fall, all of our priests, deacons and lay ministers participated in a training workshop on “Called, Gifted & Sent”, the comprehensive manual which explains our policy.

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In September, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted an updated and expanded national guideline for the protection of minors in Canada. This important document is called "Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation." My fellow Bishops asked me to write the Forward for this document. It is available publicly on our diocesan website at www.dol.ca/news/protecting-minors.

In October, the Diocese transferred 18 acres of land to King's University College, at the intersection of Huron and Waterloo Streets, in North London, as well as 15 acres to St. Peter's Seminary, including the seminary building. This transfer of lands will enable us to renew the vision of my predecessors, especially Bishop Michael Fallon, who aimed to create a hub of Catholic learning and formation in Southwestern Ontario. Details of the land sale appear on page three of our diocesan newspaper, *Missio* (Winter 2018 edition).

This year, we said farewell to several priests who ministered in our diocese, including Fr. Richard Dales, Fr. John J. Devine, Fr. Ron Trojcek, Fr. Lawrence J. Mousseau, Rev. Canon Peter Sanczenko and Fr. Albert Williams. We mourned the passing of a significant number of Religious Sisters who served faithfully in many different apostolates. Please keep them and all of the departed in your prayers.

Advent is a time of hope, a time of prayer and of longing and expectation for Christ's coming in glory at the end of time. I invite you to celebrate his birth by joining us in our parishes. On Christmas Day, there will be many people who do not normally attend our weekend Masses. Let us welcome them warmly. Do not be afraid to let Christ's light shine brightly through your acts of kindness and hospitality.

May you have a blessed Christmas, filled with peace and love!

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.

Bishop of London



WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON			
DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Dec 18/18	5:00 pm	• Mr. & Mrs. Jeremiah Dwyne	• Colum Tingle
	6:30 pm	Christmas Concert for OLFS	
Wed Dec 19/18	9:30 am	• Marcel Follens	• Madeline Lammes
	6:30 pm	Christmas Concert for SHS	
Thurs Dec 20/18	4:00 pm <i>Caressant Care</i>	• The deceased Choir members	• Pauline Demeester
Fri Dec 21/18	9:30 am	• Suzanne & Monica Couture • Monica Boyd	• Their mother • Gerarda Maertens

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tues Dec 18/18	6:30 pm	Christmas Concert for OLFS
Wed Dec 19/18	6:30 pm	Christmas Concert for SHS
Wed Jan 2/19	7:00 pm	CWL Walsh Meeting
Mon Jan 7/19	7:30 pm	CWL Langton Meeting
Tues Jan 8/19	8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Langton Meeting
Thurs Jan 10/19	1:45 pm	Epiphany of the Lord for STMS at STMC
Wed Jan 16/19	1:45 pm	Epiphany of the Lord for OLFS at SHC
	7:00 pm	First Reconciliation all 3 schools at SHC
Thurs Jan 17/19	9:30 am	Epiphany of the Lord for SHS at SHC
	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Tues Jan 22/19	7:30 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

WEEKLY OFFERINGS – DEC 8/9

St. Michael's

Regular Envelope	\$ 415.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 82.30
Sub-Total	\$ 507.30

Sacred Heart

Regular Envelope	\$2664.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 25.00
Loose	\$ 827.55
Sub - Total	\$ 3516.55
Total	\$ 4023.85
Operating Goal	\$ 3700.00
Exceeded Goal!!!!	\$ 323.85



SOCKS FOR SOULS 2018

Thanks to all the people that helped fill the Mission box at the back of the church. We collected 292 articles, then divided it up and gave it to Father Al in Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Delhi for their Christmas baskets, for St. Vincent de Paul, Walsh Christmas baskets and also added some socks with the Hats for Kids for the Lion's Club, Langton. Everyone was so grateful that we could help them. Thanks again from the Langton CWL for helping with this project.

ST. MICHAEL'S CWL NEWS

Thank you everyone who came out to your Christmas lunch at the Erie Beach. It was truly enjoyed by all who attended. Santa arrived safely this passed Sunday and the children that were in attendance, enjoyed talking to him. Thank you Santa for coming. If you still receive Christmas cards, please save the stamps for the Diocesan CWL fund raiser. It is always appreciated.



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS DECEMBER 24th

5:00 pm - Christmas Eve School Mass - All 3 Schools (Children's Mass)
10:00 pm - Mass (Sunday Choir)

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 am - Christmas Day Mass at St. Michael's Church
10:30 am - Christmas Day Mass at Sacred Heart Church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31st 5:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart Church

January 1st 8:30 am Mass at St. Michael's Church

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The parish office will be closed from Tuesday December 25, 2018 to Wednesday January 2, 2019. The office will re-open on Thursday January 3, 2019.