

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

THE BIRTH OF JESUS is now imminent. In a few days' time we will be celebrating the memory of that great event. "Have you said 'Yes' yet?" It is a question that the readings of today's Mass are asking each one of us. Probably all our other preparations have been made or we are up to our eyes making them. But have we made the most important preparation of all? Yes to the Father, Yes to Jesus, Yes to all that we will experience in the coming year, Yes to every call that God makes and will make of us? Part of the meaning of Christmas is that by contemplating the experiences of Jesus and Mary, we learn from them how to say an unqualified and unconditional Yes. Because that is where the real joy and happiness of Christmas lies. All the rest is tinsel.

Christmas – December 25, 2018

Luke's gospel narrative is so well remembered because it is a masterpiece. Christ's birth is set on the world stage, within the "Pax Romana" of a mighty empire; and the nation's messianic expectations are fulfilled in Bethlehem, "the town of David". But contrasts soon emerge with these grand settings that fill this dawn of our salvation with gospel overtones, anticipating what is to take place as the Saviour's mission unfolds.

We have another very different masterpiece, in the opening passage of John's gospel. This telling of the same story is the fruit of a long meditation upon the dawning of the world's salvation: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God ... The Word was the true light that enlightens all men and he was coming into the world ... The Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of God.

St. Teresa of Avila:

Christ does not force our will, He only takes what we give Him. But He does not give Himself entirely until He sees that we yield ourselves entirely to Him.

A Prayer written by St. John Paul 11: "Loving Jesus please embrace the sick and the elderly! Move men to lay down their arms and to draw close in a universal embrace of peace! O merciful Jesus, inspire people to tear down the walls created by poverty and unemployment, by ignorance and indifference, by discrimination and intolerance. It is you, O Divine Child of Bethlehem, who save us, freeing us from sin. It is you who are the true and only Saviour..."

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Eucharist is the centre and origin of the life of the Church. Therefore, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our church (Divine Mercy Chapel) is taking place from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. We would like to invite our parishioners to sign up for adoration and dedicate at least one hour a week to be with Jesus and nourish our spiritual life. "If you are passing before a Church, enter to greet our Lord. Could you pass the door of a friend without saying hello?" St. John Vianney

Pre-baptismal Preparation (a one-hour meeting) is required and is available to parents after they register their child for baptism (pick up envelope at back of church on rack). These meetings are friendly gatherings helping parents to learn more how to accompany their children in passing on their faith. If child care is an issue, parents may bring their children. Godparents may attend but their presence is not mandatory.

Lectors: Our lectors can find Sunday's readings following these links as they prepare to proclaim the Word of God during our liturgical celebrations:

<https://www.scsba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SundayReadings.pdf>
<http://www.lectorprep.org>

Mass Intentions

December 24 – December 30, 2018

Monday, December 24: Midnight Mass

Tuesday, December 25: 10:00 a.m.



Merry Christmas

Wednesday, December 26: 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 27: 8:30 a.m.

Friday, December 28: 8:30 a.m.
 +KW Right to Life – KW Right to Life

Saturday, December 29: 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 29: 5:00 p.m.
 +Ludwig Ceh – Theresa Ceh

Sunday, December 30: 10:00 a.m.
 Mass for Members of St. Teresa Parish

Youth Ministry

Advent is a great time to prepare ourselves to make an invitation to the Lord to be born again in our hearts, and to help us journey closer to the Father. Please follow the link to take advantage of Advent resources for youth:
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/uploads/docs/AdventResource2018-YouthMinistry.pdf>

Vocations

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest or religious consecrated man or woman, or deacon to carry the Good News of God's great Love? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, call Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton: 905-528-7988, x2246.

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2018

Monday, December 24 – Rev. Francis Hubilla
 Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day (The Nativity of The Lord)
 Wednesday, December 26 – Franciscan Fathers
 Thursday, December 27 – Rev. Ronald Voisin
 Friday, December 28 – Rev. Duy Van Nguyen
 Saturday, December 29 – Rev. Kevin D'Souza
 Sunday, December 30 – Holy Family Feast Day

Stewardship Report

December 9, 2018	
Sunday Envelopes.....	1,915.00
Loose.....	169.45
Building and Maintenance.....	10.00
Funeral - Forwell.....	150.00
Church Donation – Rabak.....	50.00
Church Donation - Sue's Calorie Club.....	50.00

New Sunday Missals for the New Liturgical year 2018/19 are available for purchase at the back of the church for \$5.

2019 Contribution Envelopes will be at the back of the church this weekend (know your Envelope #, they will be in numerical order).

C.W.L. MEMBERS, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Ladies 16 and over, please renew your membership or join (we would love to have you join us). Membership fee is \$25 and can be put in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office. You can use the special envelope in your envelope box or put in plain envelope marked CWL. Include your name, address, phone number and email. Any questions, please contact Mary Helen Stroeder at 519 570 4375.



Catholic Women's League Warmth and Comfort Project - We have collected 3000 pairs of warm winter socks (brand new!) for the poor, the homeless and for those who live on the street. We are well on our way to making a mountain. Keep up the good work and, again, thank you for your generosity.

St. David Catholic Secondary School - Grade 8 Parent and Student Information Night

Any students who live within the St. David Boundary and are planning to attend Grade 9 in September 2019 are invited on **Thursday, January 10, 2019** from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please come with your parents to visit St. David and see all of the wonderful programs that we offer. Grade 8 students attending public school are also invited with their parents to this information session.

WCDSB -We Are Hiring

We are currently accepting applications for the following opportunities: Occasional Teachers
 Please visit our website for job details and application criteria: www.wcdsb.ca

SVDP Donation Envelopes

Anyone donating to SVDP with their church envelopes in the 2019 envelope box, please make sure to write your name and address on the front if you would like a tax receipt. Thank you for your help.



Euchre Results

Next game night will be **Friday, December 28th.**



Bingo

Matinee at 1 – 3 p.m. on **Saturday, January 19, 2019** at the Charities Bingo Hall, 510 Krug Street, Kitchener.



Items to Collect to Support Charities

Support local charities and organizations by collecting pop tabs, eye glasses, yarn, glass bottles (200 ml or smaller) canning jars, Campbell soup labels, milk bags, candles, religious items (rosaries, books, etc.), books (children and young adults), new and used religious cards, sheets and towels. NO egg cartons or bread tabs please. The drop-off bin is at the back of the Church, outside the Adoration Chapel. For more information call Chris at: 519-745-2819.