



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 18 DECEMBER 2005

**“Here am I, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word.”**

(Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:38)

### Announced mass intentions...

Sat., Dec. 17 5:00PM Mass  
 Sun., Dec. 18 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners  
 9:30AM Mass – Bernice McNamara+  
 Jan-Karl Stunt+  
 Thérèse Boucher+  
 11:15AM Mass – Irene Radanovics+  
 Agnes Nugent+  
 7:30PM Mass – Thérèse May Chartrand+  
 Mon., Dec. 19 12:15PM **NO** Mass  
 Tues., Dec. 20 9:00AM Christmas Mass for Holy Family  
 School – held in the gym  
 12:15PM Mass  
 Wed., Dec. 21 12:15PM Mass  
 Thurs., Dec. 22 12:15PM Mass – Rosa Maria Miquez de Renart+  
 Fri., Dec. 23 12:15PM Mass – Gerta Patry+  
 Sat., Dec. 24 **See Christmas**  
 Sun., Dec. 25 **Schedule**

### Events Calendar

Sat., Dec. 17 9:30AM Prayer Group – Rm. A  
 10:00AM Choir Practice – Church  
 1:00PM Choir Practice – Church  
 4:30PM Rosary – Church  
 Knights of Columbus will be speaking at all the Masses  
 Sun., Dec. 18 9:30AM Children’s Liturgy  
 10:30AM Children’s Choir practice – Rm. A  
 3:00PM Christmas Concert – Church  
 Tues., Dec. 20 7:00PM Finance – Rm. A  
 7:00PM RCIA – Library  
 7:30PM Rosary – Church  
 8:00PM A.A. – Hall  
 Wed., Dec. 21 7:30PM K of C general meeting – Hall  
 7:30PM Choir (7:30) practice – Rm. A  
 Thurs., Dec. 22 6:30PM Christian Meditation – Rm. A  
 7:30PM Choir (11:15) practice – Church  
 Sat., Dec. 24 9:30AM Prayer Group – Rm. A

### We remember in our prayers the sick...

**-our parishioners-** Laurette Allen, Morris Anderson (husband of Joyce), Allan Brooks (husband of Gloria), Helen Charbonneau, Emile Chartrand, Clare Desjardins (husband of Alicia), Suzanne Desjardins (daughter of Leo), Ron Dexter (husband of Diane), Margaret FitzGerald, Marie Claire Grandbois, Gertrude Kennedy, Alice Haughton (wife of Bob), Frank Laturus (husband of Edwina), Sr. Anne Leonard gsic, Reg MacDonald (husband of Joan), Yolanda Miron (mother of Mina), Mary O’Connor (wife of Al), Grace & Bill Reid, Barbara Riggins, Margaret Ross, Ray Valin (husband of Betty), John Whelly

**-relatives-** Andy Besserer (son of Colin & Eileen Besserer), Barbara Burke (mother of Margie Kennedy), Richard Calagoure (brother-in-law of Barbara Riggins), Patricia Esmond (mother of Liz), Guy Gosselin (brother-in-law of Theresa Sarcevich), Anastasia Gorecki (sister of Theresa Sarcevich), Betty Holmes (sister of Edwina Laturus), Vivian Hunt (brother of Beryl Budzinski), Cathy Jirsch (sister of Aileen Halls), Nikhil Jose (nephew of Fr. James), Ayin & Godwin Lee (parents of Robert), Jerry Lorbetskie (brother of Dorothy Daub), Oswald Luke (father-in-law of Robert Lee), Louise MacAdam (daughter-in-law of Helen Castle), Marie Miele (mother of Christine), Jonathan Seepersad (nephew of Robert Lee), Eleanor Spafford (mother of Barb Goski), Paul Sowinski (brother of Theresa Sarcevich)

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### COLLECTION REPORT

~ A Summary of Your Generosity ~

December 11 – \$5,636.70 (env.) / \$ 703.86 (loose)

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### Pastor’s column...

#### MARY—HANDMAID OF GOD

**“I am the handmaid of the Lord,” said Mary. “Let what you have said be done to me.” (Luke 1:38)**

A Protestant clergyman was visiting an orphanage, and the children were each reciting their prayers for him to hear. One little boy who had previously been to a Catholic school, after finishing the Our Father began the Hail Mary. ‘No, no!’ said the clergyman. ‘We don’t want to hear about her—go on to the Creed.’ The little boy did so, but stopped suddenly when he came to the ‘born to the...’ and said: ‘Here she comes again—what shall I do now, sir?’ Indeed we cannot have Jesus without Mary.

**TO ALL MINISTRIES:** To show our appreciation for your valuable contributions to Holy Cross Parish throughout the year, we would like to invite you and the members of your ministry to an **APPRECIATION GATHERING** on **Tuesday, December 27 in the parish hall between 2 and 5 p.m.** We are looking forward to seeing you there!!

Fr. James & Fr. Lukose

### Parish and Community Life...

**CONCERT AT HOLY CROSS PARISH!** Attention dear parishioners! The Holy Cross Choir together with the Resurrection Parish and Holy Family School cordially invite you to a **CONCERT** featuring the music of Advent and Christmas on **Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.** Come and get in to the spirit of the season with your family and friends! Admission is free; however, a free-will offering will be accepted.

## PASTORAL CARE

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW are unable to get to Church and do not have internet access in order to download the Sunday Bulletin, one of our team members, Teresa McCall would be pleased to mail it to you. Please call her at 521-1245.

OUR TRAINED PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS & OUR PRIESTS are available to visit parishioners who are bereaved, sick, hospitalized or housebound. Please contact Betty Dillon at 521-2887 or the Parish office at 731-7834.

## **Social Action...**

### MISSION, PEACE, AND DEVELOPMENT

A number of parishioners have helped our AIDS Angels project in the past by making donations of wired ribbon to be used in the crafting of angels. Even small pieces such as that found on gift wrapping can be used. The ribbon should be placed under the MPD table at the back of the church.

We also collect used books for re-sale in order to offset the cost of materials so that every penny of the \$5 we receive from the sale of each Angel will go to southern Africa. For larger donations of books, we can arrange for pick up at your place. Please contact Peter Tobin at 526-0402 or at [AfricanAIDSAngels@magma.ca](mailto:AfricanAIDSAngels@magma.ca).

## **Other items of interest...**

VIGIL OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: La Pieta Prayer Group invites you to an evening of Praise and Worship at St. Maurice Church on Saturday, December 31. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 - 11:15 p.m., candlelight Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Mass at 11:30 p.m., presided by Fr. Roger Vandenakker, CC. Everyone is welcome!

HOMELANDS MASS: Archbishop Marcel Gervais is pleased to invite everyone to the annual Homelands Mass, on Sunday, January 15, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. at Notre Dame Cathedral. The Homelands Mass celebrates our cultural diversity both here in Canada and in the Church and it recognizes the many contributions of all those among us who have come here from foreign lands. Please plan to attend!

HERON EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, January 09 at 7:15 p.m. in the Ridgemont Room of the Heron Road Multi-Center, 1480 Heron Rd.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION WORKSHOP: Open to parish baptismal teams and to all those interested in parish baptismal preparations. Same session repeated as follows: West End: Saturday, January 28, 9 a.m. registration, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon held at Holy Redeemer Parish, 44 Rothesay Dr. East End: Saturday, February 04, 9 a.m. registration, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon held at Good Shepherd Parish, 3092 Innes Rd. Cost: \$10/person or \$25 for 3 or more from a parish. To registration call Annmarie at 738-5025 ext. 217 or [abrown@ecclesia-ottawa.org](mailto:abrown@ecclesia-ottawa.org) by January 24.

F.A.C.E.S. for Catholic Singles—F. A. C. E. S. means Friendly, Active, Catholic, exclusively for Singles and is an organization serving all single Catholics in the National Capital Region. On Saturday, December 31—New Year's Eve Party: We're joining other singles groups from 8 p.m. at the Montgomery Branch, Canadian Legion at 330 Kent St.

We'll have a couple of tables reserved for FACES. Join us and 150 other singles for a DJ and food at 10:30 p.m. Cost: \$25/each. Cheques can be made payable to John Brennan, and mail to 768 Wingate Dr., Ottawa ON K1G 1S3 (indicate that you are with the FACES group). For additional information please call John at 521-2658 or [good\\_company@sympatico.ca](mailto:good_company@sympatico.ca). On Friday, January 13, FACES is going to an Eddie May Murder Mystery Dinner evening, a fundraiser for the Kanata Youth Centre. The production, dubbed "Southern Discomfort", will be staged at the Lone Star Ranch, beginning at 7 p.m. Cost: \$60 and a tax receipt will be given for \$30. For more information or to reserve, email reservation requests to [vern@sympatico.ca](mailto:vern@sympatico.ca) with the subject line, "Southern Discomfort". Please include full name and phone number(s) or call 270-8009.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Poinsettia—the Mexican “*Flower of the Holy Night*”**

Dr. Joel Poinsett was U.S. ambassador to Mexico in the early 1800s. In 1829 when he returned home, he brought with him a plant called by the Mexicans the “flower of the Holy Night.” We call it the poinsettia, after Joel, and use it as a favourite Christmas plant.

It has a fabled origin: Long ago, on Christmas Eve, a poor child made his way to church in great sadness because he had no gift to offer the Christ child. Not daring to enter the church, he knelt humbly on the ground outside and prayed, tearfully telling the Lord of his great desire to offer a gift. Unwilling to approach with empty hands, he finally rose only to behold springing up at his feet a plant with dazzling red, spectacular blooms. This was the answer to his prayers. These blossoms he took to the feet of the Christ child.

Since then, the “flower of the Holy Night” spread through the whole country, blooming each year at Christmas with such glorious abandon that the very sight of it fills believers with the spirit of this season of the savior's birth.

(The Catholic Source Book)

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## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

### **Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Mass

6:00 p.m. Mass

8:00 p.m. Mass

10:00 p.m. Mass

Midnight Mass

### **Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25**

11:15 a.m. Mass

**NO** 7:30 p.m. Mass

### **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Saturday, December 31**

5:00 p.m. Mass

### **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, January 01**

9:30 a.m. Mass

11:15 a.m. Mass

**NO** 7:30 p.m. Mass

**NOTE:** Christmas and New Years (Solemnity of Mary) are Holy Days of Obligation in Canada.

The office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, December 26.

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