



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT –
CHRISTMAS – HOLY FAMILY – EPIPHANY 2009**

**“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb...
Let us go to Bethlehem...they went with haste and found
Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.”**



Announced Mass Intentions...

Sat., Dec., 19 5:00PM Mass – Len Kennedy+
Dennis Prendergast+
Leo & Odette MacKinnon+

Sun., Dec. 20 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8:00AM Mass – Valerie Goldsmith+
9:30AM Mass – Huguette Landreville+
Leo & Odette MacKinnon+
11:15AM Mass – Kitty & Stan Curtis+
Agnes & Bill Nugent+
7:30PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners

Mon., Dec. 21 12:15PM **NO Mass**

Tues., Dec. 22 9:30AM Mass – Michael O’Connell (Ivg)

Wed., Dec. 23 12:15PM Mass – Gerta Patry+

Thurs., Dec. 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4:00PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
6:00PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
8:00PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
11:00PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners

Fri., Dec. 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
9:30AM Mass
11:15AM Mass – Camile Rehel+
Kevin & Raymond Sweeney+
Souls in Purgatory

Sat., Dec. 26 5:00PM Mass – Robert Lee+
Souls in Purgatory

Sun., Dec. 27 **HOLY FAMILY**
8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
9:30AM Mass – Ashley Hibbard+
Gerta Patry+
Bill Long+
11:15AM Mass – Souls in Purgatory
7:30PM Mass – Terry MacDonald+

Mon., Dec. 28 12:15PM **NO Mass**

Tues., Dec. 29 9:30AM Mass – Edwardson Family (Ivg)

Wed., Dec. 30 12:15PM Mass – Irene Turner+

Thurs., Dec. 31 **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**
7:00PM **SILENT ADORATION**
7:30PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners

Fri., Jan. 01 **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**
9:30AM Mass
11:15AM Mass – Souls in Purgatory

Sat., Jan. 02 5:00PM Mass

Sun., Jan. 03 **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
8:00AM Mass
9:30AM Mass – Patry & Costanza Fam+
11:15AM Mass – Gerard & Angelina Forgues+

Sun., Jan. 03 11:15AM Souls in Purgatory
7:30PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners

Events Calendar

Sun., Dec., 20 9:30AM Children’s Liturgy
10:30AM Children’s Pageant practice
10:30AM **Youth Event** – talk on **“The Busy
Young Catholic’s Guide to Organizing Your Spiritual Life”**

Mon., Dec. 21 7:00PM RCIA – Rm. A

Tues., Dec. 22 7:00PM Baptismal Preparation – Rm. A
8:00PM A.A. – Hall

Sat., Dec. 26 9:30AM Prayer Group – Rm. A
4:30PM Rosary – Church

Sun., Dec. 27 12:15PM Baptisms – Church

We remember in our prayers the sick...

-our parishioners- Laurette Allen, Elena Argumedo, Colleen Bonnah, Vivian Braganza, Barbara Cullinan, Betty Hubbard, Betty Hurst, Patricia Joseph, Edwina Laternus, Romeo Maione, Mabel McFarlane, Yolanda Miron, Margaret Ross, Lizzy Ann Spencer, Ray & Betty Valin

-relatives- Tillie Andruchow (mother of Jean Ryan), Fr. Bob Bedard, Mary Beggan (sister of Anne Cooper), Arlene Belot (sister of Jay Lukenbill), Stephanie Charlebois (daughter of Lorna & Alvin Mahoney), Monica Desjardin (daughter of Leo), Len Desmarias (brother-in-law of Mary Simms), John Sr. & Margaret Dorner (parents of John), Keith Esmond (father of Liz), Estelle Freed (daughter of Helen Dick), Carl Gibbons (brother of Jo Kearns & Viola Duggan), Fay Hunt (sister-in-law of Beryl Budzinski), Cathy Jirsch (sister of Aileen Halls), Jessie Kennedy, Sarah Laternus (granddaughter of Frank & Edwina), Marie Miele (mother of Christine), Lisa Nancarrow (daughter of Janet & Robin), Albert Ozorio (father of Rui), Donald Pajot (brother of Marc), Ted Vullings (father of Gerry)

WE ALSO PRAY for our RCIA Candidates: Anthonia Bejide, Patricia Bejide, Brent Burbridge, Lee Do and Holly Nicks

Pastor’s Column...

CHRISTMAS 2009



I don’t know if there is anything more defenceless than a tiny newborn. It is totally dependent on others for every need. A newborn child is the perfect image of vulnerability. How amazing it is then, that God should choose to come to us as a helpless infant born into the humblest of circumstances. But why would God do such a thing? Because God loves us...beyond reason...beyond imagining...because God does not want merely to exist alongside us, but to be part of everything that we are. And so God became one of us...and that is CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is not a holiday but a HOLYDAY. In fact Christmas is not just for one day...it is for the whole year, to live out the love of God shown to us through His Son Jesus. The true gift of Christmas is learning to live each day with love, compassion, patience, faithfulness and self giving.

My dear Parishioners, on this Christmas 2009 my prayers and wish for you is that you may commit yourselves anew to the daily challenges of passing on the true gift of Christmas to your families, church, community and the whole world. Thank you for all that you have been to your Holy Cross Parish Community. Let us continue to build up a vibrant worshipping community in the True Spirit of Christmas. May the new born Child, the Babe of Bethlehem shower His Blessings upon you abundantly throughout the New Year.

Love and Prayers,
Fr. James Raphael CMF
Pastor

Parish News and Community Life...

MOVIE NIGHT will resume in January. A series of first class movies have been chosen to bring you joy and good entertainment. Stay tuned!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION—"COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE":



For all those families with children preparing for the sacrament of First Communion during this coming Easter season, we invite you and your child to participate in a five-part program entitled "**COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE**". The **first session begins on Thursday, January 14 at 7 .m. the parish**

hall. The following dates are January 28, February 11 & 25 and March 11. To register your child for this program, please call the parish office at 613-731-7834.

IMPORTANT DATES—REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS whose children are registered for the sacrament of First Communion. **WELCOMING CEREMONY (Enrolment)** will be on **Sunday, January 17 OR Sunday, January 24 at either the 9:30 or 11:15 a.m. Mass.** Please attend one of these Masses and sign-in your child's name at the entrance of the Church 15 minutes before Mass begins. If you have any questions please call the parish office at 613-731-7834.

2010 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available for pick up on table at the back of the church. Choose the next available box and fill out the slip of paper and place it in the basket.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be having their General Meeting on Wednesday, January 21 in the parish hall and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Following the meeting at 8:30 p.m., John Dornier of our Parish will present the following: Part 2 "*Our Relationship with the Environment - Actions that reflect Conversion*". All parishioners are invited to attend.

PASTORAL CARE

OUR TRAINED PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS are available to visit and/or bring Holy Communion to the sick, house-bound, lonely, or bereaved. Please call Myrna Vullings at 613-737-0755.

YOUTH CORNER

We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

MARK OUR CALENDARS: Get ready for the Youth Group's **ANNUAL PASTA DINNER on Saturday, January 30.** Tickets will go on sale on the weekend of January 09 &

10 after all Masses. Be sure to get your tickets early as it is sure to be a sell out!

Social Action...

MISSION, PEACE, AND DEVELOPMENT

In Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Mary is singing. In Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Jesus is born." (From the beautiful Christmas hymn composed by Anne Hurley, our 7:30 p.m. Sunday music director). Merry Christmas and a New Year of peace, joy and justice for all. MPD committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 05 at 7:30 p.m. You are always welcome.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – PAPAL MESSAGE

Pope Benedict XVI has just released his message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace. Entitled *If you Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation.* Pope Benedict calls on all humanity to renew and strengthen our commitment to the environment, given the threats arising from the neglect and abuse of the earth. To receive a copy, go to www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/

Food For Thought †

"The world is a Bethlehem where all the inns have no room for the Christ Child. The canyons of modern cities are caveless; the skyscrapers have locked entrances. The music of the donkey's hoofs that carried Mary to Bethlehem is lost in the swoosh of our endless traffic...Pause, and then hasten! Make warm the caves of your souls so that the Holy Anointed One may be born in them." "Let this Christmas be for us a turning point... Let us become small enough to kneel at the crib and big enough just to reach the level of the Baby's eyes. Let us look into them—and catch sight of Love Incarnate! Then we shall be made whole again, and our hunger will be filled." (Moments of Grace from the writings of Catherine Doherty)

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

There will be **NO 12:15 Mass on December 24 and 31.** The Parish office will be closed on December 24 and January 01.

OUR CHRISTMAS BULLETIN will cover the period of December 20 to December 27. Our **regular weekly bulletin** will resume on **January 03.** All submissions are to be in **no later** than Tuesday, December 29 by 12 noon.

Have you considered a gift in your WILL to provide for the faith life of future generations?
IN YOUR GENEROSITY, please consider a donation or bequest to Holy Cross Parish.



Merry Christmas!