

Masses For The Week

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B: December 9 – 17, 2017

Theme: The Good News – Today we celebrate the Good News of God’s incredible love for all his people. Every messenger of this Good News says the same thing: he is coming to save you; he will make all things new; prepare a way for him; take him to your heart.

1st Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.
Responsorial Psalm 85:9-14 The Lord’s salvation is near.
2nd Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14 We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.
Gospel Mark 1:1-8 Make his paths straight.

Saturday, December 9th (Psalter: Week II)

5:00 pm Mass in Oakbank † Johnson and Conrad Mlodzinski – off. Sophie Mlodzinski

Sunday, December 10th

9:00 am Mass in Garson † Quick admission for knee surgery: Richard R. – off. Anonymous

11:00 am Mass in Cook’s Creek † Dolores Sitarz – off. Florence Sitarz and Family



“Prepare the way of the Lord...” Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

Monday, December 11th

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 138)

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held on

Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm in St. John Paul II for tri-Parishes. All are welcome!

Whether we are tied to a chain or a threat of sin, we are still prisoners – St. John of the Cross

Wednesday, December 13th – Memorial: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 1006/1087)

Thursday, December 14th – Memorial: Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 1007)

Friday, December 15th

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 142)

The Week Ahead

Third Sunday of Advent, B: December 16 – 24, 2017

Theme: Our Joy In Christ: We celebrate our joy in Christ’s redeeming work among us, realising that he who is to come is indeed already with us, ‘unknown to us.’

1st Reading Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 The Lord’s salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.
Responsorial Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 Mary sings praise to God.
2nd Reading 1 Thes. 5:16-24 Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.
Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28 There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.

Saturday, December 16th (Psalter: Week III)

5:00 pm Mass in Oakbank

Sunday, December 17th

9:00 am Mass in Garson † In Thanksgiving, St. Jude – off. Parishioner

11:00 am Mass in Cook’s Creek † Ollie Ingram – off. The Choir

PLEASE USE SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR MASS INTENTIONS

MASS – “For from the rising of the sun even to the going down, my name is great among the Gentiles: and in every place there is sacrifice and there is offered to my name a clean oblation. For my name is great among the Gentiles, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachias 1-11)

A. The obligation of worship arising from the life God has given you

You know you are made by God. God gave you life. God makes it possible for you at this very moment to breathe, to walk, to talk. God keeps that little organ, the heart, beating in your breast. He gives you food and clothing. Make a list of what God has given you. He gives you everything. You give yourself nothing. The point is that you must acknowledge that God gives you everything you have. You acknowledge it by your private prayers, but especially by worshipping God, both in private and in public. To worship means to acknowledge your total dependence on God. You must worship your God. You are indebted to God. You cannot repay Him for what He has given you, but you can, and you must, recognize and acknowledge what He has done.

B. The obligation of Sunday worship from the law of God

So that you will not forget Him, God Himself tells you in the First Commandment, "I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have strange gods before Me." Then more directly in the Third Commandment, God says to you: "Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath Day." The obligation of worship on a particular day of the week we find in the Bible.

C. The obligation of Sunday worship from the fact that you are a parent

This section is addressed to parents. If not married yet, read it anyhow, because some day with the help of God you hope to be married, and to become a mother or father.

Parents must worship God on Sunday if they want their children to be good. One of the reasons sisters and priests sacrifice their lives is to make your children good boys and girls. If parents fail to worship God on Sunday they are destroying one of the basic influences of the Catholic school system or classes.

D. Your ancestors worshipped God on Sunday

Let us be practical about this matter of Sunday worship. Today many non-Catholics go to church when they please. Not so your good non-Catholic grandfather and grandmother. Sunday was the Lord's Day. The Lord came first on Sunday. They knew they had an obligation to go to church every Sunday. You have the same obligation before God. All the priest is asking you to do is to come back at least to this part of your ancestors' Christianity. Then you are on the road to practical Christianity.

E. Let us explain the obligation now

You probably know that all Catholics are seriously obliged to attend Mass every Sunday. God made all of us, and God made the same laws for all of us. There is not one set of God's laws for Catholics and another set for those who are not in the Catholic Church. Therefore, we insist that all who are serious about God and religion must go to Mass. There are fifty-two Sundays, and in the United States, and Canada, six Holydays of Obligation. Anyone who is serious about Christianity must assist at Mass on these days, even when busy at home. There are valid understandable excuses for not worshipping God publicly on these fifty-eight days. They will be explained when we explain the Third Commandment. For the present, try to understand that it is a serious sin to miss Mass without a serious excuse.

F. What is the Mass?

The Mass today is the same as the Last Supper. The priest at Mass brings down upon the altar, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, offers Him to God for our sins, and gives Him to the people in Holy Communion.

To explain the Mass, therefore, we must go back to the Last Supper. At the Last Supper there is Christ, the Son of God. He had come to unite us to Himself, by His teachings and by His magnetic example of goodness. He had finished His public career. He had tried to unite heaven with earth. He had proved that He was the Son of God by His miracles. A great longing had filled the soul of Christ during the thirty-three years of His life. He wanted to unite us to Himself, to give us Himself, to make us like Him. To show this great longing to the Apostles and to us one final time he says, "*With desire I have desired to eat this pasch with you, before I suffer.*" (Luke 22:15) It was the night before He was to suffer and to die for our sins.

Having given us His teachings and example, and about to give up His very life on the cross, He is still not satisfied with His work for us. He must give us His own Body and Blood at the Supper Table and in subsequent Masses, so that He will be united to us and we will be united to Him forever. He looks down the long corridors of the years and sees how He can give Himself to all, even when He will have left the world. Christ then and there changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood and gave the Apostles the power to perform the same act.

"And taking bread, He gave thanks and broke and gave to them, saying: This is My Body, which is given for you. Do this for a commemoration of Me." (Luke 22:19)

"In like manner, the chalice also, after He had supped, saying: This is the chalice, the new testament in My Blood, which shall be shed for you." (Luke 22:19-20)

Christ did not say: "Pretend this is My Body and Blood." "Let us imagine it is My Body and Blood." "Close your eyes and try to believe it is My Body and Blood." "This represents My Body and Blood." He said none of these things. He said, "This is My Body ... this is My Blood." (Matthew 26:26-28) After Christ changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood there was no more bread and wine on the supper table. It was now His Body and Blood, not bread and wine.

Christ at the Last Supper offered the first Mass and gave us the most beautiful prayer there is, and the highest kind of worship we can give Almighty God.

G. Christ gave the power to the twelve Apostles

After Christ changed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood, He gave this same power to the twelve Apostles. He said: "*Do this for a commemoration of Me.*" (Luke 22:19) With these words Christ gave the power and the command to the Apostles. In other words, Christ said: You do this action from now on – change bread and wine into My Body and Blood. Studies on how Christ is present in the Eucharist are not important to us. A Catholic must hold the real presence of Christ – that's all.

H. The Apostles gave the power to other bishops and priests

The Apostles offered Mass. In the first Epistle to the Corinthians in the Bible, we find St. Paul speaking of that offering. The successors of the Apostles have this same power today. These successors are the bishops and priests of the Catholic Church. Your parish priest has the power to say Mass for the people. He received that power from the Sacrament of Holy Orders when the bishop ordained him. Catholic priests and bishops have this power.

How do you know when the sacred moment of consecration has arrived? The priest bends over the altar and says, "This is My Body." The priest bends his knee to Christ and elevates the sacred host. Then the priest bends over the cup of wine and says: "This is My Blood." He bends his knee to the floor once more, and raises the cup containing Jesus Christ. When the priest says these sacred words, Christ becomes present on the altar and offers Himself to God for us.

I. Be at home in the Catholic Church

Begin attending Mass every Sunday and Holyday of Obligation. Be at home in the Catholic Church. The priest and the people want you there. Christ wants you. Don't worry about when to stand or sit. Just follow the congregation. Full, active, conscious participation in the Mass is the desire of the Catholic Church for you. If you are not a Catholic do not receive Holy Communion.

Christ is there for you as well as for the Catholics who are present. Christ is there offering Himself to God for you in the most beautiful act of public worship there is. Christ is present on the altar praying for you, and helping you to understand the instructions you are receiving in the Catholic Church. At Mass you offer the most perfect and most powerful prayer you can offer and you are doing it with Christ and through Christ. This prayer cannot be refused by God the Father, because it is a prayer offered principally by His Son.

Anyone who wants to become a Catholic should be at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Sunday and Holyday of Obligation during the course of instructions. Ask your parish priest the hours of Masses on Sunday and on the six Holydays of the year. In some places Sunday Mass is also celebrated on Saturday evening.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW OF LESSONS

LESSON 2 – THE MASS

5. What is Mass?

The Last Supper. See F.

6. Who said the first Mass?

Jesus Christ. See F.

7. Where did your parish priest get the power to change bread and wine into the Body and

Blood of Christ? From the Sacrament of Holy Orders given by the bishop who ordained him. See H.

8. Is it a sin to miss Mass?

It is a mortal sin. See E.

St. JOHN PAUL II

Our **Christmas Pot Luck Dinner is on Sat. Dec. 16**, directly following Mass. Start planning what you would like to bring to the dinner. There is a sign- up sheet at the back of the church. It's not necessary to state what you are bringing, just indicate if it is a hot or cold dish, salad, dessert, pickles & cheese. The surprise is part of the fun of a pot-luck dinner!

Congratulations to the winners in the Grey Cup Draw!

It is the turn of the month and we are reminding those who are able to make a donation to our building fund that it's that time of month again.

The new Sunday missals are now available at the back of the church.

Congratulations to the winners in the **Grey Cup Draw!**

Those who won \$75 with the correct score are:

Lorraine Cloutier

Janice Klatt

J. Arsenault

Des DePourcq

Carolyn Comstock

Bruce Nance

Lynn Doerksen

Wayne Oberick

Debby Noone

Pat DePourcq

Denis Bouchard

Marlene Dewyn

Winners of \$25 with the reverse score are:

Ray Cloutier

Ron Young

Nicole Crittin

Melissa Wilkinson

B. Hansen

Debbie Reinisch

Gary Saunders

Isaac Sookermany

David Black

Scott Hutchinson

Shawn Schamp

Gwen Schubert

St. John Paul II has a membership number with the **Red River Co-op**. If anyone wants to donate their fuel purchases, our number is **500286**.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors in our church community and invite you to register and join our parish. You can do this by completing the form on the back page of the bulletin and leaving it either with a greeter at the door or place it in the offertory basket. We are happy to have you be a part of our church community and to share our spiritual journey together.

SACRED HEART

There is no scheduled Finance meeting for December. The next one is January 11 th.

ST. MICHAEL'S



CHRISTMAS - A second collection will take place December 17, 2017 for the purchase of Christmas flowers and decorations. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Altar Server Schedule

December 10: Daniel and Joe Zubricki
December 17: Riley and Fiona Kotzer and Myah Lessard

Fellowship Sunday

Our next Fellowship Sunday will be December 17, 2017 after mass. All are welcome to attend.

Springfield Food Bank - A big thanks once again from the Food bank for the donations of 125 pounds of food. Please remember the baby stuff for this Sunday, December 10th.

New **Sunday Missals** are available at the back of the church for \$5.

Children's Picture Missals are also available for purchase at the back of the church for only \$10 and are a great resource to help children follow along during Mass (and make a great stocking stuffer for Christmas!)

In an effort to share the joy of Christ's birth and his love of the world this Christmas, the Catechism students and families are encouraged to join forces with the CWL in supporting the **North End Women's Centre**. This centre is a refuge for women who seek support, knowledge, and opportunity as they move forward on their journey towards independence and healthier lifestyle. With them, they also bring young and adolescent children who will not have the same comforts of home that we enjoy during the Christmas season. Students and families are encouraged to donate a simple gift for various age ranges or other staples of the season, such as chocolates, candy canes, hot chocolate packets etc. Gifts such as soccer balls, footballs or basketballs, trinkets or simple jewelry are very welcome so that each child receives a gift for Christmas. Not sure what to buy? Please also consider a cash donation. Donations will be accepted until the 17th of December. Please provide to your Catechism teacher or the Catechism coordinator.

Upcoming Catechism lessons:

December 10th - Partnership Sunday

December 17th - Practice for Youth Christmas Eve Mass

Children and Youth Christmas Eve Mass - We are seeking children volunteers to take part in the Children's Christmas Eve Mass. Some of these part involve minor speaking roles. We encourage as many children as possible to take part in the children's pageant as well as filling other roles such as ushers and readers during this mass. Additionally, the choir will also be predominantly lead by the youth of St. Michaels. We encourage all youth in our parish to assist in providing music ministry for this mass if they do not wish to take part in other roles. If you have a young child or children.

St. Michael's is hiring! We are looking to hire an individual to take on the role of **caretaker** for our parish basement. This is a paid position within our parish and requires several hours a week to clean and maintain the basement. A full list of responsibilities is available upon request. If you are interested in this position, please contact Guy Delaurier for more information. The deadline to express interest in this position is by end of Mass on Sunday, December 17. (Guy@delmak.ca 204-755-2049).



Say a Prayer for members of our parish communities and non members who are experiencing or will be experiencing health issues and other concerns. No need to elaborate on the issue, but please forward their names to our bulletin email address. The one important request is that permission to print in the bulletin **must** be received from the person(s). This will be the responsibility of the person submitting the information. Fr. Joe had mentioned in one of his sermons that we should live our faith not just on Sundays but throughout the week. What better way to support our parish family than to Say a Prayer!

- ❖ Shirley Wark - prayers for a speedy recovery
- ❖ Greta Koreman & Family
- ❖ Members of our parish communities who are experiencing difficulties

St. Michael's CWL

CWL Membership Dues this year will cost \$27.00 Please pay dues to Marleen Bell by December 31, 2017 .

Anyone going to **Canadian Blood Services** to donate blood can give a number that goes towards the **CWL Partners for Life Membership** . Our number is CATH 011269. Anyone can use the number, not just CWL members but their spouse, family and friends as well.

"Polski Czat"

Our informal Polish language group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 7 to 9 PM in the St. Michael's Church Hall.

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 18th at 7 PM...former class members invited!

Classes resume in the New Year on January 15th

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

For more info call Liz @ [204-444-3247](tel:204-444-3247)

Social Action - Development & Peace

In this season of gifts and giving, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace-Caritas Canada offers a "**Share Year Round**" program that allow you to make monthly donations to their organization. When you "**Share Year Round**" you become a link in the chain of solidarity made up of women and men committed to promoting **social justice and human dignity!**

Information pamphlets are available at the back of the Church. Thank you for your consideration.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Upcoming Events

Polski Czat every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM - St. Michael's

December 16th - Christmas Pot Luck Supper - St. John Paul II

December 17th - Fellowship Sunday - St. Michael's

December 21st - St Michael's Administrative Board meeting at 7 PM

We extend a warm welcome to new members of our community! If you would like to join our parish family, please complete the registration form below and place in the collection basket during offertory. Thank-you!

REGISTRATION or CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Registering with:

St. Michael's Parish Cooks Creek or

Sacred Heart Parish Garson or

St. John Paul II Catholic Community

In need of Sunday Envelopes? (please circle) YES NO

This is a (please circle) NEW or CHANGE of address

Complete Family
Hair Care Centre

777 Cedar Ave. at Main St.
Box 360 Oakbank, MB R0E 1J0
Phone (204) 444-4343



Advertise in the Bulletin!

Please contact
Shauna Zinnick (szinnick@mymts.net)
for further information.

