

Masses For The Week

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, realizing 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



“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 -18.

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

Monday, December 18th (Psalter: Week III)

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 152) † Dolores Sitarz – off. Eileen & Ed Sobkowich

Tuesday, December 19th – No Mass Scheduled.

Wednesday, December 20th

10:30 am Mass in Kin Place (RM 154) † May McGurran – off. Her husband & Family

Thursday, December 21st

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 155) † Victor Kozak – off. Anges Kozak

Friday, December 22nd

9:00 am Mass in Garson (RM 156) † Dolores Sitarz – off. Eileen & Ed Sobkowich

The Week Ahead

Fourth Sunday of Advent, B: December 24, 2017

Theme: Mary, the ark of God's covenant: Today's Mass is a great song to the everlasting love of God revealed in his covenant (love-pact) with his people. We praise the mystery of his love kept secret for endless ages, but now revealed through a new ark of the covenant, Mary of Nazareth.

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12ff The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.
Responsorial Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29 A prayer of praise to the Lord for his faithfulness to his covenant.
2nd Reading Romans 16:25-27 Paul praises God for making his revelation known.
Gospel Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Saturday, December 23rd (Psalter: Week IV)

5:00 pm Mass in Oakbank

Sunday, December 24th

9:00 am Mass in Garson
11:00 am Mass in Cook's Creek † Helen Rozmus – off. Ted Rozmus & Family



“And the Word became flesh” John 1:14

Jesus is God’s ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas joy every day.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

O CHRIST

What shall we offer you coming on earth?

Angels	<i>offer</i>	PRAISE
Heaven	<i>lights up a</i>	STAR
Magi	<i>bring</i>	GIFTS
Shepherds	<i>their</i>	WONDER
Earth	<i>a</i>	CAVE
Desert	<i>a</i>	MANGER

We offer you a

MOTHER

Dear friends, with great affection
I wish you and your relatives
a serene Christmas
in the light and peace of the Lord.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

“Rejoice for our Saviour is born to the world”

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm – St. John Paul II: Family with incense

7:00 pm – St. Michael: Children’s Mass without incense

† Edward & Dolores Sitarz – off. Edward & Dolores’s children

9:00 pm – Sacred Heart: Family

† My Family – off. Sophie Galka

Mass at Midnight

11:30 pm – St. Michael: Family with incense

† Gil Gelinias – off. Bea Gelinias & Family

Messiah and Lord

At midnight Mass of Christmas, we hear the glorious announcement that a Saviour has been born for us. From the beginning of time, prophets announced that the Messiah of the Lord would come. "Messiah," or "Christ" means "Anointed one." God anointed many people to carry out special missions for him.

On Christmas, this prophecy was fulfilled in a surprising way, because the angels did not simply announce that Jesus was the *Messiah of the Lord*. They said the newborn child was **Messiah AND Lord**.

God did not just send a Messiah. **He came himself**. This Child is the God who made us all. And by coming in this way, he joined every human life, born and unborn, to Himself. Christmas is, indeed, the feast of the dignity of every human life.

Vigil Mass

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 88; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

Theme:

Jesus, Son of David.

God prepared the people of Israel to receive his Son.

May we too be ready to welcome him.

Our first reading this evening from the prophet Isaiah speaks of the Lord coming to his people. There is one reason for this – *“The Lord takes delight in you.”*

In the second reading from the Acts of the Apostles we see St Paul witnessing to Christ. He reminds the people that Jesus is of David’s line – the successor who had been promised by God. Jesus’ immediate predecessor was John the Baptist and Paul quotes from John – *“I am not fit to undo his sandal.”*

The first part of our gospel from St Matthew gives the genealogy of Jesus going back to Abraham. The second part of the passage tells us how Jesus came to be born but the story centres on Joseph rather than the actual birth. Joseph was **aghast** to find out that his young bride was pregnant but at the word of God he accepted what was happening and looked after Mary and the Child.

Joseph is our role model because, like him, we too have doubts, but, also like him, we are called on to believe in the word of God and to truly accept Jesus as our Lord and to carry out his will.

Mass at Midnight

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14



Theme: A Saviour is born for us: Tonight we celebrate the birth of a Child who was to bring the joy of God's saving love to the whole world. And we make our own the jubilant cry of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest.'

Our first reading from Isaiah speaks of the Son that is given to us. This Son will destroy war and oppression. He will assume all authority and the peace he brings will have no end.

In the second reading St Paul tells us that the grace of God has been revealed – it has been revealed in Christ. But he also reminds us that we are waiting for the second coming of Christ and until then we should have no ambition other than to do good.

Our gospel passage from St Luke tells of the lowly birth of Christ at Bethlehem. The shepherds were the first to hear the glad tidings and we too are called on to hear these same glad tidings and to believe in our Saviour and to worship him.

Don't limit God's power: The Birth of Jesus to a Virgin is a miracle that many people find hard to believe. These three facts can aid our faith:



1. Luke was a medical doctor and he knew perfectly well how babies are made. It would have been just as hard for him to believe in a virgin birth as it is for us, and yet he reports it as facts.

2. Luke was a painstaking researcher who based his Gospel on eyewitness accounts. Tradition holds that he talked with Mary about the events he recorded in the first two chapters. This is Mary's story, not a fictional invention.

3. Christians and Jews, who worship God as a Creator of the universe, should have no doubts that God has the power to create a child in a virgin's womb.

Born of a Virgin

Why is the Virgin birth important to the Christian faith?

Jesus Christ, God's Son, had to be free from the sinful nature passed on to all other human beings by Adam. Because Jesus was born of a woman, He was a human being; but as the Son of God, Jesus was born without any trace of human sin. Jesus is both fully human and fully divine.

Because Jesus lived as a man, we know that He fully understands our experiences and struggles (Hebrews 4:15-16). Because He is God, He has the power and authority to deliver us from sin (Colossians 2:13-15). We can tell Jesus all our thoughts, feelings and needs. He has been where we are now and He has the ability to help.

Monday, December 25th to Thursday, December 28th – No Mass Scheduled.

Friday, December 29th

9:00 am Mass in Garson

The Week Ahead

The Holy Family of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH, B: December 30 – 31, 2017

Theme: Holy Family: We celebrate the Holy Family of Nazareth, which is the model for all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1st Reading	Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14	God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.
Responsorial	Psalm 128:1-5	A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.
2nd Reading	Colossians 3:12-21	Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	The child grew, filled with wisdom.



Saturday, December 30th (Psalter: Week I)

5:00 pm Mass in Oakbank

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 am Mass in Garson

11:00 am Mass in Cook's Creek † Edward Gordon Bukowski – off. Shirley B. & Family

The Week Ahead

Solemnity: Mary, The Holy Mother of God – January 1, 2018

Theme: Mary, through whom the world would be blessed.
We too bless God for Mary, who bore for us the Child she named Jesus, the Saviour.

1st Reading	Numbers 6:22-27	They shall put my name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.
Responsorial	Psalms 66	O God, be gracious and bless us.
2nd Reading	Galatians 4:4-7	God sent his Son, born of a woman.
Gospel	Luke 2:16-21	They found Mary and Joseph and the babe ... When the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus.

Monday, January 1st – New Year's Day: World Day of Prayer for Peace

9:00 am Mass in Garson for tri-Parishes – All are welcome!

PLEASE USE SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR MASS INTENTIONS



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!

❖ Members of our parish communities who are experiencing difficulties

St. JOHN PAUL II

We have reading material at the back of the church for people to take and read. There is no charge for these items. Please feel free to browse and take home items to read.

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.

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 11th.



ST. MICHAEL'S

Altar Server Schedule

December 17: Riley and Fiona Kotzer and Myah Lessard

Fellowship Sunday

Our next Fellowship Sunday is today after mass. All are welcome to attend. January Fellowship is January 21, 2018.

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 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).

ALTAR SERVERS

The Liturgy Committee requires one more Adult Altar Server for the 11:30 (Midnight) Mass on [December 24](#). If you are able to assist us, please contact Sandra @ [204-444-2819](tel:204-444-2819) or Al @ [204-444-2857](tel:204-444-2857).

Springfield Food Bank

A big thanks to the people of St. Michael's for your response to the request for "baby things". We will not be accepting any more baby donations but your continued generous food donations are appreciated.

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.

COOKS CREEK HERITAGE MUSEUM www.cchm.ca

"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. next date is January 15, 2018
December 21st - St Michael's Administrative Board meeting at 7 PM
Finance Meeting - January 11th - Sacred Heart



Dear friends,

You are invited along with your friends and families to a **Candle Light Christmas Celebration** of Prayer, Music and Song on: **Sunday December 17, 2017 at 7 p m**

THEME "Christmas, a time for Peaceful thoughts of Love, for You"

Where: Green Acres Memorial Gardens Highway # 1 to 1-Green Acres Lane
Refreshments following the Celebration

Merry Christmas to all
Fr. Robbie
2377899 for more information

<p>Complete Family Hair Care Centre</p>  <p>777 Cedar Ave. at Main St. Box 360 Oakbank, MB R0E 1J0 Phone (204) 444-4343</p>	<p>Advertise in the Bulletin!</p> <p>Please contact Shauna Zinnick (szinnick@mymts.net) for further information.</p>
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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

Jesus Is the Greatest

He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." John 1:27

The puzzle is based on John 1:6-8, 19-28



G O A F Z A H G S G O D Z L I
W E W D K A A S R A F L Z P J
N O E Z I J E P Z Q H N S G K
U O R S Z N O P K K W Y G F J
P A S L T X Q H K G R M A N G
V E N I D M G C N L I G H T H
M W W M G O M V B J R K C K M
R P G E Z C S V R B Z V M B M
V B Q N F B O Y R N V I K E L
S O G F N J F B Z A E X C L A
R T I R H I H P Y M N R S I N
D R K C T W V B J E B Z E E L
X U N S E T Y A R C A B N V A
R E E J T P R O P H E T T E B
L T M J N R N I P T I X A D T

GOD	TRUE	PROPHET	WORLD	SENT
MEN	VOICE	JOHN	WITNESS	MAN
LIGHT	BELIEVE	MESSIAH	TESTIFY	NAME