

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
MASS SCHEDULE  
Dec 23, 2023 – Jan. 1, 2024**



*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel*

**Saturday, December 23, 2023**

4:00 – 4:30 PM Confessions

5:00 PM For the People

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

9:00 AM For Tony Vella

11:00 AM For the People

**Nativity of the Lord**

*Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**Sunday, December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve)**

5:00 PM For Cynthia Ferreira

7:00 PM For the People

9:00 PM Holy Qurbana (Syro Malabar Mass)

**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)**

10:00 AM For the Deceased members of the Toledo and Camota Families

**Tuesday, December 26, 2023 – St Stephen**

10:00 AM For Pixie Wilder

**Wednesday, December 27, 2023- St John the Evangelist**

10:00 AM For Robert McAllister

**Thursday, December 28, 2023 – Holy Innocents**

10:00 AM Colette Boudreau

**Friday, December 29, 2023**

10:00 AM For Americo Barbosa

**Saturday, December 30, 2023**

4:00 – 4:30 PM Confessions

5:00 PM For the People

**Sunday, December 31, 2024**

9:00 AM For Shirley Camilleri

11:00 AM For Intention of Aiden Bedard

**Mary the Mother of God**

*Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth forever.*

**Sunday, December 31, 2023 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

5:00 PM For the People

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

10:00 AM For Eileen Gallagher

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

The Gospel of the Annunciation is one that stirs us to hope in the promises of God. Mary was chosen by God, even before she was born, to be the one who would bear the Son of God. Mary's spiritual motherhood now extends to all of humanity as the promise of God is fulfilled in Christ who came to save us. The events surrounding Mary and the birth of Jesus is one to stir up hope in us even in adverse conditions. Mary and Joseph would have to travel to Bethlehem where there would be no room for them. Then the Holy family would end up as refugees in Egypt. But good would prevail over the wickedness of Herod, and so the Gospel is also one of hope and courage. The hope and courage of Mary and Joseph in accepting the message of the Angel Gabriel, accepting her role as handmaid of the Lord. For the Blessed Virgin Mary, this deepening of the mystery drew forth from her famous 'yes': 'Let it be to me as you have said.' Let us resolve this Advent and Christmas, as the darkness begins to give way to light, that we will never be afraid to hope in the promises of God, and have the courage to explore deeper and deeper into the mysteries of God's love for us, and never be afraid to say, to whatever it is that God asks of us, 'Let it be to me as you have said'.

**ST PAUL PRAYER LINE:** Our team of *Prayer Warriors* will join with you to intercede for your intentions. Simply call Lucienne (613-634-0375) or Miriam (905-979-1189), or email: [StPaulsPrayerLine@gmail.com](mailto:StPaulsPrayerLine@gmail.com). "I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God" (Ps 17:6)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Orlando Miguel, Nicole McKechnie, Linda McKechnie, Raymond Koenders, Meghan Bennett, Nellie Rutten, Stephen Noonan, Ursula Connell, Alex Dermott, Lynn Bales, Silvia Peter Mawalla, Mary Jane McCarthy, Rosie Soni, Joan MacLeod. and Aiden Bedard.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED: Bradley Belair**

**Sunday and Christmas: Christmas is always a holy day of obligation and this year it falls on a Monday, immediately following the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The two separate obligations to attend Mass (Sunday and one for Christmas) are both important and are met by attending two separate Masses. The Sunday obligation can be fulfilled by attending Mass on Saturday evening or any time on Sunday. The Christmas obligation can be fulfilled at Mass on Sunday evening or any time on Monday. However, the same Mass cannot meet both obligations.**



O sweet Child of Bethlehem grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.  
**Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer**

**The Parish Office will be closed on December 25 and 26. December 27 and 28 the Office will be open 8:30 till noon. Friday December 29 regular hours 8:30 – 4:00.**

**Stuffed Toy Animals wanted:** Shawna who has worked for God in the Dominican Republic for the past 15 years, is looking for stuffed toy animals for children. She goes weekly to the hospitals, as well as to remote villages to share God's love. Please think about donating gently used stuffed animal toys, as these children have nothing and would love to have your donation. You may place these in the box in the Gathering Area.

**We will livestream the following masses:**  
- **Sunday Dec 24 @ 9am:** 4th Sunday of Advent - **Sunday Dec 24 @ 5pm:** Christmas Eve - **Sunday Dec 31 @ 9am:** Feast of the Holy Family (and New Year's Eve) - **Sunday Dec 31 @ 5pm:** Solemnity of Mary (and New Year's Day)

**How do Church Envelopes work?** In Canada, the only support Churches receive is from the offerings of the parishioners. However, the Government of Canada allows a percentage of the annual donation to be a tax deduction when you file your Income Tax Return. In order to do this, Churches must be able to show how much money a person gave to the Church. Thus, Church envelopes or Pre-authorized bank deductions allow the Churches to keep this record. The deduction is 15% of the first \$200.00 and 29% of the remaining..

**January 1 - New Year's Day - is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the World Day of Prayer for Peace in the Catholic Church.** At both the New Year's Eve and Day Masses, we will have a special form of the Prayer of the Faithful asking our Blessed Lady to intercede for Peace in our world. Please join the Celebration of the Eucharist on this occasion to pray for peace.



**\*Monthly Meeting for Secular Franciscan Order**  
First Thursday of the month 7:00 pm;  
St. John the Apostle Parish Hall (88 Patrick Street)  
**\*O Come All Ye Faithful: Epiphany Christmas Carol-Sing Saturday, January 6, 2:00-3:30 pm**  
**St. Joseph Catholic Church; 392 Palace Road, Kingston** Led by the Trinitas Singers and Youth Singers under the direction of Jeffrey Moellman. Monetary and non-perishable/canned food donations will be collected in support of a local charitable organization. A festive reception will follow.

**Veronica's Veil Overnight Shelter: Men, your help is needed.** In order for The Veil to open for the winter, we need men to sign up. We need your generosity. Shifts will run 8:30 pm to 12:30 am, 12:30 am to 4:30 am and 4:30 am to 8:30 am seven days a week. If you could volunteer for one of these shifts one day each week it would be a great help. Training will be provided. Please contact Ann Lyng at [veronicasveil@stmaryscathedral.ca](mailto:veronicasveil@stmaryscathedral.ca) to sign up or for more information.

**Exodus 90**  
Join in an intense 90-day spiritual exercise that is renewing the Church by setting Her men free through Christ. Through prayer, asceticism, and fraternity, Exodus 90 is helping men break the cycle of distraction and embrace their God-given mission. If you're ready to experience the true freedom you were created for, Exodus 90 begins on January 1, 2024. For more info, contact Mike Mombourquette at (613) 650-7350 or by email [michael@mombourquette.com](mailto:michael@mombourquette.com) or Joe Roddy at (613) 453-1148 or by email [joeroddy.sutton@cogeco.ca](mailto:joeroddy.sutton@cogeco.ca).