



† This symbol signifies repose of the soul.

Sunday, November 14

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. For the parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

10:30 a.m. For the intentions of the Handmaids of the Lord.

For Saint Lucia, on her National Day of Celebration, by the Saint Lucian Community.

†Deceased members of the Benson family, by Serafina Sebastyan.

†Geri Lynch, by Kathleen Lynch.

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. †Chris Mooney, by Dave & Lynn Webb.
Paul and Pamela Lauzon, for their 30th anniversary, by Paul Lauzon.
Rosary Makers and their families.

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 a.m. †For the souls in purgatory.

Thursday, December 18

9:00 a.m. †Patricia MacNamara.
Paul and Pamela, for their 30th anniversary, by Paul Lauzon.

Friday, December 19

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 20

4:30 p.m. For the protection of Canada & for the well-being of all its citizens, by a parishioner.

Sunday, November 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. For the parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

10:30 a.m. For the intentions of the Handmaids of the Lord.

Please remember these sick people in your prayers:

Michelle Boyer, Nickie Shaw, Marie-Andrée Boyer, Raechel McIntyre, Zygmunt Wysocki, Lily Harmon, Debby MacAdam, Michael Budge, Robby Felteau, Elaine Taylor, Wanda Staples, Judette & Marie, Marilyn & Jim Donoghue, Aline Lafleur Raymond, Paul O' Leary, Michaela Fong, Julie Robinson.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

For the prevention of suicide ~ Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year A)**

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-6a, 10

Second Reading: James 5.7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11



Lectors & Commentators

Saturday, December 20

4:30 p.m. Daniel Boyer

Sunday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Darrell Herauf

10:30 a.m. Eleanor Ryan

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 20

4:30 p.m. ---

Sunday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Michelle Corbett – C & EM

10:30 a.m. Miguel Planas – C & EM

Vocation Prayer:

- That men and women will accept how God is calling them to serve as Mary responded to the angel Gabriel, we pray to the Lord.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASSES

Our holiday Mass schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, December 24th: 4:30pm (children's liturgy), 7:00pm (Solemn High Mass)

Thursday, December 25th: 10:30am

Wednesday, December 31st: 4:30pm

Thursday, January 1st: 10:30am

ANNUAL BAKE SALE

Candy, cake and cookies all waiting for you at the second annual Social Outreach Committee bake sale.

Join us after both masses on Sunday December 14 in the church hall. Yum, yum, good. Bonus! Roger will have his favourite pies and back by special demand is scrumptious egg rolls.

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We will be accepting donations for our parish's Christmas flowers, at the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity once again this year!

WINTER CLOTHING

Feeling the cold? Many people in Centretown are without proper winter clothing. Please consider donating your gently used winter coats, hats, mitts etc. to help out. Please leave the donations at the front of the church.

EMPTY YOUR POCKETS

As a wrap-up to the calendar year of giving to the Centretown Food Centre, a total of \$463.15 was donated at the end of November. Thank you so very much for your generosity. This will mean that so many families in our community who are experiencing food insecurity will enjoy something special to help celebrate the Christmas season.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will begin in the new year. Registration is necessary.

SAINT OF THE DAY:

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8th)

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

Mary as the Immaculate Conception is the Patron Saint of:

Brazil

United States