



**Schedule of Masses Christmas Season 2015**

**Christmas Eve**

Thursday, December 24

7:30 p.m. Family Mass  
9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols  
10:00 p.m. Solemn Christmas Mass

**Christmas Day**

Friday, December 25

10:30 a.m.

**Feast of the Holy Family**

Saturday, December 26

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27

10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 28

9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 29

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 30

9:00 a.m.

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

Thursday December 31

5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1

10:30 a.m.

**Feast of the Epiphany**

Saturday, January 2

5:00p.m.

Sunday, January 3

10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Offering Envelopes** are on the tables at the back of the church. People who do not regularly use envelopes may avail themselves of one of these to make their Christmas offering. Receipts will be sent for identifiable donations of \$20 or more.

*Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from December 24th until January 3rd (inc.)*



On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

*(from Loyola Press, a Jesuit Ministry)*

**Some thoughts as Christmas approaches...**

*"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts;  
It's not wrapping presents, its being present  
and wrapping your arms around the ones you love;  
It's not getting Christmas cards out on time,  
It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time;  
It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light display,  
It's displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart;  
It's not Santa coming down the chimney,  
It's Jesus coming down from heaven,  
and giving us the gift of eternal life."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Eve Children's Gospel Pageant**

All children whose families will be attending the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service are invited to participate in the Children's Gospel Pageant. Visiting nieces, nephews and cousins are also welcome! A short rehearsal will be held following Mass this Sunday.

**2016 Weekly Donation Envelopes**

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, we are implementing a new (and less costly) way of delivering your weekly envelopes to you. A box containing all of the envelopes for the coming year is available for pick up at the back of the church. Please note that some of you have been assigned a new envelope number.

**Thank You!**

✿ to the children in our Be My Disciples program who donated over 100 gifts & to the "Santa's elves" parents who helped sort, check wrappings and deliver the gifts to Share the Warmth to be distributed to children at their Santa Day this weekend.

✿ to all parishioners for your goodwill and kindness in donating to our Advent Mass of Concern which will assist many of our less fortunate neighbours to purchase food and other necessities this Christmas as well as throughout the year.

✿ and to all who have so generously donated to our refugee project which has allowed us to begin the process to sponsor not one, but two Syrian refugees. (Donations are still welcome!)

**Parish Donations**

Parish donations can be made ONLINE through CanadaHelps. Donations may be made using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, PayPal or Interact. You receive your Tax e-receipt immediately. Go to the parish website ([www.ascensionofourlord.ca](http://www.ascensionofourlord.ca)) and click on the main page button "EVERY DOLLAR HELPS" for instructions. Thank you for your generosity.

**You are not forgotten**

If you, or a loved one, are not able to come to church, we would be happy to come to you, have a little chat & bring you the Lord in Holy Communion. We can also send you a copy of our Parish bulletin. Let us know by calling the parish office (932-3131) and we will get to you ASAP.

**Sunday Missals 2016**

Don't forget to purchase your copy of The Living with Christ Sunday Mass books for 2016. They are still available for sale at the back of the church. The cost is \$5 each.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEKS

DEC 19, 2015- JAN 2, 2016

**Saturday, December 19th 2015**

(Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25)

5:00 Gabor &amp; Louise DeHeinrich

by Antonio &amp; MaryLou Sacconaghi

**Sunday, December 20th 2015**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Micah 5:2-5; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45)

10:30am Giovanni Falbo &amp; Melania Mielewczyk

by Patrizia Falbo Mielewczyk

**Monday, December 21st 2015**

St. Peter Canisius

(Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45)

9:00 Finian O'Driscoll

by Denis &amp; Loretta O'Driscoll

**Tuesday, December 22nd 2015**

(1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56)

9:00 Lydia Pasteris by the Pasteris Family

**Wednesday, December 23rd 2015**

St. John of Canty

(Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-6; Luke 1:57-66)

9:00 George Wnuk by Eugene Zinay

**Thursday, December 24th 2015**

Christmas Eve-The Nativity of the Lord

(Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-16)

**Friday, December 25th 2015**

Christmas- The Nativity of the Lord

(Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18)

**Saturday, December 26th 2015**

St. Stephen

(Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22)

5:00 Intention of Maureen &amp; Ron Blizchuk

**Sunday, December 27th 2015**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(Sir 3:2-6, 2-14; Col 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52)

10:30 Kate &amp; Ed Sampson

by Ann &amp; Louis Mallette

**Monday, December 28th 2015**

The Holy Innocents

(1 John 1:5- 2:2; Matthew 2:13-18)

**Tuesday, December 29th 2015**

St. Thomas Becket

(1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35)

**Wednesday, December 30th 2015**

(1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40)

**Thursday, December 31st 2015**

Saint Sylvester I

(1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18)

**Friday, January 1st 2016**

The Solemnity of Mary,

The Holy Mother of God

(Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21)

10:30 Marcelle Hadaya by Alex Hadaya

**Saturday, January 2nd 2016**

St. Basil the Great &amp; St. Gregory Nazianzen

(1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28)

5:00 Saverio Giacomo, Caterina &amp;

Filomena Vincelli and

Michelangelo Supino, by the Family