

Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASSES THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Monday, December 24 5:00 PM

† Deceased Members of VARI, de FABINYI,
HILKENE & DE LUCA FAMILIES

Monday, December 24 8:00 PM

† BRONSON PEZANOSKI -Jay

Monday, December 24 10:00 PM

MISSA PRO POPULO (People of the Parish)



CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Tuesday, December 25 10:00 AM

† JOAN & BERNARD PENNEY -The Penney Family

WED. Dec. 26 St. Stephen

8:30 AM † ALLAN NICKERSON -his Wife

THURS. Dec. 27 St. John at Extendicare

10:00 AM † JOANNE CLEARY -Pat Fleming

FRI. Dec. 28 Holy Innocents

8:30 AM † BERNARD TOOMEY

-McBride Family

▶ NO Eucharistic Adoration ◀

Feast of the Holy Family

SATURDAY, December 29

5:00 PM † Deceased Members of the BUTLER &
AMEY FAMILIES -Don & Louise

SUNDAY, December 30

9:00 AM MISSA PRO POPULO (People of the Parish)

11:00 AM † MIKOLAJ & JADWIGA MAZUR

-Muir Family

Next Weekend's Readings • Feast of the Holy Family

1st Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14 2nd Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Julie Black, Adrian Stimers, Kim Hope, Emily, Stan Johnston, Ronald Heffernan, Fred Williams, Wendy Gregoriades, Denise Palermo, Anne Driscoll, Mark Martel, Trevor DeMattos, Diane Bartlett, David Wright, Lorna Watts, Shirley Ferguson, Greg Heenan, *May they find support in our prayers.*

REFLECTION



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gospel Summary Matthew recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth by telling us the story of Mary's engagement to Joseph and the child she carried originating from the Holy Spirit. This reality made no sense to Joseph, but he did not want to dishonour Mary so he planned to quietly divorce her. An angel came and told Joseph not to be afraid, that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that they should call him Emmanuel meaning, "God is with us." **Reflection for**

Families How often have our young children called out to us in fear. Maybe they're afraid of the night, or a bad dream, or an insect. They call out to us with complete trust that we will run to their side as soon as we hear their cry. It's important that we remind our children that God is with us always. Like a loving parent, God is there when we call out. It is reassuring for our children to hear about examples from our own lives that recall times when we were afraid and God was present to us.

FAMILY ADVENT PRAYER

All four candles can now be lighted celebrating that the penitential season of Advent is over!

Prayer: Lord, rouse Your power, we pray, and come, lend Your great strength to aid us, so that through the help of Your grace and by Your merciful forgiveness, the good which our sins obstruct may be quickly brought to us. You, who are God, living and reigning. *Amen.*

RCIA Resumes January 8, 2008

NO MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

COLLECTION REPORT

∞ A Summary of Your Generosity ∞
December 16—\$3723. ▼\$2812. *Less than last year!*
Restoration Fund last week: \$4919. FYI *Keeping our offertory up exempts our restoration fund from being taxed by the Chancery.*

PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25, 26 & 27, 2007 & JAN. 1, 2008

Wishing you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.

Dear Parishioners,

2007



O Holy Night

Christmas is only a couple of days away and we are fast approaching the end of this year. I would like to thank everyone in the parish for your help, concern, support and prayerfulness over the past year. God has truly blessed us in 2007.

The Advent wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice – that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern most point in the heavens and the days are the darkest and most gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls. There they awaited the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. The celebrations culminated in the "nativity" of the sun – the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: the nativity of the Saviour. We have been adding one light for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness of Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin Mary help us prepare for His saving birth.

Christmas is a time when family and friends get together to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. It is a time when happiness and peace should reign in our hearts, homes and parish. This holiday should remind us again of that little stable in Bethlehem where our savior was born.

This Christmas we should take time to venture to the front of the Church and to gaze on the Christ child in the stable. To look upon this child who gave up everything for the love of his Father and for us. What gift can we bring before our king this Christmas? What can we do to show our love, our gratitude and our willingness to follow him? This stable reminds us of our own sense of poverty. Mary and Joseph tell us one great truth: 'God alone suffices!' What more could we desire than to know Him whom God had called and who we call Jesus, Saviour, Emmanuel, God with us.

It is not my intention to go down a list of people and to thank each individual as I am sure I will leave someone out. Suffice to say that I truly appreciate everyone for sharing their talents, time and energy to help our parish run smoothly. Thank you and God bless you all.

Let us, this Christmas, remember to keep Christ at the very forefront of all our celebrations and gatherings. Let us not forget that it is for Him that we celebrate this wonderful season. Keep Christ in Christmas! God bless you all and I pray you will find many blessings this Christmas and that you will enjoy the abundance of His love in the New Year.

*Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you many blessings,
Fr. Vic, Br. Jerry and Staff*

Thank you...

To our 'Music Ministry' for providing the carols at our "Lessons & Carols" evening last Friday. Those who attended were treated to beautiful words and music! Thank you also to Br. Jerry for arranging this new event to St. Michael's.

Once again...

Fr. Vic is once again looking for donations of summer clothing, encyclopaedia's, Readers Digests. These items can be dropped off at the Parish Centre during office hours.