

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## MASSES THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S

MON. Dec. 22

12:05 PM † ARMAND CLEMENT –Betty & Family

Tues. Dec. 23

12:05 PM † ELEANOR & GORDON ENGLISH  
–Vic & Colleen Olsen

### PRIVATE CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 23 12:30 PM and 7:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Wednesday, December 24 5:00 PM

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

Wednesday, December 24 8:00 PM

† BRONSON PEZANOSKI –Jay

Wednesday, December 24 11:00 PM

† Deceased Members of DEPALMA & PEDOTA  
FAMILIES --Don & Frances



## CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Thursday, December 25 11:00 AM

MISSA PRO POPULO

Fri. Dec. 26 St. Stephen

12:05 PM † BIRGIT TUNNEY –Kathleen Tunney

## Feast of the Holy Family

SATURDAY, December 27

5:00 PM † Deceased Members of the BOWEN &  
WALSH FAMILIES –Teresa

SUNDAY, December 28

9:00 AM † JAMES DYER  
–Bill & Sadie Barr

11:00 AM MISSA PRO POPULO

Next Weekend's Readings • Feast of the Holy Family

1<sup>st</sup> Genesis 15.1-6, 17.3b-5, 15-16; 21.1-7++

2<sup>nd</sup> Hebrews 11.8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel Luke 2.22-40

## REFLECTION



**Gospel Summary** Jesus' birth is foretold in this gospel where Gabriel comes to Mary and announces that within her she has the king that Israel has long awaited. To have found favour with God surprises Mary, a woman with none of the qualities valued in her society. She was female, young, poor, and didn't even have a husband or child to give her existence credibility. Not only did this puzzle her, but she knew she was a virgin and carrying a child didn't logically fit. Her puzzlement gave Gabriel the opportunity to explain that the baby she carried was conceived through the Holy Spirit. Mary accepted what was told to her, and remained open to God's will. At the same time, she learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also pregnant. This pregnancy was miraculous as well, since Elizabeth had been thought to be barren and was now an old woman.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Greg Fleming, Tom Ayotte, Cora Reyns, Rosemary Roth, Lisa Sampson, James Thatcher, Mary Ryan, Don Butler, Charles Potier, Shirley Ferguson, Marisca, Rosemarie Cromlish, Arlene Brown, Debbie Hale, Stanley Johnston, Jessica Gerber, Richard Philips, Bill Daly, Isabel Hogan, James Fullerton, Lynn Fabris, Mary Beyette, Jean Winters, Theresa Ferguson, Charles Bateman, Andy Amelia, Bob Pickett, Matilda Eikens, Noreen Mark, Antoinette Brisson, Julie Black, Stan Johnston, Fred Williams, Denise Palermo, Mark Martel, Diane Bartlett, Greg Heenan, *May the Lord's healing hand touch them.*

## FYI

*Just a reminder that Fire Regulations for the Church permits 540 people to safely be in the building. Plan to arrive early for your Christmas Mass. There's always plenty of room on Christmas Day!*

## Catholic Herald—Diocese newspaper

Pick up a copy today at the entrance of the Church. Read Bishop De Angelis' Christmas message. Also, see the article about Fr. Vic's Installation in Courtice, and much, much more.

## COLLECTION REPORT

∞ A Summary of Your Generosity ∞

December 14 Offertory \$5049.

Restoration \$1625. *Thank you for your support!*

**PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 & 26, 2008 & JAN. 1 & 2, 2009**

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



## *O Holy Night*

*My Dear Friends:*

*It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost here. For weeks now, we have been hearing Christmas music on the radio and in the shops. The latter have been all decorated for the occasion. This week, of course, marks one of the times, in the course of a year, in which we become aware that our Christian perspective differs from that of the secular world.*

*For the secular world, Christmas ends with the Boxing Day Sales. For Christians, our Christmas celebration begins on December 25<sup>th</sup> and lasts for 12 days, ending with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*Remember the old English Carol: "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me....." ? There are twelve days of very peculiar gifts. Have you ever wondered about them.*

*The Carol was created during the English Reformation, when it was illegal to be a Catholic. In order to teach the Faith to their Children, the Catholic created this carol as a means of reminding their Children and themselves of the basics of the Faith. At the same time, however, the secular Authority would not see anything "papist" about the lyrics.*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day, there is the "Partridge in a pear tree". This is a reminder of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, there are "two turtle Doves": The Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, there are "Three French Hens": The 3 Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Four Calling Birds": The 4 Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

On the 5<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Five Gold Rings": The Torah, made up of the first 5 books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Six Geese A-Laying": The six days of creation.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Seven Swans A-swimming": the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and the fear of the Lord).

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Eight Maids A-milking": The 8 Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5.3-10).

On the 9<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Nine Ladies Dancing": the 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Ten Lords A-leaping": the Ten Commandments.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Eleven Pipers Piping": The 11 Faithful Apostles.

And finally, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day, there are "Twelve Drummers Drumming": the 12 points of doctrine proclaimed in the Apostles' Creed.

*May your Christmas celebration extend for the full 12 days and may it be a time of joy and love.*

*May the Blessings of the Christ Child and the prayers of His Holy Mother be with you now and throughout the New Year,*

*Fr Hood +*