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Also serving Saint Mary's Church in Souris, MB (Sundays at 11:00 am)

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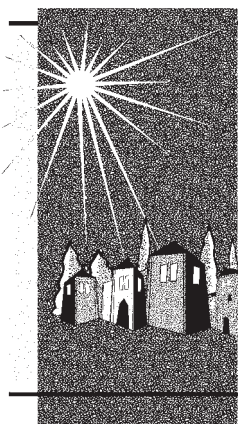
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**prepare the way...**



# **ADVENT**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



YOU  
BETHLEHEM-EPHRATHAH  
TOO SMALL TO BE  
AMONG THE CLANS OF  
JUDAH,  
FROM YOU  
SHALL COME FORTH  
FOR ME  
ONE WHO IS TO  
RULE ISRAEL  
WHOSE ORIGIN IS  
FROM OF OLD,  
FROM ANCIENT TIMES.

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Not long ago, I had the great opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Israel with a group of people. We began our journey each day in prayer. We visited many holy sites; we walked where Jesus walked. Each day our chaplain celebrated liturgy in one of the many churches that mark the location of significant stories in the Bible: where Jesus was born, where he died, where he celebrated his first miracle, at Cana. The prayer was profound, and the members of the group quickly became friends. We still greet each other with gladness and affection. One of the more moving experiences was a visit to the Church of the Visitation. Located at the top of a small hill, the church welcomes visitors with a wide plaza and a wrought-iron entryway. Immediately to the right of the courtyard is a tall bronze statue of Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. The figures are slender and visibly pregnant. The artist captured their joy with a slight arch in their backs, their arms beginning to ascend, and their heads lifted up as though laughing in delight. The statue made us smile. I think about that statue now and believe this is how we should always greet the Lord—with delight, joy, and an understanding that we are pregnant with his grace and presence. We are called to reveal that presence to the whole world. In these last few days before Christmas, reflect on the ways you will show your joy in the Lord's coming. *Katharine Deeley with permission of Liguori Publications*

### MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. Dec. 22	7:00 pm	RIP Lionel Bourassa Phil & Sharon Vickers	Ray Bourassa Ken, Karen & Steven Fitzpatrick
Wed. Dec. 23	9:30 am	Thanksgiving for Pro-Life Supporters	Life's Vision
Thu. Dec. 24	4:00 pm	RIP Lorraine Lariviere RIP Alex Suski RIP Ignazio Scaletta	Kehler Family Eileen & Family Sally & Family
	7:00 pm	RIP Norbert & Emily Potvin RIP Muriel Maladrewicz	John & Lorraine Williams Ed & Family
	9:00 pm	RIP Robert Parisien RIP Peter Litkovich	Melinda & Family Beverley & Family
	12:00 am	RIP Bud Smith George & Loretta Vancauwenberghe	Lucy & Family Vancauwenberghe
Fri. Dec. 25	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Michael & Fr. Patrick
Sat. Dec. 26	4:00 pm	Mary Lamborn RIP Mike & Elsie Panchuk	Ken, Karen & Steven Fitzpatrick Terry & Pam Szmon & Family
Sun. Dec. 27	9:00 am	RIP Bienvenido Sapitula RIP Emma Hipfner	Elise & Family Allan & Family
	11:00 am	RIP Fr. Alexander Machuy Special Intention	Peter, Cecelia & Family Pugh Family
	7:00 pm	For All Parishioners	Fr. Michael & Fr. Patrick
Souris	11:00 am	For All Parishioners	Fr. Michael & Fr. Patrick

**Please Pray For The Sick:** Amelia Adamski, Jean Boutillier, John Chomichuk, Teofil Cwiernia, Bernice Deurbrouck, Jules Declercq, Ann Delgaty, Paul Dheilley, Ron Ediger, Justin Enns, Rosaline Fedorkie, Eugene & Margaret Fitzpatrick, Colette Garlinski, Jenny Hamill, Elwood Henderson, Emily Jaffray, Pauline Keilback, Angela Lau, Diane Lomas, Paul Malabar, Gerry Martens, Millicent Mychasiw, Norman Mymko, Paul Omilanow, Shirley Petras, Walter Poruchny, Katherine Pouch, Crystal Racette, Bonnie Schellenberg, Gary Sproule, Debbie Williams and all our shut-ins.

### Knights of Columbus news:

- Knights are sponsoring a Keep Christ in Christmas Lighting Contest with prizes for the top 3 winners. If you know of a Christmas Display (anywhere in Brandon) that is worthy of consideration please contact Wes Shewchuk (204)729-9122 by Dec 20th to let him know where it is.
- Advent Food Drive. Thank you for your generous support. Together we are making a difference to help the poor. We will update the amount donated in our next Knight's Bulletin.
- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> Mass at 7:00pm followed by General Meeting (approx 7:45)
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting 7:00 pm

**Bulletin Submissions:** All Bulletin submissions must be sent to the Parish Office no later than **Thursday 4:00 pm** for the following weekend's bulletin.

### Readings for the Week:

<b>Dec. 21</b>	<b>St. Peter Canisius</b> Zephaniah 3.14-18a Luke 1.39-45
<b>Dec. 22</b>	1 Samuel 1.24-28 Luke 1.46-56
<b>Dec. 23</b>	<b>St. John of Kanty</b> Malachi 3.1-4; 4.5-6 Luke 1.57-66
<b>Dec. 24</b>	2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-12, 16 Luke 1.67-79
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Nativity of the Lord</b> Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-16
<b>Dec. 26</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b> Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59 Matthew 10.17-22
<b>Dec. 27</b>	<b>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> 1 Samuel 1.20-22, 24-28 1 John 3.1-2, 21-24 Luke 2.41-52

**Meetings/Church Bookings:** Please contact the church office to book your meeting/event space if you are planning on hosting an event or meeting at St. Augustine's.

**Theology on Tap** is back with an ecumenical series. Everyone 18-35 is invited to the Double Decker the third Thursday of the month at 7pm for food, drink and discussion. Contact us on facebook Theology on Tap Brandon.

**Please Help!** St. Vincent de Paul desperately needs funding to continue our food hamper distribution. As a result of the tremendous increase in demand and rising costs, our funds are running out. Thank you to the parishioners of St. Augustine on behalf of the needy who are deeply appreciative when they receive a hamper.

**St. Vincent de Paul** is collecting furniture, household items, dishes, pot and pans, cutlery, sheets sets, blankets. Our storage unit is empty please help fill it up again. Please call the Parish Office at 204-727-4728.

# DECEMBER 20, 2015

## The Week Ahead

Mon. 21	Prayer Group	7:00 pm
Tues. 22	NO Confirmation Class	
Wed. 23	K of C Executive Mtg.	7:00 pm
Thurs. 24	Office Closed at Noon	
Fri. 25	No Benediction or Adoration, Office Closed	
Sat. 26	Choir Practice	3:00 pm
Mon. 28	Office Closed	

## Our Financial Return to the Lord

Weekly Dec. 13- \$9,328.40

Sharing God's Gifts -\$56,206.90

To Reach Goal - \$25,313.10

## Papal Prayer Intentions for the month of December:

- That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.
- That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.



**VOCATION VIEW:** Mary set out in haste, carrying the good news of God's great love. Wherever you go today, take God with you.

## For Better and Forever Marriage Preparation - Upcoming Sessions:

Jan. 14- Feb. 25                      March 24- May 5                      May 19-June 30  
Couples must meet with parish priest prior to registering for Marriage prep. To register contact: Bob & Annette Boucher 204-727-6035.

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg and the Archdiocese of St. Boniface are organizing a joint pilgrimage for young adults, ages 18 to 35, to **World Youth Day 2016** in Krakow, Poland. It will be a blessed time of community and evangelization among young people from all over the world, including, of course, the Holy Father Pope Francis! Join us! For more information, please contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at youth@archwinnipeg.ca, or through phone at 204-452-2227, extension 273.

**Save The Date:** Life's Vision Brandon's 10th Annual Fundraising Banquet Saturday January 16th, 2016. Refreshments 5:30 pm, Gala Banquet Buffet 6:00 pm, Ukrainian Reading Hall. Guest Speaker Alex Shadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Tickets \$25, or table of 8 for \$250. Please join us for an exceptionally informative evening.

**Donation Envelopes:** Donation envelopes for 2016 are in the east vestibule ready for pick up. Please do not use until 2016.

## CWL NEWS:

- January 5, 2016- Annual general meeting starting with Mass at 7pm and installation of new executive.
- January 26- Executive meeting starting at 7pm at Ann Kamann's.
- Check out the 2015 newsletter on the parish website and CWL bulletin board in east vestibule.

**Come And Join Us -** Pray the rosary with fellow parishioners in support of the "Pro-Life Movement" every Wednesday at 12:00 pm in the chapel at the Assiniboine Centre.

**CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPT UPDATE:** As per Revenue Canada information please be informed that donations received after DECEMBER 31, 2015 CANNOT be added to the year 2015 receipts. Therefore it is advisable to make sure your 2015 donations are given in the current year. This information was received from Revenue Canada.

## Dear friends in Christ Jesus our Lord

CHRISTMAS is a living faith tradition that we share with the whole world. At every Christmas we retell the story of God's love for all humanity through His Son Jesus Christ who was born in human flesh to share his life with us. Through Christ God calls us to a life empowered by faith. Faith is very essential for a humanity that often scared by fear and indifference. Jesus offers us true freedom from fear, so that we can be free in Jesus to love those who come into our lives. In this sense faith in Christ sheds light on the gift of life. God celebrated his gift of relationship through Christ by sending him to us. In Christ we find true meaning of life. Those who accept him will find life rewarding! As we read in St. John's Gospel: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.... Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..... The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (cf *John 1: 1-14*). These words echo throughout the world testifying to this wonderful gift of Christmas. Let this joyful celebration may find true meaning in our homes. Let our relationships be touched by Christ who brings peace and joy to our hearts. May this season of grace bring healing and peace to all seek God's presence and this is the true gift Christ offers to all who believe in Him. I wish you all a merry Christmas and joy filled celebrations. *Fr. Michael R. Savarimuthu*

## FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

NET Retreat had a good turnout and was a success. Thank you to all the participants.

Special thanks to the Family billets- Jeff & Jennifer Kasprick, & Carol & Deacon John Mac Kenzie.

## Catechism & Confirmation Class

Catechism Class Resumes - Sunday Jan. 3, Thursday Jan. 7, 2016

Confirmation Class Resumes - Tuesday Jan. 5, 2016

## Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00, 7:00, 9:00 pm & 12:00 Midnight  
7:00 pm in Souris

December 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31<sup>st</sup> 4:00 pm

January 1<sup>st</sup> 11:00 am

11:00 am in Souris

## NEW TO OUR PARISH? CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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