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Website
www.holycrossparish.ca



Holy Cross

Roman Catholic Parish

252 Dubuc Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 1E3

Phone: 204-233-7367 Fax: 204-233-5355 Email: office@holycrossparish.ca

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Rev. Fr. Ani Xavier, OFM Cap
204-688-8633
pastor@holycrossparish.ca

MASS TIMES

Monday–Friday — 7:45am
Saturday — 7:45am, 4pm
Sunday — 7:45am, 10am & 12pm
Thursday—10:30am at Catherine Place

RECONCILIATION

Monday–Saturday — after the
7:45am weekday masses.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday — 8:30am – 12pm
**Closed on Mondays, Weekends and
Holidays.**

Coordinator of Parish Life

Sister Charlotte Leake, S.N.J.M.

Office Assistant

Rachel de Jesus

Custodian

Gerard O'Neill

Catechetics & Youth Group

Dominique Gougeon-Gagnon

Holy Cross Food Bank

Marianne Savard

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Principal

Catherine Walker

204-237-4936

HCSoffice@holycrossschool.mb.ca

Vice-Principal

Brett Bourquin

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-18a

Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12):

“Shout aloud and sing for joy: great
in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.”

2nd Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

Gospel: Luke 3.10-18

PARISH BULLETIN

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT • December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent—December 15, 2024

Today is ‘GAUDETE’ SUNDAY, in this third week of Advent. Today is known as JOY Sunday. That is why the pink candle is used on our Advent wreath.

Today all the Scriptures speak about joy, rejoicing, and practical steps to achieve joy. Joy is not like happiness. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Joy is an action of the will where you choose to live in God’s presence every day, even when the world around is cracking at the seams. Yet you find immense joy through this. Suffering then becomes fruitful and valiant, and you know that God is God and that we are not. In everything we do, He is our Lord.

Zephaniah, Isaiah, and Luke all discuss the gladness, the joy, and the rejoicing that takes place when Israel can shout and proclaim the marvels of the Lord. It includes not being afraid, not being anxious or discouraged. Paul tells us that with joy we do not need to have anxiety; but instead we can place all our petitions, prayers and blessings before the Lord. God who is faithful, will answer us and teach us how to live in Him.

John the Baptist has come to prepare the way of the Lord. Advent is a time to prepare. People waited in expectation for the coming of the Lord to Israel and John reveals the One who is to come. John provides practical ways to be just and kind towards others in whatever state of life we are. John comes to remind the people that he is not the Messiah, but that one greater than he will come in time. This Messiah, Jesus, will be the one to save all His people. John is only a voice preparing the way of the Lord. His mission will cost him everything. But it is all worth it for knowing the joy of Christ!

May this GAUDETE Sunday fill each of us with joy so that we can await the coming of our Messiah at Christmas, and when he comes again at the end of time. May the Joy of this Advent lead us to Bethlehem. For the Lord is coming and this is the time to make ready for HIM.

Christophe Maguet, *Holy Cross Parish Pastoral Council Member & Parishioner*

Children's Choir

A Children's Choir will be singing some carols **before** the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. If your child would like to participate, there will be practices in the multipurpose room after the **10:00am Sunday Mass on December 15th and 22nd**. If you have any questions, you can email Dominique at holycrossparishcatechist@gmail.com

Holy Cross Parish Men's Group

Attention men of Holy Cross! All men ages 18 and up are invited to the Holy Cross Men's Faith Sharing and Prayer Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the every month at 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the church. The format will be video presentation, sharing, and the rosary. We learn, we share, we discuss, and we pray. Please contact Charles at (204) 235-1725 or cppref@mymts.net or Christophe at (431) 866-5138 or cmaguet@hotmail.com for more information. **The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 18th.**



Households of Faith – Silent Night to Star Bright

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 in the parish basement at 7:00pm.

Meet new friends, share your journey, and dive into Scripture with a supportive community. Join us Wednesday evenings

for two weeks of meaningful conversation and connection. All backgrounds are welcome—let's grow together! For more information, [click here](#)

2025 Mass Intentions

The Holy Cross Parish mass intention book for 2025 is open. Please review the guidelines on the new mass intention request [form](#) found on our [website](#), parish office, and both entrances of the church, as we have made some changes to be in alignment with the policies established by the Archdiocese of St. Boniface for scheduling mass intentions. Please contact the parish office at office@holycrossparish.ca or (204) 233-7367 with any questions. Thank you for your understanding as we try to follow church guidelines, have masses available for the recently deceased and accommodate those who have regular mass intentions.



CWL Corner

The Advent Tree will be in its annual spot at the back of the church. This year, we are asking for your assistance to decorate it with SOCKS.

NEW SOCKS of any size & color for the less fortunate children & adults of the inner city.

(Christmas Tree Image by [Ciker-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#))

(Socks Image by [anastacia bankulova](#) from [Pixabay](#))



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24: Christmas Eve: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00pm Children's Choir
5:00pm Children's Mass
9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

December 25: Christmas Day: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

7:45am Christmas Day Mass
10:00am Christmas Day Mass

December 31: New Year's Eve: Seventh Day Within the Octave of the Nativity

7:00pm Adoration in the Church
8:00pm New Year's Eve Mass

January 1, 2025: New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God • The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

7:45am Mary, Holy Mother of God
10:00am Mary, Holy Mother of God

Note: The 7:45am Daily Mass is still celebrated on Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) & Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve). They do not appear on this holiday schedule as they are weekday Masses, *separate* from feast days.

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Masses

To make these celebrations run smoothly, we are seeking volunteers to assist with various roles. We need Communion Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, and Altar Servers to help during the Christmas Masses. If you are able to volunteer, please sign up on the sign-up sheets located at the back of the church.



Parish Office Holiday Hours

The parish office **will be open from 8:30am to 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 24th** and **will be closed for the holidays beginning the afternoon of Tuesday, December 24th. We will reopen in the New Year on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025 during office hours.** From everyone at the parish office, we wish you peace, joy and all the best the holiday has to offer. May this season of giving and spending time with family bring you joy that lasts throughout the year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

(Image by [OpenClipart-Vectors](#) from [Pixabay](#))

Mass Intentions December 14–22, 2024

Saturday, December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

4:00pm + Omer Malo by his family

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

7:45am For the Physical & Spiritual Healing of Rolando & Ricardo Manalang & family
 10:00am + George & + Paula Verstraete by the family
 12:00pm For the Intentions of All Parishioners

Monday, December 16

7:45am Barry Murphy by Pam Murphy

Tuesday, December 17

7:45am + Keith Jewell by Roger Bouchard

Wednesday, December 18

7:45am + Thomas O'Brien, + Andre & + Brigitte Robin by Erin & family

Thursday, December 19

7:45am + All Souls in Purgatory, + Antoinette Hamid & All Those Who Died During COVID by Maricelli Peña

Friday, December 20

7:45am + Claire Chenier by Betty Man

Saturday, December 21

7:45am + Keith McCord by Michael & Arlene Soenen

Saturday, December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00pm For the Intentions of All Parishioners

Sunday, December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:45am Janet Kane by the Norwood Knights of Columbus
 10:00am For Victims of Human Trafficking by the Holy Cross CWL
 12:00pm + Gerald Muller by Jeanne Gousseau

December Papal Prayer Intentions

For Pilgrims of Hope – We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



Stewardship

December 15, 2024 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God’s image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

Sunday Offerings December 8, 2024	
Loose	\$330.05
Envelopes	\$4,032.00
Pre-Authorized Donations	\$948.00
TOTAL	\$5,310.05
<i>Thank you for your generosity. Please no foreign currency.</i>	

Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Luke 6: 30

The Week Ahead December 15–21, 2024

	Sunday December 15	Monday December 16	Tuesday December 17	Wednesday December 18	Thursday December 19	Friday December 20	Saturday December 21
Morning		Parish Office Closed		9:00am Food Bank 9:30am-11:30am Children’s Atrium 10:00am CWL Executive Meeting		7:45am Mass followed by 3 rd Friday Devotions	9:30am-11:30am Children’s Atrium 11:00am Baptism 11:00am First Reconciliation Retreat
Afternoon	2:00pm Legion of Mary	3:30pm-5:00pm Bradbury’s	1:30pm Holy Cross School Christmas Mass			1:00pm-3:00pm Ladies Crafting	12:00pm Confirmation Preparation
Evening				5:00pm-7:00pm Children’s Atrium 7:00pm Men’s Group 7:00pm Household of Faith (HoF)	7:00pm Youth Group		

Advent Reflections 2024 — Week 3

3rd Sunday of Advent: Prepare

Preparing Our Souls for Christmas

Most of us are very good at the gift-buying, the baking and meal-prepping, the decorating for gatherings and festivities at Christmas. However, we can sometimes forget to prepare our souls for Jesus' arrival—and our souls are where He comes to stay and wants to be!

Our interior preparations are the most important. Rather than being the focus, our external preparations should *accompany* our interior devotions and preparations.

All our decorating, caroling, gift-wrapping, and hosting should help us create an atmosphere that keeps our focus on the Christ Child. That way our heart can be a spiritual nativity scene, with our soul kneeling at the manger of God-made-man.

Some Practical Tips

1. *Pray while you work.*

As you prepare exteriorly, make conversation with Our Lord. Speak with Him.

Offer things to Him. Make Him the goal of each task. You can say such prayers as:

“Jesus, here I am wrapping gifts. Here I am preparing the guest room. I offer You these tasks. May I do them for love of You, and may my heart be a place of repose for you, my Lord.”

Short prayers like this are an enormous help in keeping our focus on the God who loves us—and can purify the goals and intentions that we have for the Christmas season.

2. *Ponder the lyrics of Advent hymns and Christmas carols.*

We are so familiar with traditional Christmas carols that it's easy to overlook the profound, heart-piercing beauty of their lyrics.

Taking the time to print out these lyrics, and to reflect on them while we listen to the music, can be a fruitful spiritual exercise. Consider, for example, the words of O Holy Night, written in the 19th century:

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of our dear
Savior's birth.
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining 'Til He appeared and **the soul felt
its worth.**

This stanza alone is a theological powerhouse. We feel the keen sense of sin, sorrow, and loneliness experienced by the unredeemed human soul—and then, amidst the white glimmer of starlight, we understand that our Savior has shown us the inestimable value He places on our souls by coming *in person* to rescue us.

3. *Fast in some small way.*

Advent is a penitential season, and therefore a season to offer penance. We can choose something, however small, to fast from and offer to Jesus. The Sundays of Advent are not fast days. During the rest of the week, however, save the feasting for Christmas itself.

Use prudential judgment here, of course: if you are invited to a family Christmas party, for example, there's no need to draw attention by avoiding sweets and eating dry crackers.

However, if you have received a luscious box of chocolates as a personal gift, it would be a perfect Advent sacrifice to tuck that box away until Christmas arrives.

4. *Learn how to better prepare for receiving Holy Communion.*

When we are expecting guests, we take special efforts to clean our homes and make sure that our visitors feel welcome.

The best way to prepare for Jesus is to go to Confession frequently. We can seek to be better disposed to receive Jesus and the graces He brings by offering before and after Communion prayers.

The saints also give us beautiful writings that can deepen our understanding and love for the Blessed Sacrament.

Ask Our Lady for her help in receiving Jesus with love and tenderness.

Conclusion

Prepare this Advent to receive Christ **as though he were coming for the first time.** Make this Christmas a celebration of the birth of our Savior and the great gift of faith we have received. By striving to live in the presence of Christ during Advent, we will receive the best present of all: our Savior.

(Source: goodcatholic.com)