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# Holy Cross

## Roman Catholic Parish

252 Dubuc Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 1E3

Phone: 204-233-7367 Fax: 204-233-5355 Email: [office@holycrossparish.ca](mailto:office@holycrossparish.ca)

### PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Rev. Fr. Anixavier Antony Muthu,  
OFM Cap.

204-688-8633

[pastor@holycrossparish.ca](mailto: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

Vice-Principal

Catherine Walker Brett Bourquin

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**December 22, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Micah 5.2-5a

**Responsorial Psalm 80:** "Restore us,  
O God; let your face shine, that we  
may be saved."

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Hebrews 10.5-10

**Gospel:** Luke 1.39-45

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**December 29, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14

**Responsorial Psalm 128:** "Blessed is  
everyone who fears the Lord."

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3.12-21

**Gospel:** Luke 2.41-52

### PARISH BULLETIN

December 22 & 29, 2024

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 22, 2024

##### **Luke 1. 39-45**

*Blessed are you, Mary, who believed that God is trustworthy.* You knew that God is faithful. You believed in the One whose goodness and mercy never fail. You embraced his love for us, which is overflowing in kindness and sympathy and the desire to help us. So you waited for the Father, believing that all his plans for your life could be trusted. And because you believed so fully, you are blessed among all women.

*Blessed are you, Mary, who believed that God's WORD is true and his promises are certain.* You believed that God's intentions are unshakable, continuing forever. You trusted that he knows our hearts, desiring only that we look to him and put our hope in his unfailing love. And because you trusted so completely, you are blessed among all women.

*Blessed are you, Mary, who believed that God is bigger than every fear and concern.* You believed that he is the light that drives away the darkness where fear dwells. He is the high tower from which we can look down, safe from isolation, anxiety, and apprehension. Mary, you believed that God can do so much more than we can ask or imagine. Confident in his power and might, and in the abundance of his love, you said 'yes' to him. And because you surrendered so humbly, you are blessed among all women.

*Blessed are you, Mary, who believed what was spoken to you by the Lord.* You staked your life on the one true God, on his promises, on his power to accomplish what he plans, and on his love and protection. You let him shine his light in your heart and believed with your actions, welcoming the Holy Spirit and bearing the beloved Son of God. And because you opened your heart—and your body—to the Lord so trustingly, you are blessed among all women.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us! Help us to trust that God is faithful, dependable, and loving. Hold us firmly to the truth of God's WORD, that we might rest securely in his LOVE."

Blessings in the Holy Names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

Sister Charlotte Leake, S.N.J.M., *Coordinator of Parish Life*

#### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph—December 29, 2024

On this Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph let's dig into today's scripture readings. There are some similarities between Samuel and Jesus and likewise similarities between Hannah and Mary. We see the faith that Hannah had with the blessing she received from God with the birth of Samuel when she gave him to God in the temple. Jesus was found in the temple and went home with Mary and Joseph. Jesus went home and was obedient to his parents. Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph by going back to Nazareth, but also obedient to God by being obedient to Mary and Joseph. This was the beginning of the first domestic church with Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

We need to find God in our homes and build our faith every day in our homes. We can accomplish this by reading the scriptures, praying together, and journeying in our faith together as a family. Just like Mary who pondered these things in her heart, we need to ponder these things in our hearts. Let's all take time to say the rosary and meditate on each decade just like Mary would meditate.

This past advent for our parish retreat we had an opportunity to pray and meditate on the gospel readings using the Households of Faith format. In this format, we read the readings together with a few friends and discuss simple questions after each reading of scripture:

1. What word or phrase struck me today?
2. What is the Good News in this reading today?
3. How is God speaking to me through the gospel and the sharing today?

It's a very simple method that allows the Word of God to speak to you so that you can apply his word to your life. I was very blessed to walk with each person that attended.

If you are interested in attending or starting a Household of Faith please reach out to a member of the Parish Pastoral Council or email [ppc@holycrossparish.ca](mailto:ppc@holycrossparish.ca).

Diane L'Arrivee, PPC Chair

### Silence in Mass During Consecration

Father Ani has requested that no movement and silence in the church is expected at the time of consecration. This cue can be observed by the ringing of bells. Should this happen while you're in route to/from the washroom, please be considerate by stopping and waiting until after the consecration.

### 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.

### 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 practice in the Church after the **10:00am Sunday Mass on December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

If you have any questions, you can email Dominique at [holycrossparishcatechist@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossparishcatechist@gmail.com)



Dear Parishioners,  
Peace be with you...

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us remember that this holy season is not just a time of joy and peace, but also a time of reflection on

the journey we are all on together as pilgrims of hope. This year, we stand at the threshold of the Jubilee Year 2025, a year that invites us to deepen our faith, renew our commitment to God, and reflect on His boundless mercy. We, the Church, are called to bring the light of Christ into the world. We are pilgrims—each walking with Christ, seeking His love, mercy, and peace, and sharing that hope with others.

The journey of Advent has prepared us for the arrival of Jesus, who fulfills God's promise to be with us, Emmanuel. As we celebrate Christmas, let us take a moment to remember that Christ came to bring hope to the world. He is the light in our darkness, the hope in our despair, and the peace in our hearts. Let this truth renew us, especially as we enter the Jubilee Year—a time to walk more closely with Christ, trusting in His love and mercy. Christ's birth gives us the courage to live with hope, to be light in the darkness, and to share His love with the world.

May this Christmas season fill your hearts with the peace and joy that only Christ can give, and may the coming Jubilee Year inspire us to be faithful pilgrims on the path of faith, hope, and love.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a year of grace in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025.

With prayers and blessings.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Anixavier, OFM Cap., *Holy Cross Parish Pastor*

(Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#))



### Parish Office Holiday Hours

The parish office **will be open from 8:30am to 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** and **will be closed for the holidays beginning the afternoon of Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen in the New Year on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](#))

### Donations for 2024

As per the Canada Revenue Agency regulations, we will be accepting any donations for 2024 up to December 31, 2024.

### Formed

Christmas Blessings to All! Thanks to a very generous donation, the Parish has purchased a yearlong subscription to **Formed**, a premier Catholic streaming service, bringing beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families, and individuals around the world. You will be able to access award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kids' programming aimed at embarking on a new season of faith formation!

We encourage everyone to sign up and discover the abundant treasures of the Catholic faith and receive the good news of God's incredible love, including the plan he has for each of our lives. Signup is easy. Click on the link <https://signup.formed.org/> and enter the parish name and location "Holy Cross Winnipeg". You'll then be prompted to enter your name and email to create your personal account. With your personal account you will then be able to have unrestricted access to all content.

May God Bless everyone taking part and may the Holy Spirit inspire and guide us all as we embark on the journey of faith formation together.

### Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross Parish, Thank you so much for your support in our Annual CWL Bake Sale. It was a total success because of your support! As in previous years, Holy Cross Parish benefited by getting one half of the proceeds from the sale. This year CWL gave Holy Cross \$535.50 for the Elevator Project. The winner of the 50/50 this year was Paulette Anguish! Congratulations Paulette! We made enough on the 50/50 to provide Bibles for youth in our Parish taking First Communion. Definitely money well spent! Thank you again everyone for your support! We are most grateful! God Bless you all.

### \*Update—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](mailto: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.

\*Please note that mass cards are now \$3.00 each and must be paid separately from the mass intention stipend.



### 2025 Offering Envelopes

Your new set of offering envelopes are available at the Traverse Street entrance of the Church. **We kindly ask everyone to NOT use your 2025 offering envelopes UNTIL January 1, 2025 as using them in 2024 may disrupt your 2024 donations. A friendly reminder to everyone: once the New Year begins, please DISCARD YOUR OLD SET as envelope numbers can change from year to year. Your number might be assigned to another person for 2025 and that person will receive an income tax receipt for a donation which you have made.** If you haven't requested a set of parish envelopes but would like one, please contact the parish office at [office@holycrossparish.ca](mailto:office@holycrossparish.ca) or 204-233-7367 or drop in during office hours. You may also fill out the registration form at the back of the church and drop it in the offering basket. **Visiting parishioners or parishioners who have forgotten their offering envelopes may use the pink offering envelopes for their Sunday Offering.** We kindly ask that you **DO NOT USE** the "Capital Building Fund", "Weekday Masses" or "Saturday Masses" envelopes for your Sunday Offering and only use them for those offerings.

(Image by [Cler-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#))

### First Friday Mass at 7:00pm

On the First Friday of every month, there will be a holy mass at 7:00pm, followed by adoration in the church. **The next one will be on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00pm.** All are welcome.

### Friends of the Holy Eucharist

Dear Parishioners,  
You are invited to experience the power of the Eucharistic Lord with the *Friends of the Holy Eucharist*.  
Place: Holy Cross Church, 252 Dubuc Street  
Date: **January 6, 2025**  
Time: 6:30pm Spiritual presentation or witness.  
7:00pm Holy Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary for Priests and Vocations.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:cppref@mymts.net) or Christophe at (431) 866-5138 or [cmaguet@hotmail.com](mailto:cmaguet@hotmail.com) for more information. **The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00pm.**

### Holy Hour with Charismatic Prayer

Holy Hour with Charismatic Prayer will be held in the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 7:00pm. **The next one will be held on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00pm.**

## Advent Reflections 2024 — Week 4

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Watch and Wait

#### **Watching and Waiting**

Like life itself, Advent is a time of waiting. Awaiting the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas morning reminds us to turn any periods of waiting in our lives into times of interior fruitfulness, with God's grace.

God has His purposes, of course, for anything that seems like delay. For example, God's chosen people waited century after century to receive the Messiah—but God had reasons for not sending Him right away. Man had to learn by experience the evil and misery of sin, and recognize the fact that he could not save himself. We needed a divine liberator.

Now the Church, the New Israel, awaits His return at the end of the world—the Second Coming being the other preparatory focus of Advent. It's not an easy wait, since the Church is confronted by "the spiritual forces of evil" (Ephesians 6:12) that seek to devour souls.

We know, however, that Christ is already Victor.

Though **already present in his Church, Christ's reign is nevertheless yet to be fulfilled** "with power and great glory" by the King's return to earth...

According to the Lord, the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by "distress" and the trial of evil which does not spare the Church and ushers in the struggles of the last days. **It is a time of waiting and watching.**

—*The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 671-672*

Waiting is a teacher all its own. Waiting reminds us that we cannot save ourselves. We cannot even help ourselves. We cannot control events or make our lives what we want them to be. Waiting—and watching—keeps us dependent on God, our "divine liberator." That's one reason why it's so important for us to experience it.

If we struggle with what seems like a delay in God's promises, we can find hope in waiting by remembering that there is purpose in it—hidden though it may be—and lessons to be learned from it.

#### **Don't Fall Asleep at Your Post**

The command to "watch and wait" comes from Our Lord Himself:

"Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and **be like men who are waiting** for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks...**You also must be ready;** for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect." —*Luke 12:35-36, 40*

"**Watch therefore,** for you know neither the day nor the hour." —*Matthew 25:13*

What are we staying alert for? We are staying alert so that we can recognize temptation when it comes and resist it. We are keeping watch so that we can strive for final perseverance in the Faith. We are keeping vigilant for the will of God in our lives and for our decisive encounter with Him, whether that takes place with His second coming or on our deathbed.

#### **How Should We "Watch and Wait"?**

Advent is the perfect time to "practice" the art of joyful waiting. This waiting shouldn't be sleepy, passive, or indifferent. Instead, our faith calls us to a joyful, active, hopeful waiting. How many of us experience this when we are expecting the visit of a loved one whom we haven't seen in years? Don't we anticipate their arrival by looking out the window and feeling too excited to sit down?

Well, **we can pray for the same eagerness** in expectation of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We can ask our Heavenly Father to grant us holy eagerness both for Christmas Day and for the Second Coming of Christ.

How else can we cultivate an attitude of watching and waiting?

The answer is simple: **by faithfully attending to the tasks and duties of our state in life.** In other words, by *doing what we're supposed to be doing.*

We tend to think of holiness as resulting from heroic deeds and mystical experiences and the founding of religious orders. But wisdom reveals that holiness comes from tending to each duty of the moment "in quietness and in trust" (Isaiah 30:15). And the way to prepare for Christ's coming—now and at any time—is by faithfully fulfilling our responsibilities for the sake of becoming holy.

Stay alert. Do what you are supposed to do. Fulfill your responsibilities. Pray. These things are simple—though not as easy as they sound. They should make up our efforts as we strive to "watch and wait."

When we have done these things, we will be able to say: "Behold, everything is ready." Everything is prepared. And now, we wait—alert and eager—and we watch for the approach of the One we are expecting.

*May God fill your hearts with His peace and grant you a Merry Christmas.*

(Source: goodcatholic.com)

# Mass Intentions

## Mass Intentions December 21–29, 2024

### 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

### Monday, December 23

7:45am Margaret O'Brien by Erin & family

### Tuesday, December 24

7:45am + Peter & + Sophie Panchuk by the Savard family

### Tuesday, December 24: Christmas—Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

5:00pm + Andrée L'Arrivée by Friends

9:00pm Nicholas & Ginette Pawlak

### Wednesday, December 25: Christmas—Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord • Holy Day of Obligation

7:45am Giovanni & Sara Verrelli

10:00am For the Intentions of All Parishioners

### Thursday, December 26: Feast of St. Stephen • Octave of the Nativity

7:45am + Claire Chenier by Aaron Afonso

### Friday, December 27: Feast of St. John • Octave of the Nativity

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

### Saturday, December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents • Octave of the Nativity

7:45am + Lloyd & + Irene Weeres by Michael & Arlene Soenen

### Saturday, December 28: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:00pm Christine Ross by Georges & Carla Gervais

### Sunday, December 29: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:45am + Evangeline Fraser by Edward & Cecile Myslicki

10:00am For the Intentions of All Parishioners

12:00pm Gerald Majnusz by Bryon & Josy Burvill

## Mass Intentions December 28, 2024–January 5, 2025

### Saturday, December 28: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:00pm Christine Ross by Georges & Carla Gervais

### Sunday, December 29: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:45am + Evangeline Fraser by Edward & Cecile Myslicki

10:00am For the Intentions of All Parishioners

12:00pm Gerald Majnusz by Bryon & Josy Burvill

### Monday, December 30: Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity

7:45am + Gloria Murphy by Pam & Barry Murphy

### Tuesday, December 31: Seventh Day Within the Octave of the Nativity

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

8:00pm Fernandez family

### Wednesday, January 1: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God • The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord • Holy Day of Obligation

7:45am For the Intentions of All Parishioners

10:00am

### Thursday, January 2: Memorial for St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

7:45am

### Friday, January 3

7:45am Birthday Blessings for Pat Kapilik by Pam & Barry Murphy

### Saturday, January 4

7:45am + André, + Brigitte & + Jacqueline Robin by Guy & Angèle Rondeau

### Saturday, January 4: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

4:00pm For the Intentions of All Parishioners

### Sunday, January 5: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

7:45am

10:00am For Victims of Human Trafficking by the Holy Cross CWL

12:00pm

## Monthly Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis

### 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.

### January 2025 Papal Prayer Intentions

**For the Right to An Education** - Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



### Stewardship

**December 22, 2024 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (LUKE 1:44)*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.



### Stewardship

**December 29, 2024 - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 JOHN 3:1)*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

### Do You Know the Quiet, Important Work of a Parish Sacristan?

In nearly every parish there are men and women who do the quiet work of preparing for and assisting Mass. A sacristan's role is often overlooked. Their service is absolutely necessary. They make the priest comfortable and ready to celebrate for the people at every Mass and also make the church welcoming for the people. Sacristans serve God and the church in any helpful way possible. They give their time and efforts in a humble, quiet fashion and at their best they are not noticed. They lay out what is needed, prepare what is required as it is simply expected to be there, then join the congregation in expectation of God who does the real work anyhow. As the Advent and Christmas season approaches, volunteers are needed. If you would like to help or learn more about Holy Cross sacristan's ministry please contact John Scatliff at [johnscatliff@gmail.com](mailto:johnscatliff@gmail.com)

Submitted by Nicole Gougeon, Lector/ECM Ministry

### 12pm Noon Mass Lectors Needed

We are searching for new or retired lectors that would be willing to join the 12pm noon mass lecturing ministry team. Speaking the Word of God is a very fulfilling way to reflect reverence. If interested please reach out to Nicole Gougeon at [nicolegg1@mymts.net](mailto:nicolegg1@mymts.net) or Marina Espinoza at [vmari.espinoza@gmail.com](mailto:vmari.espinoza@gmail.com)

### CCRS of MB—Unveiling the Gospels Bible Study 2025

Understanding the four Gospels in depth can often be challenging, especially reading them back-to-back. This course, however, goes beyond simply reading the Gospels. We'll delve into who the Gospel writers were, their unique audiences, their purposes in writing, and, most importantly, how each one presents a distinct view of Jesus. Have you heard of the 18 Miracles in St. Mark’s Gospel? The 5 main discourses in St. Matthew’s Gospel? Did you know that tradition holds that St. Luke was not only a great writer but also a painter and sculptor? and that to understand St. John’s Gospel one could really benefit from reading Genesis Chapter 1 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St. John.... come join us, you will not be disappointed!

The Bible Study will run as follows:

- Mondays at St. Gerard Parish from January 06 to April 07, 2025 – 6:30PM to 09:00PM – [TO SIGN UP CLICK HERE](#)
- Wednesdays at St Timothy Parish Hall from January 08 to April 09, 2025 – 6:30PM to 09:00PM – [TO SIGN UP CLICK HERE](#)
- Fridays at St. John Cantius Church Hall from January 10 to April 11, 2025 - 6:30PM to 09:00PM – [TO SIGN UP CLICK HERE](#)

## Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope



*Here is the final announcement for Sunday, December 22 that links, the theme of Advent to the pilgrimage of hope by reflecting on the journey of preparation, repentance, joy, and trust. Each Sunday invites parishioners to consider their role as pilgrims awaiting Christ's coming and*

*encourages them to deepen their faith in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025. We hope that you will read them aloud as we draw near to the Year of Jubilee!*

### **Sunday, December 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Trusting in God's Promise**

On this final Sunday of Advent, we are on the doorstep of Christmas. Today's Gospel (Luke 1:39-45) gives us the powerful example of Mary's trust in God's providence. Amid uncertainty, Mary, with child, sets out to be with her cousin Elizabeth trusting in God's accompaniment.

It is the response of John within Elizabeth's womb that leads to her proclamation, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Though she didn't understand fully what was happening, she trusted and delighted in God's presence. The Pilgrims of Hope, like Mary and Elizabeth, are called to trust, to joyfully surrender, and to believe that God's promises will come to fruition, even when the way is unclear.

In this final week of Advent, we are reminded to trust in God's plan for our lives and to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus with the same joy, trust and openness that Mary and Elizabeth demonstrated. Just as Mary was a faithful pilgrim, so too are we called to walk in faith, trusting that God's presence will guide us through all the unknowns of life.

As we approach Christmas, let us ask ourselves: How can I trust more deeply in God's plan for my life? How can I open my heart to His coming in a new and profound way? Let us prepare for the arrival of Christ with hearts full of faith and trust in His promises.

### **\*REMINDER\* SAVE THE DATE!!! Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope – December 29, 2024**

The Jubilee Year 2025 will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome, will also be opened by the Holy Father. On this same day, every Cathedral and co-Cathedral worldwide will celebrate a special Mass, presided over by the local Bishop, to mark the beginning of the Jubilee.

**To mark this significant event, Archbishop Albert LeGatt, D.D. will celebrate Mass on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:00pm at the Saint Boniface Cathedral. All are invited to join in the opening of the Jubilee Year.**

Save the date!

## Marriage, Family & Life

### **Marriage Tips – December 22**

Find a daily Mass that fits both of your work schedules and make going together a priority one day this week. It's a great way to start the day or begin the evening!

### **Marriage Tips – December 29**

When you feel negative about something your spouse says, try to look at the statement from a different perspective (especially his/hers) before responding.

### **Reflections for the Separated & Divorced: Grief, Divorce, and Getting Through the Holidays**

A Catholic divorce support program participant leaned into my ear conspiratorially, "You know what really bothers me about the holidays? Matching family pajamas!" *Translation:* She rejects the social media image of what the "perfect" family holiday season should look like—all the seemingly effortless smiles, meticulously wrapped presents, and immaculately white carpets. Divorce and separation are the loss of a marriage. As with any loss, it is important to grieve. A friend once shared, "The first Christmas after my separation felt liberating. I remember convincing my sister to go out and have drinks with me on Christmas Eve. It was the second and third Christmases that felt brutal." Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and eventual acceptance are all part of the grief cycle. Grief is anything but a linear process. Try not to expect to feel a certain way by a certain time. Instead, be present to your emotions where and when they arise. Some people are irritated by holiday festivities under the best of circumstances. Others welcome the distraction. Trust yourself to discern what you really need. Well-meaning friends and family might try to offer advice on how to celebrate the holidays. Take the suggestions with a grain of salt. For those navigating the holidays after loss, separation, or divorce, [click here](#) for a few strategies for managing the unique challenges that the holiday season brings. - Janelle Peregoy, Associate Director in the Office of Family Life & Spirituality of the Diocese of San Diego

### **\* Advent and Christmas Activities**

We would like to suggest the following initiatives that could be done in our parishes and families to help foster a sense of community. For more activities and resources, visit the Archdiocese of St. Boniface website by [clicking here](#)

**Christmas Star:** We will once again be encouraging the faithful to create a Christmas star to place in their windows during the Christmas season to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus and as a tangible symbol that Christ is in our homes.

**Epiphany Home Blessing with Chalk:** To bring blessings to families for 2024, we would like to share a special European Catholic tradition, dating back centuries, of blessing homes at the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>) using blessed chalk. With the blessing of the chalk, we are asking the Lord to bless our home, all inhabitants of our home, as well as any guests who may pass through our door throughout the year.



**Happy Birthday!!!**

Happy Birthday wishes, prayers and blessings to everyone celebrating their birthday in the month of December.

(Image by [Alexandra\\_Koch](#) from [Pixabay](#))



**Happy Wedding Anniversary!!!**

Congratulations and blessing to all the couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversary in the month of December.

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



**Catholic School of Evangelization - Winter Camp Registration is Open!**

Overnight winter camps is a dynamic, fun-filled weekend for

those who want to grow in their faith! Going to Saint Malo Catholic Camp is the perfect way for you to experience new activities, grow in character, build lasting friendships, and most importantly, have fun! Camps are available in both French and English for ages 8-17. **Early bird registration ends on December 12<sup>th</sup>, so don't wait to get registered.**

To register, [click here](#).

For more information, [click here](#)

**Camps Dates:**

- Ages 8-12 \* English Camp** \* Jan 17 - Jan 19
- Ages 8-12 \* French Camp** \* Jan 24 - Jan 26
- Ages 12-15 \* English Camp** \* Jan 31 - Feb 2
- Ages 12-15 \* French Camp** \* Feb 7 - Feb 9
- Ages 15-17 \* Bilingual Camp** \* Feb 14 - Feb 17



**Friends in Faith – Connection Café – January 13, 2025**

The Christmas Season or **Winter Blues** can be difficult for many people. Are you or a loved one

**feeling sad, overwhelmed, exhausted, distant, or irritable lately?**

Inviting all people looking for spiritual support to get through life's challenges. Each monthly event features a practical life or wellness topic, discussion, prayer, fellowship and refreshments.

**January's** topic will be on **Overcoming Sadness, Depression and more!** Please join us for an informative evening, and discussion on **Monday, January 13 at 7:00pm** at Mary, Mother of the Church, 85 Kirkbridge Drive. Please arrive early. Cost is goodwill offering. See [mmoc.ca](#) for more info and [to register](#). Note, If you cannot attend and are interested in the topic, you can access the [videos here](#).

For poster, [click here](#).



**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 [wixin lubhon](#) from [Pixabay](#))

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

**Norwood Knights of Columbus**

We are a Catholic men's service organization, practicing Catholics 18 and over, who are here for the church and community's needs. We have a life, disability insurance and investment opportunities, we are rated one of the best insurance providers. We have been with Holy Cross Parish over 65 years. Our church representative is Bryon Burvill (204) 233-7904. We are in need of new members to help us reach our objectives.

Sunday Offerings December 15, 2024	
Loose	\$498.80
Envelopes	\$1,885.00
Pre-Authorized Donations	\$948.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,331.80</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Food Depot)</b>	<b>\$1,820.00</b>
<i>Thank you for your generosity.</i>	

*Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return. Luke 6: 38*

Parish collections for the remainder of 2024 will be announced in an upcoming bulletin.  
*We thank you for your continual support and kind generosity to Holy Cross Parish!*



(Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#))