

# Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23, 2018

- Mon, Dec 24**      **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 5:00 pm**      **Children's Liturgy**  
Ranger & Deschamps Families by Rita Ranger  
Greg Birtch by Mom & Dad
- 7:00 pm**      Ray Blahey by Bob & Christine Miller  
Intentions of Shirley Radcliffe & Family by Anne Hurtubise
- 10:00 pm**      Ray Carbonneau by June & Family  
Jennifer Harney by Audrey Harney  
Marcy Hutchinson by Faye Grotoli
- Tue, Dec 25**      **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 9:00 am**      Gerald Guillemette by Mom & Dad & Family  
Tony & Alice Veltri by Victor & Sam Veltri & Families  
Mary Costante by Albert Costante & Family
- Sat, Dec 29**      **4:00 pm**      Kathleen Quigley by Shirley, Brooklyne & boys  
Joseph Marleau by Theresa Taillefer
- Sun, Dec 30**      **Feast of the Holy Family**
- 9:00 am**      For the intentions of all parishioners by Father Francis
- 11:00 am**      Carmelo & Antonina Muratore by Muratore Family  
Intentions of Pat McIntyre by Peter & Arlene Maunsell



**PRAYER LINE:** *In sorrow and suffering, go straight to God with confidence, and you will be strengthened, enlightened and instructed.* If you or any member of your family, or anyone you know, is sick, in distress or experiencing troubling times, we invite you to call the Parish Office to place that person on our prayer list.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED:**



Nov 2018 Pre-Authorized Donations      \$2 840.00

*Thank you for your generous contributions!*



## URGENT - Volunteers Needed

Sacristy Assistants are needed to help clean the Sacristy, altar, sanctuary and sacred vessels. Please donate your time – it's once a month for an hour or less and you would work in a team. For more information, call Diane at 472-8573.

## Dates to Remember: Confirmation 2019

### Sessions:

6:30-9 pm at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall School

January 11, 2019      April 5, 2019

February 8, 2019      May 3, 2019

March 1, 2019

### Confirmation Practice

June 5, 2019

6:30-8 pm for Candidates, Parents and Sponsors at Pro-Cathedral Parish

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF  
CONFIRMATION

**Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 10 am at Pro-Cathedral Parish celebration with newly confirmed St. Peter's confirmandi is Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 11 am at St. Peter's.**

**To All Prayer Partners:** Now is the time to reveal your name to your 2018 Prayer Partner. If you are letting them know in a Christmas card, please make sure to sign your name and indicate that you were their Prayer Partner. If you need any information please call Donna at 472-0513 or Theresa at 497-5909. P.S. This Christmas concludes the Prayer Partners Program.

### **Employment Opportunity: PARISH SECRETARY**

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is inviting applications for the position of Parish Secretary. Duties include, but are not limited to, secretarial and receptionist services for parish ministries, committees/groups/programs as required, maintain accurate confidential records of parishioners, order supplies, some daily, weekly, monthly and annual accounting duties such as banking, preparation of annual Financial Reports, T4 slips and T4 summaries, record weekly envelope contributions and issue income tax receipts at year end, etc. Interested applicants are asked to submit a cover letter and resume by March 15, 2019 to Pastor through the Parish Office. Interviews will take place in April 2019 with full-time employment to begin May 6, 2019. Salary commensurate with experience. The successful applicant will be required to provide references and comply with the requirements of the Diocesan Screening Initiative.

**New Year's Mass: Feast of Mary, Mother of God**  
**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 am Mass (St. Peter's)**

11:30 am Mass (St. Elizabeth's in Temagami)

*Please note: The Parish Office will be closed from 4:00pm on Friday, December 21, 2018 until 9:00am on Monday, January 7, 2019.*



We are in the process of preparing our system to generate CHARITABLE RECEIPTS for 2018. If you have made an address change in the past year, please contact the Parish Office (705-472-1817) so that we can update our records.

We wish to remind our supporters that if you wish to receive credit for contributions in 2018, ***donations must be received and deposited on or before December 31, 2018.*** Revenue Canada does not permit charitable organizations to backdate receipts and we are bound by that regulation. So please have your year-end donations in by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018** or your donations must be calculated as donations for 2019.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: 2018**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

***“His name shall be called wonderful” (Isaiah 9:6)***

The tendency to use names that are expressive of human reality to indicate some peculiarity or trait of character is very unique within each cultural milieu. All of our family names today had their origin in something that meant something. All Biblical names have a meaning, and when you read the Scriptures, it will always help you to a better understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness of names.

Of the many names given to Christ, it is my purpose at this time to briefly consider this one: *“His name shall be called Wonderful.”* Wonderful means something that is transcendentally beyond the common; something that is away beyond the ordinary. It means something that is altogether unlike anything else.

Consider the circumstances of his birth which was extraordinarily unique and wonderful. It was wonderful that unlike others, he had one human parent and inherited the natures of man and God. He became the Prince of princes; the King of kings and yet His birth was not anticipated in glad expectation when compared with the birth of a prince which usually takes place in the royal palace, and exceptionally celebrated with recognized expressions of happiness and joy as it is repeatedly perceived within the memory of many who are here. Moreover, he became a prince with no room for Him at the inn and was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. Yet angels proclaimed His birth with such great and unimaginable joy to a few humble shepherds in sheepskin coats, who were watching their flocks by night.

Think about the uniqueness of His humble beginning as well as the implications of His birth within the human history. He comes to bless and not to curse; to lift up, and

not to cast down. He comes to seek and to save the lost; to give sight to the blind; to open prison and set captives free; to reveal the Father's love; to give rest to the weary; to be a blessing to the whole humanity and yet there was no room for Him. He comes to find a dwelling place in our hearts, and yet for some people, we are yet to open our hearts for Him. His life was wonderful. Wonderful for its unselfishness, its sinlessness and its usefulness. His teaching was wonderful because he taught in ways that were simple, clear and adaptable to the individual.

At the Christmas period, we see in Christ the one who has come to share with the suffering humanity. People come to him with great expectation and with hope that he will rid of them, their sufferings and pains. We recall the inexhaustible and gratuitous love of God upon us. Christmas period is an opportunity to know that Christ has come among us (John 10:10); a time to remember that God shares our joys and sorrows; a time to rejoice in hope of eternal life that Jesus brings to each of us.

As Christians, we are constantly being reminded to demonstrate our unique and unreserved gratitude to God for his many blessings on us. Another opportunity has been extended to us to show greater love and solidarity to those in need of our assistance. It is a season when Christians are called to show a greater sense of responsibility in their dealings with one another. The joyful Christmas period calls us to a sincere acceptance of God's will and to re-dedicate ourselves to his service in this changing world. Conscious of the globalized and pluralistic nature of our present society, we are being reminded to bear authentic witness to the Gospel truth and values, in humble acceptance and surrender to the will of God who created and called us as his sons and daughters irrespective of our imperfections (Phil. 3:12).

We once more welcome all of you, those who celebrate with us daily and weekly, and those who have been away for a while. We invite each of you to celebrate with us and we ask that you invite a friend or family member to celebrate with us as well. May this joyful season of Christmas bring you abundant divine blessings and may he who took our human nature upon himself in all humility, plant his love firmly in your heart that you may be able to love with the same love with which he has loved us.

As your brother in the ministry of Christ, I ask for your support so that all may collectively realize our baptismal vocation and mission as People of God. Thank you for all your kindness, support, encouragement and generosity that you have shown during the year. To our numerous volunteers—visible and invisible—, we pray that the newborn Christ will bless you, your families and friends. Merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year in anticipation.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Fr. Francis Chidi Ezenezi

Pastor: Saint Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Parish  
North Bay, Ontario

December 23, 2018.

## December 23, 2018 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

In the first reading, Micah prophesies that tiny Bethlehem will be the birthplace of the Messiah, a great ruler for all time. Paul reflects on Jesus' offering of himself and his obedience to God's will, through which we are consecrated. The Gospel depicts Mary's visit to Elizabeth, who recognizes Mary's role as Mother of God. In a few days, we will celebrate the great gift that God has given to humanity two thousand years ago: the gift of Jesus. Jesus comes as Savior of the world and as the majestic King – but also as a Shepherd who cares deeply and personally for each one of us on our journey. He is truly God's gift to us.

**FREE Christmas Dinner:** Do not stay alone and hungry for Christmas, come and share a traditional Christmas dinner in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Tuesday December 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm in the Pro-Cathedral's parish hall. There will be entertainment and gifts for everyone. Event hosted by: The Christmas Day Dinner Committee.

**Spirituality for Seniors.** "The spiritual task of aging is embracing the blessings of this time and overcoming the burdens of it." Joan Chittister As we age it becomes more difficult to access spiritual enrichment opportunities, especially in winter and after dark. Would you be interested in being part of a small prayer group of 5-7 other seniors? These would take place once a month in the afternoon, and be held in an apartment building or someone's home. Would you consider hosting such a prayer group in your home or apartment? For further information, contact Sister Phyllis O'Connor, csj at 474-3800- ext 487 or [poconnor@csjssm.ca](mailto:poconnor@csjssm.ca)

**North Bay pregnancy Help & Resource Centre,** 323 Algonquin Ave, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8. Open weekdays 10:00 AM–4:00 PM. Tel: 475-9270. Offering free pregnancy testing, optional counselling, a friendly non-judgmental ear, baby supplies, post-abortion grief counselling, and community service referrals.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**St. Alphonsus in Callander:** Every Friday 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. First Friday 8:30 AM to 8:30 AM (24Hrs).

**St. Peter the Apostle:** First Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Everyone is invited.

**Holy Name of Jesus:** Tuesday to Friday 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM. To make a weekly one-hour commitment, please call Gisele Champagne at 497-1911.

**Pro-Cathedral:** First Friday of the month 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon followed by 12:05 PM mass.

**St. Joseph's Motherhouse** first Sunday of the month from 3:30-4:30 PM in Holy Family Chapel and Pro-Cathedral First Friday 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

**Marriage Preparation Weekend** February 8 & 9, May 31 & June 1, October 25-26 (5 PM Friday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday): Call Regional Catholic Services at 472-5821 to reserve your place. Material cost is payable at time of registration. Limited to 18 couples - register soon!

**Taize Prayer:** Third Thursday each month 7:00-8:00 pm in the Holy Family Chapel. Taize prayer includes song, scripture, and silence. The silence is to meditate and pray for openness to God's presence in our lives, and Peace in the world.

**Going into or Have a Sick Family Member in Hospital?** Mass is celebrated every Wednesday at 3:00 PM by a parish priest at the North Bay General Spiritual Centre (West Wing Entrance). And ... Eucharist is distributed Wednesday, Friday and Sunday by ministers of Holy Communion. Let pastoral care know your family member would like to be added to the list for visitation.

**Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help** every Wednesday at 11:55 AM at Pro-Cathedral prior to the 12:05 PM mass.

**Catholic Charities** collects clothing for free distribution to those in need. Clothing for men, women, children and infants, shoes, or accessories. Also towels, tea towels and sheet sets. Drop off to Catholic Charities entrance off Algonquin Tuesdays 9:00 to 11:30 AM or weekdays to the Pro-Cathedral Rectory (480 McIntyre Street West.). Items should be clean and in good repair. PLEASE — Due to Space Limitation Seasonal Clothing Only!

### Sisters of St. Joseph – Motherhouse Present:

**Christian Meditation:** The last session for 2018 will be on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30pm at the Motherhouse. Our first session of Christian Meditation for 2019 will be on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and will continue on a weekly basis. Contemplative prayer is the opening of oneself to the love of the Spirit of God

### Knights of Columbus Meetings

**Fr. Michael Cundari Council, 12030 at Holy Name Church:** General Meeting third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

Contact: Joe Sinicrope at 497-0604

**Corpus Christi Knights of Columbus Council 12106** now meet second Tuesday of each month with regular and executive meetings held the same day at the Canadian Forces Base Church (Queen of Peace). Contact: Art Tiernay at 358-1368

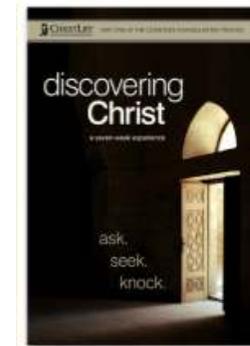
We also collect pop cans for charity work. Please drop off your cans at Holy Name Church beside the Garage.

**Knights of Columbus Council #1007** Executive Meeting at 6:30 PM and General Meeting at 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month September to June at St. Peter's Church in the Parish Hall. Refreshments served. New or transferring members can contact Mike Joly at 495-1792.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Dec 24-30	
Monday	Is 9.2-4,6-7; Ti 2.11-14; Lk 2.1-16
Tuesday	Is 52.7-10; Heb 1.1-6; Jn 1.1-18
Wednesday	Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59; Mt 10.17-22
Thursday	1 Jn 1.1-4; Jn 20.2-8
Friday	1 Jn 1.5-2.2; Mt 2.13-18
Saturday	1 Jn 2.3-11; Lk 2.22-35
Sunday	Sir 3.2-6,12-14; Col 3.12-21; Lk 2.41-52

### *discovering Christ*

**TUESDAYS AT 6:30 PM STARTING FEBRUARY 12<sup>th</sup> at Pro-Cathedral Parish Hall**



Discovering Christ is a seven-week experience where anyone and everyone, from the baptized in the pews to the unbaptized, is invited to hear the Good News and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Discovering Christ helps people enter into or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experience the love of God the Father, and be empowered by the

Holy Spirit to live as God's children. A typical session consists of seven weekly sessions and a retreat day. The weekly sessions include four components: a meal, prayer time, a video teaching, and small group discussion. **This is a free program and everyone is welcome to attend!**

*Consider this your personal invitation to make 2019 a year to renew your faith!*

**For more information and to register visit our Christ Life website at [www.ChristLifeNorthBay.org](http://www.ChristLifeNorthBay.org)**