

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25, 2016

Sun, Jan 1 FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



9:00 am For the intentions of all parishioners by Father Tony
11:00 am Antonio Caliciuri by wife, Romana & Family
Carmelo & Antonina Muratore by Muratore Family
Ted King & Family by Rosellen & Family

Please note: *There will be no Masses at St. Peter's between Christmas and New Year's. The Parish Office will be closed until 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.*

Father Tony's homily is available online at www.stpetertheapostle.ca →About→Meet Our Pastor→Our Pastor's Homilies

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:

CHURCH SUPPORT

The weekly offerings will be in next week's bulletin. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Dec 26 – Jan 1

Monday Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59; Matthew 10.17-22

Tuesday 1 John 1.1-4; John 20.2-8

Wednesday 1 John 1.5-2.2; Matthew 2.13-18

Thursday 1 John 2.3-11; Luke 2.22-35

Friday Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14; Mt 2.13-15, 19-23

Saturday 1 John 2.18-21; John 1.1-18

Sunday Numbers 6.22-27; Gal 4.4-7; Lk 2.16-21

WISDOM QUOTE:

"Miracles occur naturally as expressions of love. The real miracle is the love that inspires them. In this sense everything that comes from love is a miracle." Marianne Williamson

Weekly contribution envelopes for 2017 have arrived! Please pick up your box of envelopes early. If you do not have an envelope number and you would like one, envelopes are available. Call the Parish Office for assistance. ***Please do not use your 2017 envelopes until January 2017!***

Please save your used stamps for **Development & Peace**. Used stamps may be deposited in the box in the Church entrance. Thank you!

CWL NEWS

The annual membership fees for the Catholic Women's League of St. Peter the Apostle are now due. All fees for 2017 should be paid by December 31, 2016. Thank you, Ann Cousineau



We are in the process of preparing our system to generate CHARITABLE RECEIPTS for 2016. 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 2016, ***donations must be received and deposited on or before December 31, 2016.*** 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 25, 2016** or your donations must be calculated as donations for 2017.

Christian Marriage Preparation Program 2017

Winter Series: February 24-25

Spring Series: April 21-22

Fall Series: October 27-28



Call Regional Catholic Services at 705-472-5821 to reserve your place on the weekend of your choice. Registration information will be given to each couple when reserving their place for a given weekend. Material cost is \$40.00 per couple payable at time of registration. Couples are encouraged to register early!

Confirmation Information Night 2017

Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30 pm



in St. Peter's Parish Hall. Candidates and parents are asked to attend this meeting. Sponsors are also welcome. Please include a copy your Baptism Certificate with registration form, available from the Parish Office or on the church website www.stpetertheapostle.ca Candidates requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation are presumed to be in Grade 7 or 8 (or older) and to have previously received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. If you are missing one or more of these sacraments, please call the Parish Office at 705-472-1817.

Key Dates for Confirmation 2017:

Confirmation Information Meeting

April 26, 2017

6:30 pm at St. Peter's Parish

Confirmation Overnight Retreat

May 6-7, 2017

at Pro-Cathedral Parish Hall

Preparation Sessions

Session 1

May 10, 2017

6:30-8:00 pm at St. Peter's Parish Hall

Session 2

May 17, 2017

6:30-8:00 pm at St. Peter's Parish Hall

Session 3

May 24, 2017

6:30-8:00 pm at St. Peter's Parish Hall

Session 4

May 31, 2017

6:30-8:00 pm at St. Peter's Parish Hall

**online component found at www.spiritinyou.ca*

Confirmation Practice

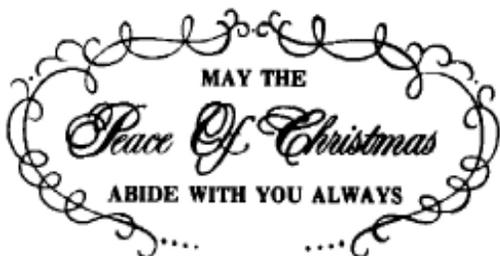
June 7, 2017

6:30-8:00 pm for Candidates, Parents and Sponsors at Pro-Cathedral Parish

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 10:00 am

Parish celebration with newly confirmed St. Peter's confirmandi ~ June 11, 2017 at 11:00 am



Good news and great joy to all the world; today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord

Dear friends, like the shepherds in the fields, we come with joyful hearts to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Our hearts rejoice on this day as we remember the miraculous events that led to this great celebration.

Mary may have preferred to stay at home as her time drew near, yet she travelled with Joseph to Bethlehem; when they arrived, there was no room for them, yet she welcomed her son, loved him and cared for him; shepherds, perhaps the most unexpected of visitors, heard the news announced to them by angels and came to see it for themselves.

Each of these figures can help us to celebrate the gift of Christmas: Let us ask Mary to teach us how to be attentive in prayer and to have the courage to say yes to whatever the Lord asks of us. Let us ask Joseph to teach us how to watch over and protect our own families, and to be courageous witnesses of faith to all those we meet.

May the shepherds who received the good tidings proclaimed to them by the angels inspire us to recognize the Lord's gifts entrusted to us: faith, joy, peace, hope and love.

Our world needs these gifts so very desperately. Others who share our homes, our workplaces, those we meet casually and for many other reasons also need us to be living witnesses of these virtues.

Whether our celebrations be elaborate or simple, surrounded by crowds or occasions for solitude and contemplation, may they truly be opportunities for us to celebrate our faith, to celebrate the birthday of Christ and to share the joy that is found in our hearts with all those who are in need of these profound gifts.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Joyeux Noël, Bonne, heureuse et sainte année!

Buon Natale e buon cippo d'anno!

Feliz navidad y próspero año nuevo!

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

Vrolijk kerstfeest en een gelukkig nieuwjaar!



Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to All.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas. May this Christmas be for you a day of divine inspiration that will grow within your heart throughout the New Year. The gift that God makes of his Son to the world is one we are called to receive and to contemplate in such a way that it transforms us from the inside.

Soon I will have completed my first year with you as Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie. Thank you for the gift that you are as you reveal the presence of God as individuals, as families and as parish communities.

Let us look forward to the future with hope well rooted in Jesus Christ. I wish you and your families joy and lasting peace.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed, Happy New Year!

J. Marcel Gagnon

Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie

December 25, 2016 The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah speaks to us today of the beauty of the one who brings us glad tidings: Jesus coming to tell of God's love. Hebrews goes further, describing Jesus as the one who fully reveals the depths of God's love for humanity. Finally, the Gospel reminds us that Jesus is the very Word of God, the one from the beginning – God born into human history. God has always shown his love for us in numerous ways: through the beauty of creation and the love of our families and friends. Today, he shows that love in a very special way: in the birth of his beloved Son into our world – God's gift to all of us!

Mark Your Calendars! The North Bay Regional Parishes would like to welcome you to the first Discovering Christ program. This is a Seven Week program that includes dinner, listening to dynamic teachings and joining in small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. Starting January 24, 2017, every Tuesday evening until March 7, 6:00 PM at St. Peter's Church. There is a Saturday retreat on February 25. All this for FREE Registration information to follow in each parish in the coming weeks. For more information contact Len Lanthier lsanthier@gmail.com 705 724-1368

Prayers for the New Evangelization in our Region: If you feel called to pray for the New Evangelization in our Region, Join us every Tuesday at Holy Name Church from 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM. In front of the Blessed Sacrament, we will pray for the Holy Spirit to help us to be Evangelizers. For information contact Fran 476-4146 or Holy Name 495-1501

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held weekly at Holy Name of Jesus Church. Please come and visit Jesus even for a few minutes. He waits for us. Hours of Adoration: Monday and Thursday 12 noon to 5 pm; Tuesdays 12 noon to 9 PM; Wednesday and Friday: 12 noon to 6 pm. To make a weekly one-hour commitment, please call Lena Butler 497-3434.

Open Adoration: St. Alphonsus in Callander every Friday 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. First Friday 8:30 AM to 8:30 AM (24Hrs).
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.

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

Mustard Seed Productions presents "Godspell" at Trinity United Church January 13 & 14 at 7:30 PM and January 15 at 1:30 PM. \$10/Adults and \$8/Students. Tickets available at Trinity United Church or at the door. For more information call 474-3310.

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.

Free Literacy and Numeracy Adult Classes with Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic Alternative & Continuing Education for adults aged 19 and older. Improve your reading, writing, math and computer skills; upgrade your skills for secondary school credit, employment, college, apprenticeship or for a greater sense of independence; develop a personal learning plan and work at your own pace. Attend full or part-time. Enrol anytime – continuous intake, open all year!! Call 472-7771 or visit www.npsc.ca for more information.

THE EDGE Catholic Youth Group: Calling Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8's!! Join us Mondays at 6:45 PM in the hall of St. Joseph's Church, Clark St., Powassan. THE EDGE uses live music, drama, small group discussions, guest speakers, games, Scripture, crafts and other cool stuff to explore issues about our Faith, solid values, youth concerns and happy living!! No need to pre-register. Call Pauline 724-5964 for information or transportation.

CLAY- (Catholic Love Attitude Yes!) A Youth Program for JK to Grade 5, Thursday evenings 6:30-8:00pm at St. Gregory's School Gym, Powassan, back entrance. Come out and join us for games, crafts and faith teachings in a fun filled and positive environment. For more information please contact Laurie Dobbs at 724-1277 or Jessica Sheppard at 724-1835 or jessicasheppard@gmail.com.

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 (Fall/Winter) Clothing Only!

Knights of Columbus Meetings

Fr. Michael Cundari Council, 12030 at Holy Name Church: General Meeting fourth 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 you 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.

Sisters of St. Joseph (Motherhouse) Presents Taize Prayer: Third Thursday of month (Sept.—June) 7:00—8:00 PM Holy Family Chapel. Taize prayer includes song, scripture, and silence. Silence is to meditate and pray for openness to God's presence in our lives - join us as we pray for peace in the world.

Volunteers needed for Family Enrichment Program for parents and their preschool children. Volunteers care for our infants, toddlers and preschoolers Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings from 9:15 am to 11:15 am. Located at St. Joseph School 570 First Avenue East. Call 472-2152 for more information.

Marriage Preparation Weekends: Call Regional Catholic Services at 472-5821 to reserve your place. Material cost is \$40.00 per couple payable at time of registration. **Spring 2017 Sessions:** 24-25 February, 21-22 April. Register early!

Birthright: Pregnant? Need Help? Call 1-800-550-4900 or visit: www.birthright.org Email: info@birthright.org "We're in this for life!" A free confidential service as an alternative to abortion.

**Call CANA for Cards, Rosaries,
Sacramental Gifts, Books & More!**

**Call 776-2192 or email them at
cana12cana@gmail.com**