

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Deacon Daniel McPhee

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor

Aloysius Chan, Organist



ADVENT

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 20th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the Scott & Shea Families

Wednesday, December 21st, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the Ford, Dyer & Ashmeade Families

Requested by Barbara Ford and Family

Thursday, December 22nd, 8:15 a.m.

Michele Loschiavo

Requested by the Paolini Family

Friday, December 23rd, 8:15 a.m.

Iona D'Silva

Requested by Chris, Aubrey & Melanie D'Silva



Green-Christmas "Think About It"

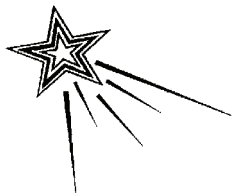
Christmas is a time of connectivity with family and friends. Welcome the spirit of Christmas into your homes and hearts.

In your celebrations of Christmas, consider including those who may otherwise be alone.

In Canada, 58% of food produced goes to WASTE. Be mindful of excess while preparing to feast. Consider supporting any food bank or shelter.

MADD explains that impaired drinking is the leading *criminal* cause of death in Canada with 4 deaths and 165 injuries PER DAY. For your partygoer, give the gift of a pre-party chat along with a wallet-sized SAFE DRIVE coupon for a taxi or a "24-hour-no-questions-asked" drive from you - *just in case* a safe drive home is needed.

Check out EcoAnselm's "Green Christmas" Bulletin Board displayed in the Millwood Entrance.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

****No reservations required***

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

Mass

4:00 p.m.

Christmas Carols

6:30 p.m.

Mass

7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th

Mass

9:00 a.m.

Mass

11:00 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31st

Mass

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st

11:00 a.m.

**** Please note there is NO 5:00pm Mass on December 24th. There is NO 9:00am Mass on January 1st.**

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES

Group A casseroles for the Good Shepherd Refuge "Provide a Meal" program will be collected Saturday, January 21st from 4-5pm in the church parking lot.

Should you wish to join the casserole program at any time, please contact the parish office or yvonne.gray@bell.net. Each casserole provides a hot, nutritious meal for TEN hungry individuals! We provide the pan, lid and recipe and ask that you deliver a frozen casserole to the church every other month for pickup by the Good Shepherd.

OFFERTORY DONATIONS

2023 boxes of donation envelopes and PAG bundles are on their way. Thank you for your patience. We will get these out as soon as they arrive.

If your 2022 box number was above #200, your number will be reassigned to one that is between 1 and 200. We ask that you please do not use 2022 envelopes in 2023.

Please ensure your name and address are on the first 4 envelopes you use in the new year, whether or not your number was reassigned.

Please note that all donations to be credited to the 2022 calendar year must be received in the office by 4:00pm on December 31st and be dated December 31st or earlier.

Any envelopes received at the Masses on December 31st and January 1st will be credited toward your 2023 tax receipt.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and ensures proper record-keeping and receipting.

**Isa 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7**

**Psalm 24
Matt 1:18-24**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!



What is Christmas all about? Were you to conduct an informal survey, the answers to this question would be as varied as the respondents. Children might equate Christmas with Santa and all the presents they hope to receive. Parents might see Christmas as that hectic time of year when there is so much to do to pull off an event that will bring family

together and please everyone. Merchants count down the days to Christmas in terms of sales and profits, while shoppers may approach the season as a “hunting expedition,” searching for just the right gift for everyone on their list. For retailers and their workers, the Christmas season usually means longer hours, crowds to manage and homes and businesses to protect from Christmas Scrooges. For medical personnel, Christmas may mean extra shifts and precious time away from family and friends. Pastors may look at Christmas as an opportunity to reach out in warm welcome to their seasonal worshipers. For the lonely and those who are in mourning, Christmas can be a painful season. Military personnel away from home are also familiar with the sacrifice of long-distance loving, especially at Christmas. For the poor, Christmas can be a mixed bag. On the one hand, there’s the joy of receiving a care

basket with food for the family and toys for the children; but beyond that temporary relief lies the desperate need that will haunt them until the next handout. For the wealthy, Christmas can be a time for generous giving and equally generous declarations of charitable donations to ease the yearly tax burden.

For many of us, Christmas means trees to decorate, carols to sing, gifts to wrap, parties to plan and pageants to attend. But for *all* of us who believe — young or old, happy or sad, jaded or innocent — Christmas is one of the most climactic moments of our story as a people. It keeps us in touch with the God who wants to touch and be touched. Christmas is about the passionate, powerful love of that God for human beings. Indeed, the message of Christmas is summed up in today’s liturgy by a pair of “theological bookends” that anticipate and interpret the wonder we will celebrate on December 25. Our first “bookend” was spoken by Isaiah. It was intended as a sign that God’s care for sinful human beings has no limit and knows no measure. The sign would take flesh and be born into this world as a son; his name was to be Emmanuel, God-with-us. Isaiah’s promise is echoed in today’s Gospel, where the Matthean evangelist affirms our Christian belief that Jesus, Son of God, born to Mary and Joseph, is indeed Emmanuel — God-with-us. This second “bookend” realizes and brings to fulfillment all the messianic hopes and expectations of a waiting people. These “bookends” frame both testaments with their many assurances that from the beginning, it has been the desire and the plan of God to *be with us*.

In one of his many inspiring stories, William Bausch asks, *Why? Why does God want to be with us?* Simply put, the object of all love is union. So it seems, says Bausch, that God has a thing for us (*A World of Stories*, Twenty-First Pub., Mystic, Conn.: 1998). Actively, willingly, God desires to be with us and cannot do otherwise but seek for union. In that capacity as Emmanuel, God has affirmed the intrinsic goodness of human beings. In that capacity, God continues to reveal wisdom and truth. In that capacity, God continues to liberate us from the troubles we make for ourselves and one another. In a sense, it could be said that God-with-us is the answer to every human question and the solution to every problem. As such, God-with-us could readily serve as a mantra that is never far from our life and always on our mind.

With great deference to our forebears in the faith, we might take away from today’s liturgy a good word that will sustain us through all that life holds for us, both good and not-so-good. *God is with us!* And that makes all the difference.

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