

# *Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 10, 2017*



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## **MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: DEC. 2 TO DEC. 10**

(L) indicates a living intention

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
4:30 pm	Ignatius, Carmeline, Jacinto & Helen D'Silva	Paschal, Marie & Dylan Fernandes
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 10</b>	
9:00	Elizabeth Alice Boyes	
11:00 am	Our Parishioners	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	
8:30 am	Mario Vani	The Di Marco Family
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>
8:30 am	Cecilia, Caterina & Piero Mossa & family	Rina Della Rocca
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 13</b>	
8:30 am	Luciano Della Rocca & Family	Rina Della Rocca
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>	
8:30 am	Vincenzo Parise	Family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 15</b>	
8:30 am	Gerry Poisson	Becket Altar Guild
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 16</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
4:30 pm	William Marsden	Edward & Connie Villeneuve
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	
9:00 am	Carole Fitzpatrick	Atwell D'Souza & family
11:00 am	Our Parishioners	

### **SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)**

December 10: Louisa Rodrigues Ferreira, requested by the Estrada family

December 17: Maria & Ernovino Di Pietro

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Offerings amounts for Dec. 2/3 will be included in the bulletin of Dec 17.

Upcoming special collection: **December 24 – Building Fund**

Lord grant mercy and lasting peace to those who died recently and strength and comfort to those who mourn them:

**MARIE-CLAIRE FERNANDEZ**, sister of Edwina Dias

**AMADA RIVERA**, aunt of George Rivera

**RAMI GABBOUR**, husband of Leslie, father of Bradley, Amy and Kyle.

## LET'S NOT DO AWAY WITH ADVENT



Where do you stand in the annual Advent Debate? You certainly recognize the two sides of the debate. The one, usually "old timers," worry that we begin the celebration of Christmas way too early. This side remembers the days when the tree would never go up until December 24 (or maybe a day or two before), when Christmas parties would rarely take place before the holiday itself, when Advent was more sombre, prayerful and penitential, filled with fasting, where the making of a good confession prior to the big feast was essential even for "lukewarm" Catholics, and the chance to do so was ample. The spirit of Advent was easier to absorb, as anticipation, expectation and waiting were real. And so the feast itself was more joyful. But now, we're sick of carols by Christmas Day, Advent—except for Sunday Mass—is a laugh, since we're already celebrating the feast at home, in the office and at school. Decorations have been in the stores since Halloween, and the "Christmas parties" are already in full swing. December 25 itself becomes anti-climactic. Side two of the Advent Debate claims to be more realistic. We should accommodate, they reason. Let's rejoice at least that all of society is celebrating such noble things as family, friends, sharing, giving, helping, forgiving and generosity. Let's be happy that even the most dogged secularist is a bit open to some thought of God and His Son this time of the year. The days of no "Silent Night" and no reading St. Luke's Gospel of the birth of the Saviour before Midnight Mass are long gone (as is Midnight Mass itself for most!), and we might as well admit it. Well, where do you stand? All I know is that we have to preserve Advent. Holy Mother Church is so wise to remind us that a careful, simple, patient preparation is necessary to enhance the joy and deepen the peace of Christmas. Our culture hates to wait, and prefers immediate gratification, so we feast now—and then end up bored, tired, and empty Christmas night. Believers say, take it easy, savour the moment, cherish the season, prepare mind and heart. Usually we regret it when we rush into things. Pleasure delayed is pleasure enjoyed. Anticipation is half the fun. Don't get me wrong. I'm on no Advent Jihad. With side two, I'm glad that, at least from mid-November until Christmas night, society seems open to the message, eager to share, sensitive to the needy, ready to reconcile, drawn to babies, home, and family and vaguely familiar with concepts such as Saviour, Messiah, Emmanuel, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I know the tree might already be up, the lights on, the corks popped, the parties started. That's just the culture we live in. Joy is a virtue appropriate anytime, anywhere. But, let's not lose Advent, okay?

*~ Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York*

## ELECTION OF WARDENS ON DECEMBER 3



Many thanks to Siro Di Marco who accepted to serve a second term of three years beginning January 1, 2018, and to **Norman Cousineau**, who begins his first three-year term on the same date. Our gratitude goes to outgoing warden Janet Arts, for her dedicated service over numerous terms. No voting was necessary as Siro and Norm were the only ones nominated. They will join currently serving wardens Anna Donald, Gerry Richardson, Robert Demers and Peter Cook, along with chairman Fr. Peter Sabbath.

Norm Cousineau and his wife Sandra Dunn have been members of the parish since 2005. Since then, they've become parents of five girls, now ages 4 to 11. They've served on the Baptismal team for about 10 years. Norm is an executive member of the Knights of Columbus and plays guitar for the 9 o'clock children's choir. Sandra and Norm first met each other at a young adults group organized by Fr. Peter at St. Patrick's Basilica in 2001. Norm works as a business analyst at Schluter Systems in Ste-Anne-De -Bellevue.

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to a poor Indian (St. Juan Diego), at Tepeyac, near Mexico City; she identified herself as the Mother of the True God, instructed him to have the bishop build a temple on the site and left an image of herself imprinted miraculously on his tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which shows no sign of decay 481 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin. Yearly, an estimated 10 million visit her Basilica, making her Mexico City home the most popular Marian shrine in the world, and the most visited Catholic Church in the world next to the Vatican. In 1999, Pope St. John Paul II, in his homily at the Basilica, declared December

12 as a Feast Day for the whole continent, naming Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of all Americas. During the same visit the Holy Father entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

**2018 NEW YEARS EVE DINNER-DANCE:** Usher in the New Year with family and friends at the St. Thomas à Becket Annual New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance on Sunday Dec. 31, at 6:30 pm. Hosted by the Becket Social Club. Enjoy a gourmet catered meal, NEW MENU, great music & dancing. Tickets available until Dec 22. Early bird tickets \$35/person until Dec 5. \$40/person afterwards. Meal choice can be ordered at time of ticket purchase. 13 & older, BYOBeverage. Info or tickets: Phil 514-696-4167 or Guy 514-887-4898.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HEALING PRAYER SERVICE** We invite you to join us on **Mon., Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.** The evening begins with Eucharistic Adoration followed by a Healing Prayer Service. *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* Mt. 11:28

### LIGHT & WATER – BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Welcome to a quiet service of solace for people who have trouble feeling in the spirit of Christmas. **Wednesday December 13, at 8:00 p.m.** Ste. Genevieve United Church, 4697 boul St. Jean. In partnership with Roxboro United Church & St. Thomas a Becket Church Participation & Sponsorship by Voluntas.

**ST. LUKE CAFÉ - THE STORY OF THE BIBLE:** Presenter Samuel Farrugia [farrugia.samuel@gmail.com](mailto:farrugia.samuel@gmail.com) [www.farrugiasamuel.blogspot.ca](http://www.farrugiasamuel.blogspot.ca)  
**Thursday, December 14:** "THE SHADOW SPREADS" Evil threatens to plunge the world back into chaos, but hope appears as one family is given a new destiny.