

*Behold,
the Lamb
of God*

*The Second Sunday
in
Ordinary Time
January 19, 2020*

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: JANUARY 18 TO JANUARY 26

Saturday	Jan. 18	
4:30 pm	Maddalena Nitti Saluzzi	The Family
Sunday	Jan. 19	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 am	Our Parishioners	
11:00 am	Chris & Alf Kolodnicki	Rina & Mike Callard
Monday	Jan. 20	
8:30 am	Christina Barroso	The Parish Wardens
Tuesday	Jan. 21	
8:30	Michelinbe Gareau Jolicouer	Kathy Tobin
Wednesday	Jan. 22	
8:30 am	Stanley Szuzkowski	Linda & family
Thursday	Jan. 23	
8:30 am	Giuseppe & Vincenza Giglione	The Lodico family
Friday	Jan. 24	
8:30 am	Mark Julius Coelho	Pat & Donny Coelho
Saturday	Jan. 25	
11:00 am	Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle	Persecuted Christians
4:30 pm	Our Parishioners	
Sunday	Jan. 26	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 am	Ronnie D'Mello	Merwyn & Cynthia Pereira
11:00am	Donny Coelho	Juliette Coelho

SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)

January 19: For the sick of our parish.

January 26: Jerry Luis, requested by the family.

LORD, GRANT MERCY AND LASTING PEACE to those who died recently, and strength and comfort to those who mourn them: *Diego Rodrigues*, brother of Maureen Marolly; *Maria Mallia Belluso*, mother of Nunzio, Lina & Antonia; Mary Hennessey, aunt of Ron Redmond. *Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY
SERVICE**

This year, St. Thomas à Becket is hosting clergy and members of neighbouring churches and Christian communities as we pray to restore unity to the Body of Christ. Join us in church on Sunday, January 19, at 4pm, followed by an optional supper out together.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY 11/12

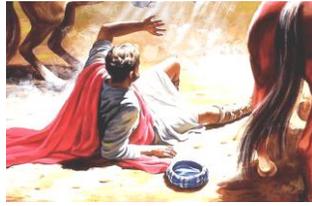
Offerings: \$ 4, 288.95 Helping Others: \$ 1,547.71

FAITH FIRST: IMPORTANT MEETINGS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

7 pm - Meeting for parents of children making their First Communion in 2020.

8 pm - Meeting for parents of children being Confirmed in 2020.

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL: January 25



St. Paul, named Saul at his circumcision, a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, was born at Tarsus, the capitol of Cilicia. He was a Roman citizen. He was brought up as a strict Jew, and later became a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centres of Asia Minor and southern Europe, and made many converts. Fourteen of his Epistles are found in the New Testament. He was beheaded in Rome in 66, and his body is kept in the Basilica of St. Paul near the Ostian Way.

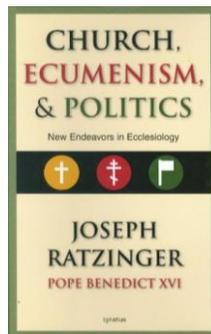
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes with the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on Saturday, January 25, with a Mass at 11:00 am.

YOUNG ADULTS HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: June 26-July 8, 2020

Accompanied by Archbishop Christian Lépine, this is a special opportunity for young adults (18-35 years) to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and grow in faith. Info session: January 23, 7pm at the Archdiocese. Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/wq3z5h9>

THE MARRIAGE COURSE: Looking for an intimate and effective way to make your marriage stronger, healthier and last a lifetime? This course is designed for any couple wanting to enrich their relationship, whether already great or perhaps struggling. Over seven weekly evenings, in a relaxing home setting in Kirkland, spend some quality time as a couple, discovering the essence of a lifelong & loving marriage! There are no group discussions. The next course will begin Wednesday February 25, at 7:15 pm, ending April 7, 2020. Think of it as a “date night” with your spouse! \$ 80 per couple. To register or for info: Nathalie or John Bondyra: 514-695-7896, kahndyra@sympatico.ca

WORTHWHILE READING



Church, Ecumenism, and Politics: New Endeavors in Ecclesiology by Joseph Ratzinger

In this collection of essays, theologian Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI, tackles three major issues in the Church today: the nature of the Church, the pursuit of Christian unity, and the relationship of Christianity to the secular/political power.

The first part of the book explores Vatican II's teaching on the Church, what it means to call the Church "the People of God", the role of the Pope, and the Synod of Bishops. In part two, Ratzinger frankly assesses the ecumenical movement: its achievements, problems, and principles for authentic progress toward Christian unity. In the third part of the work, Ratzinger discusses both fundamental questions and particular issues concerning the Church, the state and human fulfillment in the Age to come, e.g., What does the Bible say about faith and politics? How should we understand freedom in the Church and in society?

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Any New Year's resolutions yet? Here is a suggestion: "Let us love persons and use things." When God made the world He saw that it was very good. The world is charged, indeed, with the grandeur of God. He calls us to join Him in that pronouncement: "It is very good!" We are invited to use and enjoy all God's good things. But we are warned: Don't ever let your heart be owned by things. If you love things, you will soon begin using persons to get the things you love. "Save your heart for love and save your love for persons."

~ Fr. John Powell

FEAST DAY OF ST. AGNES, JANUARY 21



Agnes, the daughter of a noble Roman family and who became a Christian, was martyred in about 304 at the age of twelve or thirteen during a persecution of Christians when she openly declared her faith. From very early times, her feast was assigned to January 21, the day of her death. Her enraged persecutors attempted to burn Agnes, and when this failed, they decapitated her.

The church built over her tomb in the 4th century, Sant'Agnese fuori le Mura ("Saint Agnes outside the walls:), stands today on the Via Nomentana much the same as it was after it was remodeled by Pope Honorius (625-638). A mosaic in the apse of the church shows the young saint as a Byzantine empress, amid flames with a sword at her feet.

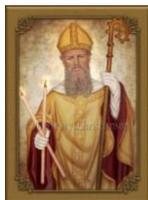
Another perhaps more famous church, Sant'Agnese in Agone, faces the Piazza Navona in Rome. Originally a 9th century oratory built over the site of her martyrdom, at the time a brothel in the arcades of the Circus of Domitian, also known as the Circus Agonalis, it was consecrated as a church by Pope Calixtus II in 1123. The present church was extensively remodeled in the 17th century in the Baroque style. The Roman ruins of the brothel where Agnes was martyred are accessible from inside the church. Since the early middle-ages, St. Agnes is usually depicted holding a lamb. (In Latin: agnus, a pun on her name, which actually comes from a Greek word meaning "chaste, pure, sacred".)

Agnes is one of the "virgin martyrs" of the church of Rome. She is one of seven women, in addition to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who are mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I), along with Saints Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Cecilia, and Anastasia. Agnes is a patron saint of chastity, gardeners, girls, Girl Scouts, engaged couples and victims of rape.

One of the traditions associated with Saint Agnes going back over a thousand years, is that on her feast day, two lambs raised at the local Trappist Monastery are brought to the Vatican to be blessed by the Pope. The lambs are raised into sheep by the Benedictine Sisters of Cecilia in Trastevere. The sheep are sheered each year on Holy Thursday. The wool from these lambs is then woven into material that is used to make around 12 pallia. (Latin singular=pallium). The pallia are placed near the tomb of Saint Peter on June 28, the vigil of the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul where they remain overnight. The pallia are then kept for future use in the "niche of the pallia" in a confessional near the tomb of St. Peter. A pallium is a collar-like vestment that is the symbol of the office of an archbishop. It is ornamented with six crosses and is worn over a chasuble. A pallium is presented to an archbishop by the Pope, and is symbolic of his unity with the Pope.

Today is the birthday of a virgin; let us imitate her purity. It is the birthday of a martyr; let us offer ourselves in sacrifice. It is the birthday of Saint Agnes, who is said to have suffered martyrdom at the age of twelve. The cruelty that did not spare her youth shows all the more clearly the power of faith in finding one so young to bear it witness. St. Ambrose, 4th Century

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE: Blessing of throats



This popular feast falls on Monday, February 3, this year. As usual on his feast, our priests will carry out the blessing of throats after the Saturday and Sunday Masses this weekend, as well as on Monday morning after Mass, by touching their throats with two crossed candles while invoking the prayer of the saint and imparting God's blessing in these words: *"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*