

## Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Dec 12

10:00 am **Grand Bend** – Rosary starts at 9:30am  
Ron Garinther: Mark & Dianne Tucker  
Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help follows Mass

6 - 6:45 pm **Parkhill** – Adoration with Reconciliation  
7:00 pm John Mahon: SH CWL

Wednesday, Dec 13

8:30 am **Parkhill** – Jeff Mawson: Chris & Barb VanderVloet

### Confession and Adoration Times

Sacred Heart	9:00am – 12:00 (noon)
Immaculate Heart of Mary	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Sacred Heart	7:00pm – 9:00pm

Thursday, Dec 14

9:30 am **Chartwell Residence – Parkhill** – Sacrament of the Sick  
Intention of the Residents: SH CWL

Friday, Dec 15

9:30 am **Grand Bend** – Sacrament of Reconciliation  
10:00 am Gerry Vandersanden: Maureen Garinther

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday, Dec 16

6:00–6:45pm **Parkhill** - Sacrament of Reconciliation  
7:00 pm **Parkhill** - Intention of Our Parishioners

Sunday, Dec 17

9:00 am **Parkhill** - Intention of Our Parishioners  
11:00 am **Grand Bend** – Intention of Our Parishioners  
2:00-4:00 pm **Strathroy** – All Saints - Confessions

## The Parishes of **SACRED HEART** and **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

Parkhill Tel: 519-294-6844; Grand Bend Tel: 519-238-8556  
Fax 519-660-2918 [www.shihm.dol.ca](http://www.shihm.dol.ca)

**Pastor: Fr. Antoine (Tony) Laforet**

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**Secretary: Karen Kester**

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**December 10, 2017**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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Remember the scene in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* when the Grinch is picturing Christmas morning in Whoville, “That’s one thing I hate! All the noise, noise, noise, NOISE!” Sometimes the lead-up to Christmas is like that: overtired, screaming toddlers in the mall; non-stop Christmas music everywhere; or the incessant commercials on TV can all bring out the Grinch in the best of us.

So I am especially grateful for the calming voices in today’s readings that encourage us to focus on what’s *really* important during these weeks before Christmas. Both Isaiah and John the Baptist remind us that this season of Advent is about preparing the way for the Lord. It’s about clearing some space, making room for Jesus and welcoming him into our lives in an ever deeper way.

For some of us, that might mean committing more time for prayer each day, even in the midst of the December hustle and bustle. Perhaps for others it means giving the gift of presence to someone who is lonely or housebound in this festive season. Maybe it is even something as simple as making a conscious effort to treat the harried cashier with courtesy and respect.

In today’s celebration, prophetic voices reach out to us across the centuries. As we continue our Advent journey, may we have ears to hear their words and hearts to heed their call.

Teresa Whalen Lux, Regina, SK

c/o 159 Ann Street, Parkhill, Ontario, Canada N0M 2K0.

Our Mission Statement:

*Our parishes of Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary will live our faith through service to others, invite all people to become intentional disciples, to be fed by the Living Eucharist*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Last Thursday at Immaculate Heart of Mary, a number of parishioners gathered for a Potluck Dinner and fellowship as we listened to Fr. Robert Remark, pastor of Holy Family Parish in London, Deacon Tom McLeod, his daughter Larissa, their pastoral minister, Heather Cushing and Anna and Chuck Linklater speak about their experience of the Alpha Program in their parish.** They gave personal witness and shared many powerful stories which are occurring in their parish community. It seems quite evident that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in their lives and the lives of their parish community. Let us pray that our parish leaders will discern wisely the possibility of this tool of evangelization being used in our parishes in the future.



**Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Ecumenical Christmas Concert at the Ailsa Craig United Church.** It was a wonderful celebration of music and storytelling. Many thanks to Monica Thorpe and her Misdirected Ministrals as well as Madelaine Box who shared an original tune she wrote. The concert raised \$585.00 for the local Food Bank.

**The Season of Advent has begun.** This is not a time for the rebirth of Christ but a rebirth of our faith and a rebirth of our commitment to Christ and his Church. This rebirth first comes about in our prayer; in deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior. Please use the Advent Prayer Booklets which are found at the entrance of the church to ignite this rebirth. We should take time to pray more deeply with Christ and with our families.

During Advent, our preparations should also include a participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **There are a number of opportunities available to us which includes an entire day dedicated to confessions on**

**Matrimony: A calling to forgive!** “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.”

Retrouvaille offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope of a different and better marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures. Believing that God loves them and with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems/difficulties/crises. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: Debbie or Darcy @ 1-800-705-6356, [1015@retrouvaille.org](mailto:1015@retrouvaille.org) or visit our website: [SaveOurMarriage.ca](http://SaveOurMarriage.ca)

**Diocesan Refugee Office Award** - The Diocesan Refugee Office team was awarded the YMCA Peace Medal. The Peace Medal is given to community individuals/groups who demonstrate a commitment to the values of peace through contributions made within their local, national or global community. The YMCA honoured the team at their Peace Breakfast. To view photos, please visit [www.facebook.com/www.dol.ca](http://www.facebook.com/www.dol.ca)

**Pray for Priests and Religious Communities –**



- Sun Dec 10: Christine Coyle, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
- Mon Dec 11: Fr. Steve Wlusek
- Tue Dec 12: Suzanne Walton, Pastoral Minister
- Wed Dec 13: Jean Bénéteau, Pastoral Minister
- Thu Dec 14: Marguerite Hewer, Pastoral Minister
- Fri Dec 15: Fr. Jan Pochwala
- Sat Dec 16: Deacon Brian McDonald

## *Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule*

### **December 23<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

4:30 pm - Immaculate Heart of Mary

7:00 pm - Sacred Heart

### **December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am - Sacred Heart

### **December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm – Sacred Heart

8:00 pm – Immaculate Heart of Mary

### **December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

9:00 am – Sacred Heart

11:00 am – Immaculate Heart of Mary

### **December 30<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

7:00 pm – Sacred Heart

### **December 31<sup>st</sup> – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

9:00 am – Sacred Heart

11:00 am – Immaculate Heart of Mary

### **December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve**

5:00 pm – Sacred Heart

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day**

9:00 am – Sacred Heart

11:00 am – Immaculate Heart of Mary

*In the Cross our hope is reborn. Hope born of the Cross is different from that of the world, because it is born of the love of Jesus.*

*Pope Francis, September 14, 2017*

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> which is the Memorial of St. Lucy.** Lucy's name means light and those of us who live with the darkness of sin can rediscover Christ's light and His powerful grace in the sacrament of forgiveness. Please check this bulletin or our website for other confession times and the opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the hours of adoration.

**Please pray for our children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time today at 3 pm at Sacred Heart Church.** Thank you to their parents, teachers and our pastoral team who have spent many hours preparing these children for this amazing experience of grace and forgiveness.

The holidays can be a difficult time for those who mourn the loss of a loved one or simply struggle with the dark and dreariness of these winter days. Once again this year, the local churches in Grand Bend will be celebrating a **Blue Christmas Service at St. John Anglican Church on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Please come and join us for this Service of Light and hear your pastor present this year's Reflection.

**Please tell your friends and family members to check this bulletin or our website for changes to our Mass schedule on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 23/24<sup>th</sup>) and Christmas (December 24/25<sup>th</sup>).**

**Please save the date.....Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>!** On this day your pastor and the Parish Pastoral Council will be hosting an Open House for all parishioners from Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart who volunteer their time and talents to our parishes. The Open House will run for 2 pm to 9 pm at 153 Ann Street; your pastor's home! Please bring an appetizer or a dish to share. The pastor and your Parish Pastoral Council will provide all the drinks! We hope to see you at the Open House for a joyous time of fellowship and good cheer!

In Peace, Fr. Tony



**Ailsa Craig Foodbank** is set to start filling their Christmas hampers! In a continued effort to help support our local foodbank, we are asking that you fill your grocery cart with a few extra items each week! All grocery items can be dropped off at the entrance to the church at Sacred Heart. The grocery item for the next week is: CANNED VEGETABLES. Thank you in advance for your works of mercy!

**Grand Bend and Area Dining Program** - meet at St. John's by the Lake Anglican Church at 12:00 noon on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Entertainment at 1pm. Cost: \$12.00 per person for Christmas. For registration please contact Faye Skinner at 1-877-502-8277 before the event. All newcomers are welcome. No program December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Thank You** - On behalf of all women who build peace in their communities, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks you for your continued commitment. Together, we have the power to change things! Join a dynamic pan-Canadian movement that takes action for peace and justice – become a member of Development and Peace. Without your action, there's no change, no justice! For more information please go to [devp.org/membership](http://devp.org/membership).

**Christmas Flowers** - If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one for our Christmas flowers, please PRINT the name of your loved one, your name and place your donations in an envelope marked "Flowers" and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office by December 19, 2017.

**Caroling for Cans Campaign** – Sacred Heart Catholic School will be caroling for cans on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The students will walk to the North Middlesex Municipal Office (Town Hall) to sing Christmas Carols. They will be collecting cans and dry goods to share with the needy. Come out, bring a donation and listen to our caroling. If you have any questions contact 519-660-2776.

**Sacred Heart Youth (SHY) – December 15<sup>th</sup> – Victoria Park Skating** - Join us at Victoria Park in London for skating! We will be getting there at 7:30pm and afterwards we will hang out at a Tim Horton's we'll decide which one the night of. If you need a ride to the park please arrange one for yourself by contacting one of the leaders!



**SAVE THE DATE!** On Sunday, **February 18, 2018**, at 2:30pm at Sacred Heart parish hall, Joan Bolt will host an information meeting for a Pilgrimage to Italy! Come and hear details about the wonderful tour of Holy sites and so much more!

**As we approach the season of Advent** and prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Advent might also be a time to remember those among us who will have no joy or peace at Christmas because the day to day struggles of making ends meet, is just too hard! Help your parishes help those in need by donating to our Benevolent Fund. Every little bit helps! God Bless!

**All Day Confessions and Adoration** will be held at Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary on Wednesday, **December 13**. Prepare your heart and minds to encounter Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation by spending some time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, during Adoration.

Times for **Reconciliation** are as follows:

Sacred Heart	9:00am – 12:00 (noon)
Immaculate Heart of Mary	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Sacred Heart	7:00pm – 9:00pm

Times for **Adoration** are as follows:

Sacred Heart	9:00am – 9:00pm (Benediction)
Immaculate Heart of Mary	2:00pm – 5:00pm

Please see the sign up sheets at the entrance of each church to participate.



**Welcome to Our Parish Family** – Congratulations to Mason Smith, Aubree Boere and Theodore Hartman celebrating entrance into the church through the waters of Baptism during the month of November.