

## Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Dec 19

10:00 am **Grand Bend** – Rosary starts at 9:30am  
Intention of Rita Schiller: The Strong Family  
Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help follows Mass

6 - 6:45 pm **Parkhill** – Adoration with Reconciliation  
7:00 pm Souls in Purgatory: A Parishioner

Wednesday, Dec 20

9:00 am **Parkhill** – Peter Kustermans: Joanna Simpson

Thursday, Dec 21

8:30 am **Strathroy – Holy Cross Catholic High School**  
Hanlon & Helen McDonald: The Family

Friday, Dec 22

9:30 am **Grand Bend** – Sacrament of Reconciliation  
10:00 am Deceased Members of the Paul & Sally Johnson Family

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday, Dec 23

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm **Grand Bend** - Intention of Our Parishioners  
7:00 pm **Parkhill** - Intention of Our Parishioners

Sunday, Dec 24

9:00 am **Parkhill** - Intention of Our Parishioners

#### Christmas Eve

5:00 pm **Parkhill** – Intention of Our Parishioners  
8:00 pm **Grand Bend** - Intention of Our Parishioners

Monday, Dec 25

#### Christmas Day

9:00 am **Parkhill** - Intention of Our Parishioners  
11:00 am **Grand Bend** - Intention of Our Parishioners

## 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**

**E-mail: [tlaforet@dol.ca](mailto:tlaforet@dol.ca)**

**Pastoral Worker: Julie de Gouw**

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**Secretary: Karen Kester**

**E-mail: [shparkhill@dol.ca](mailto:shparkhill@dol.ca)**

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**December 17, 2017**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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As Christians, we recognize the season of Advent as a time of great anticipation in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord. In today's Gospel John the Baptist calls us to "Make straight the way of the Lord." This call to action is not easy in an ever-growing secular world.

Although it should be the very opposite, the season of Advent is perhaps the most difficult time of year to rise and to meet John's call. More often than not, today's reality is one where the season of Advent is inundated with commercialism and anything but Christ. To remain focused while we await the coming of the Lord is increasing difficult and requires humility, discipline and patience. These qualities require a great deal of practice and prayer. Seemingly enough, the reverse is true as practice and prayer require a great deal of humility, discipline and patience.

If we are to lead a virtuous Christian life then we must follow John's example displaying humility, discipline and patience when responding to those who questioned him. Despite the heavy commercialization of Advent, let us as Christians persevere through prayer and practice as we celebrate and share the coming of the Lord with everyone that we encounter during this blessed season.

Dana Kenny, Charlottetown, PE

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,

Let us give thanks to God for our young children, **Vanessa Peters, Cayden Facchina, Camden MacKichan, Jeremiah Minten, Logan Van Hooydonk, Julia Leyton, and Noelle LaPorte**, who received their First Reconciliation last Sunday afternoon. They have received God transforming grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will soon begin their preparations for their First Communion. **Our next Parent Meeting is scheduled at Sacred Heart Parish on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Please pray for these children and their parents who continue to guide them in their spiritual journey.



God's grace was also flowing abundantly during our All Day Confessions last Wednesday. If you missed the opportunity to participate in this sacrament of forgiveness, then **please join us at All Saints Parish on Sunday at 2 pm or call the office this week to make an appointment.**

The season of Christmas can be a difficult time for those of us who are experiencing a sense of loss due to the death of a loved one or for those who are lonely or depressed by the darkness of these short and cold 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>).**

**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**

**St. Teresa of Calcutta Faith in Action Awards** - The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is pleased to host the 14<sup>th</sup> annual St. Teresa of Calcutta Faith in Action Awards (formerly the Mother Teresa Faith in Action Awards), which recognize exemplary service to Catholic education. The nominees for this award represent all stakeholder groups in Huron-Perth Catholic – employees, parents volunteers, priests and parishioners. The award recipients will be recognized at our Catholic Education Week Mass to be held on Monday, May 7, 2018.

Nominations forms are available in each school, parish, and posted on the Board's website at [www.huronperthcatholic.ca](http://www.huronperthcatholic.ca). The deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 1, 2018. Please consider nominating someone worthy of this award.

**Pray for Priests and Religious Communities –**



Sun Dec 17: Fr. Eugeniusz Dziedzic, C.S.M.A.  
Mon Dec 18: Fr. Augustine Ogundele  
Tue Dec 19: Fr. Maurice Charbonneau  
Wed Dec 20: Fr. Matthew George  
Thu Dec 21: Lynn Di Pinto, Coordinator Youth Ministry  
Fri Dec 22: Deacon Joseph Manzara  
Sat Dec 23: Fr. Michael Ryan

## *New Year's Mass Schedule*

**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**

**Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**

5:00 pm – Sacred Heart

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

**Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**

9:00 am – Sacred Heart

11:00 am – Immaculate Heart of Mary

**The Christmas Mass on TV** - For those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas. Watch the Daily TV Mass:

**Christmas Eve** on VisionTV at 9:00pm ET and yesTV at 10:00pm ET

**Christmas Day** at 8:00am and 12:00pm ET on VisionTV and **11:00am ET on Salt + Light**. 1:00pm on yesTV. You can also watch on the web at [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

**Missio, the Newspaper of the Diocese of London** - The Winter, 2017 issue of *Missio*, the newspaper of the Diocese of London, has been published and will be arriving soon in parishes and Catholic schools across the diocese. If you prefer, you can read it online by visiting our online newspaper archive at <https://dol.ca/newspaper>.

*To "take the first step" is, above all, to go out and meet others with Christ the Lord.*

*Pope Francis, September 10, 2017*

Your pastor and the Parish Pastoral Council will be hosting an **Open House on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>** 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!

**Finally, she's back!** My mother, Rose, will be arriving this Thursday for our Christmas celebrations and all the festivities which come with the new year. Please join me in welcoming her to Parkhill and Grand Bend!

In Peace, Fr. Tony



**Community Christmas Dinner** – You are invited to spend quality time with friends and neighbours at our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Christmas Dinner. Come join us from noon to 4:00pm at the Parkhill Community Centre, McLeod St, Parkhill on Monday **December 25<sup>th</sup>**. Dinner is free of charge. We will accept donations to the Ailsa Craig Food Bank if you wish. Please call Lucy Hendrikx at 519-294-6413 to reserve your place and assist us in planning an appropriate amount of food.

**Holiday Office Hours** - The office will close at 12:00pm (noon) on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will re-open on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 9:00am.



**Income Tax Receipts** - If you would like to make a Christmas donation that will be included in the 2017 tax year, drop it in any of the collection baskets at our Masses **prior** to the New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> Mass; or bring it to the parish office no later than noon on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please note that donations made at the New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> Mass will be considered as a 2018 donation.

**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: **family sized juices. Eg. apple, tomato, peach ...** Thank you in advance for your works of mercy!



**Benevolent Fund** – Christmas is 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.

**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.

**Knights of Columbus** – The next meeting is on Thursday, **December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 8pm at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall in Grand Bend**. All Knights are invited to attend. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.



**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE** – 12 Days, April 14-28, 2018. For details contact Joan Bolt at 1-800-530-4667 or [joanbolt@execulink.com](mailto:joanbolt@execulink.com)

**Sacred Heart Youth (SHY)** – December 17<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Caroling (2:00 – 3:30pm)** – Come on out and help S.H.Y. spread some Christmas cheer! Warm up your singing voices to bring the Joy of Christmas to the Residents at Chartwell Gardens nursing home (250 Tain St. Parkhill). We will meet at Sacred Heart Church (159 Ann St. Parkhill) at 2:00pm and walk/drive to the nursing home for 2:30 to do some caroling. For more info contact Ben Roelands at [benroelands@hotmail.com](mailto:benroelands@hotmail.com)



**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!

**\*REMINDER\*** **2018 Sacred Heart CWL Memberships are due.** You can put it in the collection in an envelope and mark it 'CWL'. Please remember to include your email address along with your phone number so we can update our files. Thank you for your support!!



**Immaculate Heart of Mary CWL** – The winner of the early bird draw for a free 2018 membership is Rose Vanbuaene.

**2018 Offertory Envelopes** – Are now available to be picked up. **If you do not have a box of envelopes and would like one to be issued to you**, please write your name on the sheet beside the boxes at the entrance of the church and a box will be prepared for you.



**Bulletin Notices:** Please be aware that there will be a **2 week bulletin** printed on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The next bulletin will not be printed until January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any notices that need to be in the December 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin please have it to the office by 12:00pm (noon) on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.