

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Dec 04

7:00 pm **Parkhill** – Charles Bezzina: Mary Bechberger
Emile Masschelein: Joseph & Johanna Minten

7:30-8:30 pm Adoration with Reconciliation

Wednesday, Dec 05

9:30 am **Grand Bend** – Rosary

10:00 am Arnold Van Gerwin: Andy & Cathy Vrolyk
Rita Mommersteeg: Luke & Jean Mommersteeg
Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual help follows Mass

Thursday, Dec 06

9:30 am **Chartwell Residence - Parkhill**
Intention of the Residents: SH CWL
Hanlon & Helen McDonald: Alice Jebrail

Friday, Dec 07

10:00 am **Grand Bend** – Irene Masschelein: Rosemary Hartwick
Patricia Melanson: IHM CWL
10:30 – 11:15am Adoration with Reconciliation

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday, Dec 08

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

Sunday, Dec 09

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

*The word of God is a source of comfort for every family
that experiences difficulty of suffering.*

Pope Francis

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

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December 02, 2018

1st Sunday of Advent

Today we begin the new liturgical year. We will spend the year, like every liturgical year, following the life of Jesus from the time of John the Baptist's preaching to the great salvific events of Jesus' Passion, death, Resurrection, Ascension and giving of the Holy Spirit. Each liturgical season helps us meditate upon and pray over the life of Jesus, whom we strive to imitate as disciples.

Today's Gospel paints a frightening picture of huge natural calamities heralding the end. We pray not to have to live through such events. Similarly, as Advent progresses we will hear the call of John the Baptist to repent and amend our ways. Being honest with our sinfulness in the face of such preaching can be depressing.

But do not stop at the frightening side of these modes of preparing ourselves. Realize that we are being called to look beyond them to see the light, the beauty of God's promise. "Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Our Redeemer is coming; indeed, he is in our midst. Regardless of what we must go through, whether it be disaster or the slavery of sin, our merciful and loving God is waiting to wrap warm and tender arms around us, the in-God's-only-Son Beloved.

Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR, Toronto, ON

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,

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting and hoping. This season helps us to prepare for the coming or advent of the Christ-Child at Christmas.



Some of us may ask: *if Jesus really does come (as He does each year), then why doesn't the world have peace on earth?* Why don't we experience God's Kingdom on earth instead of sin (war, murder, selfishness, greed, lust, etc.)? Yes, Jesus comes, but the world isn't ready to receive Him. For the world to change, each of us has to change our hearts, eliminate sin from our lives, and live as Jesus did – with love, sacrifice, and with forgiveness of those who have sinned against us. Advent is the time for this preparation and change. It is a time for us to prepare our hearts anew for His way (Mt 3:3). We need to take stock of our lives, seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and change by recommitting our lives to Jesus.

The question we should ask instead is: *when Jesus comes, are we going to accept Him into our hearts by accepting His commandments, by following His Church, by working for Him and giving our lives for Him?*

This year, Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting the annual Ecumenical Advent/Christmas Concert on **Friday, December 7th**. Please join us for a wonderful evening of caroling and sacred song and if possible, bring a little finger food, cookies or squares to share for the social to follow the concert.

Our Angel Tree is located near the entrance of our churches. The local foodbanks are asking our assistance in providing gifts for the young children and adults who will find Christmas a difficult time to celebrate. Please take an angel and purchase the suggested gift for someone who is

Sacred Heart Youth – December 14th – 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 that night). If you need a ride from the Parkhill area, to the park, please arrange one for yourself by contacting one of the leaders!



Confirmation Preparation!

- Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament of our initiation which began in Baptism and continues in the Eucharist. As the candidates come forward to be confirmed, they profess their faith in the Catholic Church. The period of Confirmation preparation builds on the candidate's faith foundation, encourages community building, and helps the candidates to make good life decisions. Preparation sessions have begun for students in grades 7 & 8, are held Fridays 3:30 to 5:00 pm, at Sacred Heart parish hall, Parkhill. Contact Julie jdegouw@dol.ca or Father Tony laforet@dol.ca for more information. We are most fortunate to have Deacon Tom MacLeod joining us for our sessions. Come journey with us! Please check the website for up to date information on class dates.



Welcome to Our Parish Family – Congratulations to Nora Baird, Kaylee Ellis, Ethan and Tristan Fidler, Bella McLellan and Victoria Roelands celebrating entrance into the church through the waters of Baptism during the month of November.

Pray for Priests and Religious Communities –

Sun Dec 02: Rebecca Bondy, Pastoral Minister/Youth Ministry
Mon Dec 03: Fr. Robert Champagne
Tue Dec 04: Janet LOO, Liturgical Facilitator/Director Music
Wed Dec 05: Fr. Dwayne Adam
Thu Dec 06: Fr. Robert Weaver
Fri Dec 07: Deacon Lyle Lalonge
Sat Dec 08: Fr. Bernard Pinsonneault, C.S.B.



33 Days to Morning Glory - Consecration Date **Dec 8/9**. We will be reciting our Consecration Prayer on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception after all Masses on Sat/Sun Dec 8/9. Please join us at the front of the church where we will gather with past and present participants of this retreat to recite our Consecration Prayer. With our hearts on fire with love for Jesus as Mary keeps our hearts in her most pure heart, we will offer our consecration to Jesus through her.

Calling all parents with toddlers at home! - You and your pre-school children, are invited on **Thursday, January 17, 2019**, to a morning out for fellowship, socializing and lunch provided by the Sacred Heart Catholic Women's League. Social begins at 10:30 am with lunch served at 11:30 am. Please advise of any food allergies. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tammy Vandersanden (tvandersanden@execulink.com) or Anne Roelands (pandaroelands@gmail.com). We look forward to meeting you!

Save the Date –Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Catholic Women's League is hosting their Annual Christmas Dinner, Penny Sale and Skit Night on **Thursday, December 6th** at the Watford Centennial Hall. Admission is \$15. Doors open 5:30pm. **Dinner at 6:30pm**. For details see the poster at the entrance of the church.

2018-2019 Sunday Missals – have arrived and are available to be purchased at the entrance of the churches. The cost is \$4.00 each.

Pilgrimage – Join Father Thom Blondin on a Marian Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima (including - The Eucharistic Miracle at Santarem). Presentation/Question and answer Session at ALL SAINTS PARISH HALL, 124 Front St E., Strathroy, Sunday **Dec 2nd** following 12:00 o'clock Mass.

in need or consider giving a donation to our Benevolent Fund. Perhaps this Christmas, we can choose to give out of our poverty rather than our abundance. For more details about this opportunity to reach out to the poor among us, please contact Anne Roelands or Karen Timmermans at Sacred Heart Parish or Gera Peters at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Holy Spirit is alive and burns brightly in the hearts of His people! Our Alpha Course continues to provide many parishioners with the opportunity to share and grow in their faith and in their relationship with Jesus and one another. Our next session is Wednesday, December 5th at 6 pm as we ask the question, How do I tell others?

Our RCIA classes will continue this week at Sacred Heart Parish on **Thursday, December 6th** at 12 pm. Come join us as we make new disciples; followers of Jesus Christ.

Confirmations classes are scheduled every Friday at 3:30 pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. For parents and students who missed our first Parent/Candidate Meeting, we are making an extra effort to reschedule another opportunity to meet on **Saturday, December 8th** at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. Please join us and spread the word about this final opportunity to register for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

May we always be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Fr. Tony



Please note in your calendar the upcoming events in our parishes:

All Day Confessions at SH and IHM on
Thursday, December 13th

Blue Christmas Service at IHM on
Sunday, December 16th at 7pm

Open House for Parish Volunteer at rectory on
Friday, January 4th at 4pm

Sacred Heart Angel Tree - *Be A Blessing Adopt An Angel*. It is time to purchase gifts for our Angel Tree and bring the love of Christ to the less fortunate of our community. Angels can be found on the trees at the church and school entrances. Unwrapped gifts, with the Angel securely attached, must be returned by **Sunday, December 9th**. All gifts will be delivered to Ailsa Craig and Area Food Bank. If you have any questions, see Karen Timmermans (Saturday Mass) or Anne Roelands (Sunday Mass).



Immaculate Heart of Mary Angel Tree – will receive gifts until **Friday, December 14th**. Please contact Gera Peters (519-238-1542) with any questions.

Thank you for paying forward whatever blessings you have been given.

One Million Hail Marys starts today! Please join us in a parish project in which we offer one million Hail Marys up for fellow Catholics who no longer attend Holy Mass - that they will "come home!" As we enter this Advent season (and the rest of the year) where families reconnect, "come home" for the holidays, these Hail Marys are a beautiful way to ask Mary to help us bring our loved ones "home" to our church family! Please read the handout being distributed at all Masses this weekend and help us collect/pray One Million Hail Marys...send us your weekly count and the count will be updated in the bulletin, on Facebook and on the website.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

December 24th	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart
	7:30 pm	Immaculate Heart of Mary
	10:00 pm	Sacred Heart
December 25th	9:00 am	Sacred Heart
	11:00 am	Immaculate Heart
December 31st	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart
January 1st	9:00 am	Sacred Heart
	11:00 am	Immaculate Heart of Mary

Immaculate Heart of Mary C.W.L. - All members are invited to the general meeting on **Wednesday December 5th** at 1pm in the Father Beck Auditorium. Service pins will be presented to those who are receiving them and following the meeting will be our Advent Party with husbands invited. For those who would like to partake in a fun gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 gift. Lunch Groups A & B are on duty.

Advent Tea – Come join Sacred Heart Catholic Woman’s League on **Thursday, December 6th** at 2pm for our Advent Tea. Once again we will be sharing this wonderful celebration at: Chartwell Residence – Parkhill.



Something new at Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary regarding Baptisms! FAITH FORMATION FOR PARENTS! Parents are invited to attend a meeting that has been designed to help parents and godparents prepare for their child’s entrance into the sacramental life of the Church. They will explore the profound effects and mission of the Sacrament of Baptism. These meetings will be held four times a year. Parents are encouraged to attend a meeting before their child is Baptised, either before or after their baby is born. The meeting has been rescheduled for **January 10, 2019** at Sacred Heart Parish hall, 7pm. For more information please contact Julie at jdegouw@dol.ca or phone 519-294-6844 ext. 24.

2019 Offertory Envelopes – will soon be available. If you have not had a box issued to you in 2018 and would like a box for 2019, please contact the office (519-294-6844, ext 21).



Pre Authorized Debits – This option is now available in our parishes. If you would like to contribute in this way please fill out a form available at the entrance of the church or from our website and send it along with a cheque marked “Void” to the parish office. Please allow 3 weeks for this process to start.

For those parishioners presently using the Pre-Authorized donations, if you would like to make any changes to your contribution amounts for 2019, please contact the office.

Whether you choose to give with an envelope or pre-authorized debits, THANK YOU for supporting our parish.