

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Dec 11	Please note time change today only
9:00 am	Parkhill – George Regier: Pete & Anne Roelands Adrie Roelands: Margarida Pontes
Wednesday, Dec 12	
9:30 am	Grand Bend – Rosary
10:00 am	Helen Misek: Jim & Joan DeZorzi Andrew Jackson: Paul & Pat Jackson Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual help follows Mass
Thursday, Dec 13	
9:00 am	Parkhill – Emile & Maria Janssens: The Estate Travis Atchison: Randy & Laurie Vereecken
	<u>Confession and Adoration Times</u>
	Sacred Heart 9:30am – 12:00 (noon)
	Immaculate Heart of Mary 2:00pm – 5:00pm
	Sacred Heart 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday, Dec 14	
9:30 am	Grand Bend – Reconciliation
10:00 am	The Jim Ryckman Family: Andy Maguire Intention of Fr. Tony Laforet: Irene McCann
	Weekend Mass Times
Saturday, Dec 15	
6-6:45 pm	Parkhill – Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00 pm	Parkhill - Intention of Our Parishioners
Sunday, Dec 16	
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*

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December 09, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

Lately I've been feeling that a lot of things are off track in the world. Despite our having enough food to feed the planet, millions are starving. Even in Canada, a land of plenty, countless families rely on food banks. We know we need to care for the Earth, our common home, but we buy too much stuff and fill our world with garbage and pollution. Despite seeing the damage conflict causes, we think peace is out of our reach.

Baruch and John the Baptist speak of the Lord making the crooked straight and the rough ways smooth; this gives me hope that we can find some balance. John the Baptist invites the people of his day, and us, to turn back to God and prepare the way of the Lord – not only during Advent, but all year long.

As followers of Christ, we are meant to live in ways that make the crooked straight. Of course, it's not always easy. It means doing things differently. We may even need to spend some time in the wilderness – disconnected from social media, the Internet, malls and TV – to adjust our attitudes and rediscover what's important. But when we do, we will truly understand that, as today's psalm tells us, "The Lord has done great things for us," and we will be "filled with joy."

Ann Louise Mahoney, Ottawa, 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,



The Psalms sung throughout the season of Advent remind us that in God we find restoration, rejoicing and redemption. As we sing this Sunday's Advent refrain, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3), we are confident that we have a part to play in God's dream of a new creation.

God's dream of a new creation becomes a reality each time we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This powerful gift of healing allows us to become a new creation and invites us to change our hearts and our lives. As we prepare ourselves this Advent season to receive the gift of new life through the birth of Christ, we are invited to seek God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Therefore, we are dedicating Thursday, December 13th to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I will be in the confessional for much of day (along with a few visiting priests) to offer the opportunity for healing and forgiveness. Throughout the day, many will have the opportunity to also pray during adoration. Please see the schedule in this bulletin for confession and adoration times.

Last Sunday afternoon, many Grade Two students participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We shared the story of the Good Shepherd who guards us and welcomes us with open arms when we are found. We then celebrated their First Confessions and returned their sheep to the display board with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and we had a big party! Thank you to Julie de Gouw and Kathy Willemse who helped us celebrate with food and a gift from the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus for each of the children.

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 tlaforet@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.



Pray for Priests and Religious Communities –

Sun Dec 09: Colleen Keane, Pastoral Minister
Mon Dec 10: Christine Coyle, Coordinator Youth Ministry
Tue Dec 11: Fr. Steve Wlusek
Wed Dec 12: Suzanne Walton, Pastoral Minister
Thu Dec 13: Jean Bénéteau, Pastoral Minister
Fri Dec 14: Marguerite Hewer, Pastoral Minister
Sat Dec 15: Fr. Jan Pochwala



As we exit the confessional, we will feel his strength which gives new life and restores ardor to the faith. After confession we are reborn.

Pope Francis

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.



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!

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

Employment Opportunity - St. Christopher's Parish, Forest, and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Watford, are seeking a part-time Receptionist/Secretary to work minimum 24 hours per week. Hours per week are flexible but must meet Parish needs. This individual will be responsible for welcoming all who contact the parishes in person or by phone in a professional manner, also work collaboratively with other staff and groups to support and promote the mission of the family of parishes. For full posting please refer to www.dol.ca or www.lambtoncatholic.ca or www.indeed.ca . If you have any questions please contact Nancy Kremer at kremers@brktel.on.ca, or 519-312-2360. Posting closes **December 12th**.

Last Saturday, many joined us for the Alpha Retreat Day at Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was an incredible day as we learned and talked about the power of the Holy Spirit. As we prayed with one another in solidarity and faith, many indeed experienced the power of the Holy Spirit! Thank you to Deacon Tom who facilitated this day, to Josh Rosedale and his band who provided us with wonderful worship music and everyone who brought food to enjoy during this retreat day. Our Alpha Course continues on Wednesday, December 12th at 6 pm with dinner and a discussion about the question, Does God Heal Today?

Thank you to everyone who is caring for the poor in our community through your participation in the Angel Tree program. We are grateful for your generosity and the compassion you are demonstrating to our community and to the families who may be struggling during this sacred season when we welcome the child, Jesus.

On Sunday evening, December 16th, the churches of Grand Bend will gather together at 7 pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to celebrate our annual Blue Christmas Service. Despite the joy and gladness of Christmas, many struggle during these dark days with mental illness, grief and sadness. This service is an opportunity to focus on the hope that Christ brings into the world through his humble yet glorious birth. Christ's birth brings light into our world and the promise of new life for every man, woman and child. Please join us for this uplifting and inspiring celebration of hope and renewal.

Please watch your mail this week for the Pastor's Christmas Letter and Parish Newsletter and invite your family, friends and strangers to join us for our Christmas and Feast of Mary, our Mother on New Year's Day!

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

Fr. Tony



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



The Foodbank needs your help! – In a continued effort to help support our local foodbanks, 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 either church. Thank you in advance for your works of mercy!

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 21, 2018**.

Zurich Live Nativity - The Churches of Zurich invited you to join us this **Sunday, December 9** at 7 pm at the Zurich Pavilion for our Ecumenical Live Nativity.



Coffee Social – will be held on **December 16th** in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall following the 9am Mass. Everyone is invited to attend.

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



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 Debit – 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 Debit method of donating, 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 debit, THANK YOU for supporting our parish.

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

Times for **Reconciliation** are as follows:

Sacred Heart	9:30am – 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	9:30am – 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.

Upcoming Events:

- SH School Christmas Concert – **Tuesday, December 11th** at 6:30pm
- Alpha Course at SH – **Wednesday, December 12th** at 6pm
- Confirmation Class at SH – **Friday, December 14th** at 3:30pm
- Blue Christmas Service at IHM - **Sunday, December 16th** at 7pm
- Open House for Parish Volunteer at rectory - **Friday, January 4th** at 4pm