

# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

589 HUGEL AVENUE, MIDLAND, ONTARIO L4R 1W3

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Pastor: Father Roselle Cyrille R. Azares

Deacon: William Carson P.D.

Michael Conlin P.D.

Anthony Ruta P.D.

Timothy Dunlop P.D.

Parish Secretary: Sandy D'Alessandro

Custodian: Jim Lamers



*prepare the way...*

# A Holy and Blessed Christmas

## Finding God

The Jesuit John Powell, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, tells of a story of a student in his Theology of Faith class named Tommy: He objected to or smirked at the possibility of unconditionally loving God. At the end of the course, Tommy asked the professor in a slightly cynical tone, "Do you think I'll ever find God?" "No," the professor said emphatically, "I don't think you'll ever find him, but I am certain he will find you."

After a few years, a sad report came: Tommy had terminal cancer. The professor wanted nothing more than to talk with Tommy. Before the professor could look for him, Tommy dropped by his office. His body was badly wasted, but his eyes were bright and his voice was firm.

Tommy shared his story: "You said once that God will find me. When the malignancy spread to my vital organs, I began banging on the gates of heaven, but nothing happened. Then I quit. I decided that I didn't really care about God, about an after-life or anything like that..."

"I decided to spend what time I had left doing something more profitable. I thought about you and your class and I remembered something else you had said: 'the essential sadness is to go through life without loving. But it would be almost equally sad to go through life and leave this world without ever telling those you loved that you had loved them.'"

"So I began with the hardest one: my dad. 'Dad, I love you. I just wanted you to know that.' Then my father did two things I could never remember him ever doing before. He cried and he hugged me. And we talked all night... it felt so good to be close to my father, to see his tears, to feel his hug, to hear him say that he loved me."

"Then, one day I turned around and God was there. He didn't come to me when I pleaded with him. I guess I was like an animal trainer holding out a hoop, 'C'mon, jump through.' 'C'mon, I'll give you three days... three weeks.' Apparently God does things in his own way and at his own hour." "But the important thing is that He was there. He found me. You were right. He found me even after I stopped looking for Him."

The professor then said: "Tommy, I think you are saying something very important and much more universal than you realize. To me, at least, you are saying that the surest way to find God is not to make him private possession, a problem solver or an instant consolation in time of need, but rather by opening to love. You know, the Apostle John said that. He said, 'God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him' (1 John 4: 16b)."

The birth of Jesus is not something to be consigned to the past. *Everything* stands in reference to it. It is not something to be passively remembered. It is an occasion for active celebration; it is an opportune time of grace to refresh or deepen our faith. This is so because Jesus is the 'Living One' whom we encounter in the mystery of our lives.

In the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, God-is-with-us, we do not simply see a case of man seeking God, but of God who comes in the Person to speak to man of himself and to show him the path by which he may be reached' (John Paul II in *Tertio Millenio Adveniente*). In Christ our Lord, God does not only speak to us his people, but also seeks us out. This is because God loves us from the very beginning of time; we are made in His our image and likeness, we are his special possession in a way unlike other creatures.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in the manger on Christmas dawn. We continue to suffer, to struggle, and to love – to find the meaning of our lives. In the Son of God who became one like us, our search comes to an end, our yearnings find fulfillment. It is because in Jesus, God searches for us his sons and daughters – and finds us!

*A silent wish sails the seven seas*

*The winds of change whispers in the trees*

*And the walls of doubt crumble tossed and torn.*

*This comes to pass when a child is born*

*A rosy dawn settles all around*

*You've got the feel you're on solid ground*

*For a spell of truth no one seems forlorn*

*This comes to pass when a child is born*

- When a Child is Born

Fr. RCRA

## CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY



Every family is invited to take part in the Consecration to the Holy Family which will take place during the 9am & 11am masses on Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>. Brochures that provide information about what it is and suggested ways your family can prepare for it were included in last week's bulletin and extras are at each entrance to the church. Prayer cards will be handed out this weekend.

*Masses Fourth Week of Advent*

**Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

12:05 noon + Bert Coté  
Requested by Rita Coté

**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>** – mass of the day

12:05 noon + St. Margaret's Staff & their families



**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve**

*The Nativity of our Lord*

5 pm missa pro populo

8 pm, 10pm

For all the deceased members of our parish whose memory are remembered through our floral donations

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

*The Nativity of our Lord*

**10 am** For all the deceased members of our parish whose memory are remembered through our floral donations

**Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup>** *St. Stephen*

**10 am** + Michael Dubbin  
Requested by wife Helen

**Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>** *St. John, Apostle*

12:05 noon + Marie Rose Lesperance

**Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup>** *The Holy Innocents*

10 am Private Intention

*Sunday Masses*

*Feast of the Holy Family*

**Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup>**

5pm + Eugenio & Caterina Moscon  
Vigil Mass Requested by John & family

**Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup>**

9 am + Rade & Mijos  
Requested by Kata & family

11 am missa pro populo

7:30 pm + Gordon Lavigne  
Requested by Bill Lavigne



**Sanctuary Lamp**

December 22 - 28, 2019

This week the light burns in memory of  
*Morde, Berniece & Mike*

**Prayer Requests**

**Please pray for those who have asked for prayers:**

Shelley Smith; Stephen Roach; Anne Marie Radko;  
Anne Marie Calhoun; Gail LeClair; Brenda Toole; Dawn Sweeney;  
Vincentia Beelan; Nadine Adams; Rita Smith; Christopher Johnson;  
Donald MacIssac; Verna Goneau; Deacon Tim Dunlop;  
Steven Laurin

**Tax Receipt Reminder**

2019 is coming to a close very quickly. All donations you wish to make to either the parish or the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and be included in your 2019 tax receipt must be received by Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Tax Receipts will be mailed the last week of January 2020.

**Thank You for all the ways you generously support St. Margaret's with your time, talent and treasure.**

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**USHERS** St. Margaret's is in need of ushers for all the weekend masses....If you are able to spare a few minutes before and after mass to offer hospitality to guests and fellow parishioners we need your help.

- ✓ Call Shelley LeBeouf at 705-515-0113
- ✓ Email Shelley at [sleboeuf@rogers.com](mailto:sleboeuf@rogers.com)
- ✓ Contact the office 705.526.6313 ext 1

A big thank you to all our current ushers, your assistance is greatly appreciated.



**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

- To everyone who took tags from the Giving Tree
- To those who sponsored a family
- To those who generously responded to our poor boxes

**Thank YOU**

You have "made" Christmas for our many families



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December 23 to January 6

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