



Pastor:

Father Roselle Cyrille R. Azares

Deacons: Anthony Ruta P.D.

Timothy Dunlop P.D.

MASSES

Seating is on a first come first serve basis.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday - Friday 12:05 noon

Saturday 10:00 am

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

11:30 am

Holy Hour:

Friday 11:00 am

Confessions:

Saturdays 4:30 - 4:55 pm

Sundays 8:30 - 8:55 am &

11 - 11:25 am

Baptism:

Call to make arrangements

MARRIAGE

Twelve months notice and Marriage Course usually required

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OFFICE HOURS

Tues-Fri. 9:30 am -4:00pm

For parishioners to get mass intentions and other items.

Please call 705-526-6313 ext 1 and we will be happy to assist you with your other needs.

PARISH LIFE

Parish Secretary

Juanita Wootton-Radko

Custodian

Jim Lamers

Choirs Saturday 5:00 pm

Adele Heins

Sunday 9:00 am

Adele Heins

Sunday 11:30 am

Diana Swift

Finance Council

Pauline Brabant

Floral Decorations

Katie Goulbourne & Ruth Dusome

Greeters & Ushers

Shelley LeBoeuf

Rectory Housekeeper

Katie Goulbourne

GROUPS

Catholic Women's League

Sandra Morson

705-527-6375

Knights of Columbus

Robert Sykes

705-529-6718

Marian Prayer Group

Lillian Latanville

705-526-3892

St. Vincent de Paul

Food Bank, donations, all inquiries

705-526-7585

ST. MARGARET'S CEMETERY

Rose Ladouceur

email: stmargaretsmicemetery@archtoronto.org 705-526-6313 ext. 4

Burials, Plots, Niches, Monuments, Cleanings and all other services

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Patricia Stenton

705-956-0632

Conrad Stenton

705-529-1403

Children's Liturgy

Katie Heffernan

heffernankt@gmail.com

OTHER SERVICES

Natural Family Planning

Humanae Vitae Centre (Linda) 905-859-8351

Catholic Family Services 705-526-9397

Huronian Right-to-Life

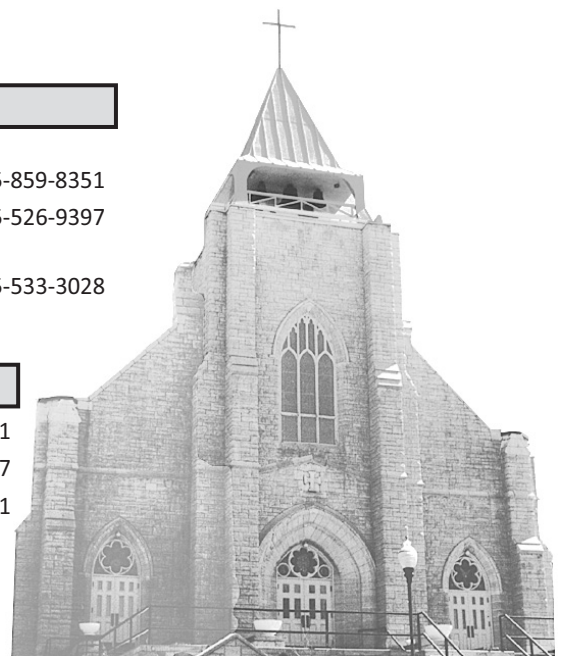
(Michael Vanden Heuvel) 705-533-3028

SCHOOLS

Monsignor Castex School 705-526-2831

Sacred Heart School 705-526-0107

St. Theresa's High School 705-526-1311





That I May See

In today's gospel reading the greatest prophet of the Old Testament and the greatest prophet of the New Testament come together. The voice of the old way comes from a prison. The voice of the new way is free. This Gospel story could have ended here, because the scholars tell us that its function was to introduce Jesus and get John out of the picture. But, it does not end because John is not the only one in prison.

We, too, are in prison. Just like John the Baptist, we suspect--we hope--that the reign of God has begun. Yet we find ourselves in prison, stuck and held back in our old ways: violent ways, selfish ways, prejudiced ways, greedy, slow to forgive, impatient and intolerant. We are like this doubtful John the Baptist, whose expectations of a Messiah are not quite fulfilled by this man from Nazareth. He does not destroy our enemies. There is still sickness, blindness, cancer, infidelity, injustice, and power abused. Like John in prison, we are lonely, betrayed sometimes by ones we most love. And, we are filled with doubts about whether it is really worth it to be honest, to be truthful, to be faithful.

The doubts of John in prison are easy to understand. In the silence of his heart, pondering on the person of Jesus, he must have wondered: "Whose side are you on?" Still in prison and unable to clear his doubts about Jesus, John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus with the question: "Are you the One who is to come, or are we to look for another?" To this question comes the most simple response: "What you see is what you get."

Then one of the deepest and most profound statements Jesus ever makes comes from the pen of Matthew, revealing a great deal about the Church that will receive this Gospel. "Blessed is the one who does not find in me a stumbling block." It is a startling verse implying that faith is not only a question of belief in the deeds of Jesus, it is also an act of faith. It is a choice to believe in spite of some evidence to the contrary that God is with us, that God's reign has begun, that we are not alone, left to ourselves, and without a vision of the future and the means to bring it into reality. The person who really stumbles is not the one stricken by doubts, but the one not impressed by Jesus. Doubts do not destroy us. Indifference does and confusion about who Jesus is for us and what he can do with us.

Tuesday December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

12:05 +Simone Flaim
Requested by John and family

Wednesday December 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:05 +Brenda McCusker
Requested by Dolores Maguire

Thursday December 15

12:05 +William McCallum
Requested by The Family

Friday December 16

11am – Holy Hour

12:05 noon +Ken Proulx
Requested by Sue, Dean, Keith and families

Saturday December 17

10 am + Margaret (Lavigne) Melnichak
Requested by Bill Lavigne

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Vigil Mass – Saturday December 17

5 pm Intentions of Adam & Lidia
Requested by Adam

Sunday – December 18

9am +Margaret Lavigne
Requested by Bill Lavigne

11:30 am + Herbert Fritz
Requested by Marg Fritz and family



Please remember the following people in your prayers:
Mary McCarthy; Nicole Marchildon; Stephen Roach; Lilah Bates; Shelley Smith; Nadine Adams; Peter Pattenaude; Bob Kokron; Brenda Bylow; John Jerome

Advent, when lived through the life and the eyes of John the Baptist means getting ready for what seems impossible and improbable. Advent is a season that raises our curiosity, and invites us to see something that can change our lives. Our worldly way of thinking never lets God be God, never allows for the surprise of a baby born of a virgin, nor the possibility of mercy, love, tolerance, patience and forgiveness being better than revenge, punishment, and power. The old and the new come together today. The old way of anger and vengeance meets the new way of mercy and love.

John must have wondered why Jesus was eating with the very sinners he had cursed. He must have wondered how it would be possible to save sinners by chatting with them, smiling at them, and touching them. Our joy today springs from the news that the old has been replaced; that God has come to save us not condemn us; that God has come to love us not despise us; that the Messiah for whom we long, is far better than we could ever have imagined.

As citizens of the Kingdom of God, we are set free from our prisons by a Savior who does not do what we want, but invites us to do what he wants. And, doing what Jesus wants means to change our ways and follow his ways. The message that Jesus sends to John and to us is that the power of his coming is found not in the fury of battle, but in the changes within human hearts and lives. We see the power of Christ's coming at Christmas most vividly, not in the brightness of our lights, the glitter of our decorations, the sound of our choirs, the size of our Christmas trees or the number of our gifts. The power of Christ's coming is shown in his entry into human lives to dwell there as a source of strength, faith and redemption.

The real miracles of the Messiah occur every day within human hearts. The real power of Christmas is manifested on the inside rather than on the outside. The inner change that Jesus came to bring about in the human soul is the necessary condition for any abiding change in our world. A corrupt heart will corrupt everything it touches. A healed heart can heal its environment.

Advent is a good time to identify whatever is keeping us from experiencing this power of the Messiah. Maybe the question that we should ask is not "What do we want for

Christmas?" but "What do we want from Christmas?"
What do we want the Messiah to do in our lives?

Part of the deep joy of Advent and of Christmas comes from our knowledge that the Messiah came to bring life to the dead places in our hearts, to help us recover spiritual vitality in our soul, to remove the desert of sin in our lives. The Messiah that John the Baptist awaited did indeed come to do battle not with the Romans but with the power of sin; not on the plains of Palestine but in every human heart; not once but in every generation.

Use the remaining days of Advent to let the Messiah change your world, your life and your soul. Embrace the gospel and live in his truth. Then you will know that the Messiah has indeed come to you.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. R C R A

Let's Sing Together Again!



Fundraising Concert and Tea

Join us for songs of the season led by Adele Heins and enjoy tea and

desserts in the parish hall.

A free will offering will be taken to defray the cost of new hymnals.

December 18th

2 pm Parish Hall

CWL News

Christmas CWL meeting Mon. Dec. 12 at 1:00 pm.

Come wrap gifts for seniors. All the ladies of the parish are welcome to attend and take part. If you are unable to attend but want to give a gift, call Sandra (705-527-6375) and she will pick up the gifts.

Sanctuary Lamp

December 11-17

This week the lamp burns for ***Fred and Edwina Smith***

Looking for Christmas Mass times?

Christmas and New Year's Mass times are available online at stmargaretsmi.archtoronto.org and by phone at 705-526-6313 x 2.

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