

ST. MARGARET'S PARISH

589 Hugel Avenue, Midland, Ontario L4R 1W3

PHONE: 705-526-6313

StMargaretsMI@archtoronto.org

stmargaretsmi.archtoronto.org

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.

FAITH COMMUNITY

Parish Secretary				
Choirs	Saturday	5:00 pm		
	Sunday	9:00 am		
	Sunday	11:30 am		
Finance Council				
Floral Decorations				
Greeters & Ushers				
Rectory Housekeeper				
Parish Custodian				
Parish Life Committee				
Web Admin/Social Media Manager				

Juanita Wootton-Radko Adele Heins Adele Heins Diana Swift Pauline Brabant Katie Goulbourne & Ruth Dusome Carol McBryan Katie Goulbourne Richard Kitchen Rosemary Sykes & Katie Goulbourne Daniel Lucas

GROUPS

Catholic Women's League Knights of Columbus St. Vincent de Paul

Lu Robitaille Fred Chamberlain

Food Bank, donations, all inquiries

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

Children's Liturgy

Patricia Stenton Conrad Stenton Katie Heffernan 705-956-0632 705-529-1403 heffernankt@gmail.com

705-209-0854

705-529-2632

705-526-7585

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN

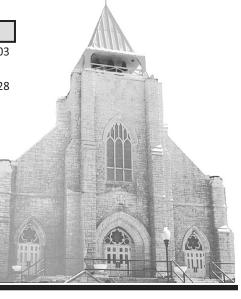
First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation Confirmation

OTHER SERVICES

Catholic Family Services	705-726-2503
Huronia 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	



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Tuesday, Dec. 17th

Advent Day of Confession at St. Ann's 12:05pm + Margaret Lavigne Requested by Bill Lavigne

Wednesday, Dec. 18th

12:05pm + Margart Melnichek Requested by Bill Lavigne

Thursday, Dec.19th

12 :05pm + Steven Perrault Requested by Donald & Velma Perrault & family

Friday, Dec. 20th

11:00 am Holy Hour 12:05pm + Simone Flaim Requested by the Moscon Family

Saturday, Dec. 21st

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church 10:00 am Special Intention for Fr. John Michael Lee, C.P. Requested by Gord & Cathy McKay

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec.21st 5:00 pm Mass for the People

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

9:00 am + Rev. Michael Rooney Requested by Charles & Dolores Maguire

11:30 am + Eugenio & Caterina Moscon Requested by the Moscon Family

Pope's Prayer Intention for December For pilgrims of hope

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

<u>Repent/Rejoice</u>

On this Third Sunday of Advent, often called 'Gaudete Sunday' or 'Rejoicing Sunday, the first two readings are all about rejoicing. The prophet Zephaniah sings to the people, "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst. You shall fear disaster no more... The Lord, your God is in your midst." "Rejoice" is also the first word we hear from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. Again, we are assured that the Lord is at hand, and this is a wonderful thought. That is part of what it means to prepare for a gift.

Rejoicing is also a big part of what it means to prepare for Christmas. The good news of Advent is that God is coming to you and to me. God's promises are being fulfilled. And we are to await that, to believe that, to realize that, and open ourselves fully to it. Then we hear the Gospel and the image shifts. God is no longer pictured as a victorious warrior exulting with His people, but as a wrathful judge, an executioner who loves His work. We are standing at the River Jordan, face to face with John the Baptist at his most intense. John does not say to rejoice; John says to repent.

St. Paul tells the Philippians not to be anxious about anything. John tells his hearers to flee from the wrath to come. Everyone in the Gospel is asking, "What shall we do? What has to change if we are to survive the great and terrible events that lie ahead? "For the axe is already laid to the root of the trees, and fire is prepared for burning the chaff." This is a very different message from "rejoice!" And if you think about it, that also makes sense. For the Lord we await in Advent is a Lord who makes a difference, the One who changes things. He is a Lord who offers both new life and new responsibilities, and who offers them together, simultaneously. Part of what new life means is that the old life just does not work anymore because everything is different. "Rejoice/repent!" This dual demand in the face of the coming God is addressed to all of us. It is part of Advent. We await and try to prepare for the coming of the Child Jesus, a child who changes everything. So, Zephaniah is right. We are to rejoice, and give thanks to God, and sing. And John the Baptist is also right. This wonderful gift will also come as judgment. If we are going to take seriously the good news of Christmas, then things are going to be very different. For both the joy that Jesus offers and the demands that he makes cannot be truly ours if we remain exactly the people that we are today.

When the crowd at the Jordan River felt this crunch of anticipation and judgment, their cry of "what then shall we do?" John the Baptist said, "Look at who you are. Begin there. When it comes to sharing, share from what you have. Don't wait until you have more, or until your offering can be of a higher quality. Start now with what is already there. Build fairness and mercy into your present dealings, your present life. Don't wait to be somewhere else, or to be doing something else, or to be someone else. Begin with the road in front of you. Walk that road, and so allow God to transform the real life you live right now."

Repent and rejoice in all things, with the real life that we live in the real world. It really is a familiar situation. As it is with much else, repentance and rejoicing are our responses to the reality of the coming of the Lord. Rejoice, for what is happening is wonderful. Repent, because from now on, everything will be different. Grace and peace, Father R C R A

Advent Day of Confessions

Advent confessions will be held at St. Ann's Church on Tuesday, December 17, from 9:00am-12:00am and 3:00-6:00pm. Please take part in this spiritual healing as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

<u>Sharing Our Gifts</u>

Parish Givings Report for Sunday

Offertory \$4,061.3 **NEEDED \$6,670.0 Upcoming extra expenses:** Snow removal Property Insurance

\$4,061.32 Building Fund \$1,318.38 **\$6, 670.00 xpenses:**

*Amount includes PAG & Donate Now

Tax Receipt Reminder

2024 is coming to a close very quickly. All donations you wish to make and be included in your 2024 tax receipt must be received in the office by :

Friday, December 27th, 2024. Thank you for your generosity in supporting your Parish !



Sanctuary Lamp

December 15-21 In Memory of *Ken Proulx*

2024 Christmas Mass Schedule

<u>Nativity of Our Lord</u> Christmas Eve

No Noon Mass Tuesday December 24th 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 11:00 pm (5:00pm Living Gospel)

Christmas Day

Wednesday December 25th 10:00 am Mass Only

Feast of the Holy Family

Vigil Mass—Saturday, December 28th 5:00 pm Sunday December 29th 9:00 am, 11:30 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass—Tuesday December 31st 5:00 pm Wednesday January 1st,2025 10:00 am

Epiphany of the Lord

Vigil Mass—Saturday January ^{4th} 5:00 pm Sunday January 5th 9:00 am, 11:30 am

Baptism of the Lord

Vigil Mass—Saturday January 11th 5:00 pm Sunday January 12th 9:00 am, 11:30 am

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember the following people in your prayers : Barb Ledoucer , John Charlebois; Grant Robitaille, Geraldine Diamago, Ralph Ladouceur, , Carol Jackson, Carmen Desroches, David Morton, Dan Camp, Elaine Chiasson; Lisa Wright; Judy Martin; Michael Pontze; Frank Whitkins; Bob Dorion; Carol Quesnelle; Barrett Smith; Alex Latondress; Malachy Maguire; Nick Tardif; Lynda Stanek; Mary Fletcher; Sherry Archer; Abigail Brown; Romelda Morson; Nicole Marchildon; Stephen Roach; Lilah Bates; Shelley Smith; Peter Pattenaude; Brenda Bylow; Betty Laurin; John Gunther

Please pray for our recently deceased relatives and friends: Aileen Cadeau

