

November 26, 2010

Dear Parishioners:

I am happy to greet you as we begin a new Church year with the season of Advent.

Advent means “coming”, and this season of Advent is all about the coming of the Lord. But that coming is understood on several levels. We are preparing ourselves to commemorate Christ’s coming in the flesh, his decisive appearance in human history, born of Mary in Bethlehem. At the same time, we prepare ourselves for his second coming at the end of time. And then there is yet another coming, one that happens not in the past, nor in the future, but in the here and now, as Christ comes to us in the sacraments, in our times of prayer and reflection and in the goodness revealed in the people around us.

During the darkest days of the year, God's word bids us to set aside our deeds of darkness, our sins, which hinder us from recognizing Christ today. At the same time, the scripture readings urge us to be watchful, to be vigilant, and to look in joyful expectation for the Lord. This is the lifelong vocation of every Christian: to respond daily to the word of God, to take up the challenge of the Advent scriptures, and to watch for the coming of Christ every day.

In September of this year, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, visited England and declared the venerable servant of God, John Henry Cardinal Newman to be counted among the blessed. In the collection of Blessed John Henry Newman’s poems and parish sermons, we find the following reflection. I offer it to you for your reflection during these Advent days.

*They watch for Christ
who have a sensitive, eager, apprehensive mind,
who are awake, alive, quick-sighted,
zealous in seeking and honoring him,
who look out for him in all that happens, and
who would not be surprised,
who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed,
if they found that he was coming at once...*

*This then is to watch:
to be detached from what is present, and
to live in the thought of Christ as he came once,
and as he will come again;
to desire his second coming, from our affectionate
and grateful remembrance of his first.*

Please note the schedule in this brochure indicating the celebrations with which our parish community will mark the seasons of Advent and Christmas this year.

May the only-begotten Son of God touch all our hearts during the coming weeks. May he nourish our faith, confirm us in hope, and unite us in an enduring bond of love with one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH,
Pastor

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

Each Sunday we gather as usual to listen to the Scriptures and share in the Eucharist:

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm.

ANGEL TREE

Parishioners are invited to take a card from the Angel Tree at the main entrance of the church and contribute an unwrapped gift for a child. In this way we make it possible for needy children in our community to celebrate the goodness of God at Christmas. Please note: donations cannot be received after Sunday, December 10, 2010.

ADVENT RESOURCES

Copies of Advent Reflection booklets are available at the entrance of the church beginning on the First Sunday of Advent: **Advent: Here and Now** (for adults) and **Gather Round the Christmas Tree** (for families with young children). These booklets are provided free of charge.

ADVENT YOUTH RETREATS

Young people are invited to participate in an Advent retreat. Contact Christina Morrison at the parish office for more information.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

There will be a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:00 pm.** Father Cornelius (Con) O’Mahony, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Waterloo, will be the guest homilist. Several priests will be present to assist us in experiencing God’s mercy in this sacrament of forgiveness. In addition to the usual Saturday afternoon celebrations, Reconciliation will also be celebrated in our parish on Tuesday, December 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m. for those unable to join us for our communal celebration.



Christmas Mass Times

BIRTH OF CHRIST

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24, 2010

5:00 pm

7:00 pm

10:00 pm

(Incense used at 10:00 p.m. Mass)

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25, 2010

9:00 am

11:00 am

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve- Friday, December 31, 2010

5:00 pm

New Year's Day- Saturday, January 1, 2011

11:00 am

There is no evening Mass on New Year's Day.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 2, 2011

Sunday at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm

(Incense used at 11:00 a.m. Mass)

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The parish office will close at noon on Friday, December 24, and re-open on Tuesday, December 28, at 9:00 am. The office will close on December 31 at noon and re-open on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

CHRISTMAS TABLE BLESSING

The following prayer of blessing may be used for your Christmas family meal.

Leader:

**The Word of God became flesh,
Alleluia!**

All:

And dwelt among us, Alleluia!

Leader:

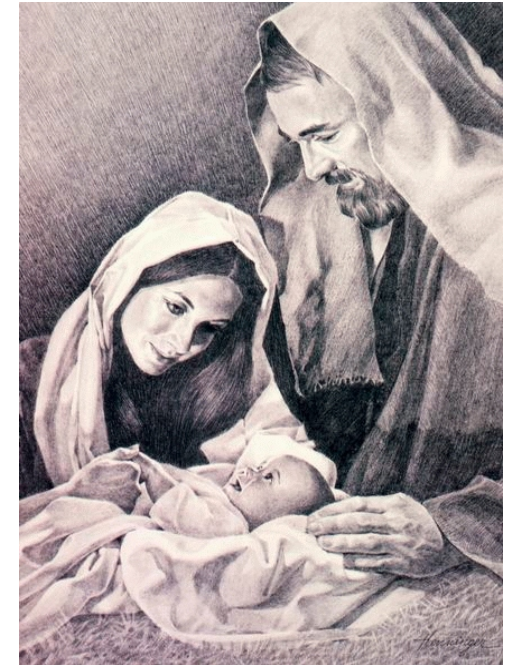
**Lord Jesus,
in the peace of this season
our spirits rejoice:
With the animals and the angels,
with the shepherds and the stars,
with Mary and Joseph,
we sing God's praise.**

**By your coming among us
may the hungry be filled
with good things
and may our table
and our home(s) be blessed.
Glory to God in the highest!**

All:

And peace to his people on earth!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2010



Our Parish Pastoral Staff
Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, *Pastor*
Father Bill Foote, *Associate*
Miss Christina Morrison, *Youth Minister*
Mr. Colin Cousins, *Ministry of Music*

St. Pius X Parish
9 Waverly Street
Brantford, Ontario N3R 2K2
(519) 753-8439
fax: (519) 752-6208
email: spfront@rogers.com