



Please pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill. For our parishioners, their families and caregivers, including: Theresa Rock, Ann Leduc, Avery Belanger, Andrea DeMeo, Allen Benoit, Richard Cathcart, Neil McCarthy, Sheila Gasnick, Emily Miller, Andrea Redway, Lorraine Leduc, Patrick and Alice Cornwall.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 17th

9:30AM – For the Intentions of Our Parish

11:30AM – For Jack & Helen Hutton
Requested by their extended family

Christmas Eve – December 24th

10:00PM – For Joseph & John Cornwall
Requested by Muriel Cornwall

Christmas Day – December 25th

10:30AM – For Joseph & John Cornwall
Requested by Muriel Cornwall

Mary, Holy Mother of God – January 1st

10:30AM – For Thomas Gilbert
Requested by Anne Gilbert

Readings For Christmas Day

First Reading: Isaiah 62.11-12
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97
Second Reading: Titus 3.4-7
Gospel: Luke 2.15-20



FINANCIAL REPORT December 17th Collection

22/40 Envelope Donations \$	845.00
34 Pre-Authorized Debit \$	922.50
Loose Collection - \$	128.75
Vigil Lights	43.00
Total - \$	1939.25
Giving Goal \$	2000.00
Variance \$	- 60.75

SUNDAY SUPPER REPORT: Team one hosted dinner for 60 guests.. They served snacks, salad, glazed ham, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots and chocolate-cherry torte with ice cream – which was quite Christmassy as this is the last dinner until Jan 7th. Loretta McCarthy came and distributed gift packs to our guests given by the St. Margaret Mary's parishioners. They were much appreciated!

A GENTLE REMINDER: Parishioners who choose to contribute by Pre-Authorized Debit are reminded that special collections such as Christmas and New Year's collections are not included in your monthly donation. If you wish to make additional contributions during the holiday season, please use the envelopes in the church pew with your full name and telephone number written on the envelope.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will be closed from Saturday, **December 23rd** to Monday, **January 1st** inclusive. The exception is **Wednesday, December 28th**. The office will be open as normal that day.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve:

Family Mass: 6:30PM
Evening Mass: 10:00PM

Christmas Morning:

Mass: 10:30AM

Feast of Mary, Mother of God:

New Year's Day: 10:30AM

A VERY SUCCESSFUL ANGEL TREE PROJECT!

This year's Angel Tree Project was an outstanding success thanks to the very generous support of the Parish. We received many donations of warm socks, hats, mitts and scarves. We also received Kleenex, toiletries, calendars, candies and other thoughtful items. Many people gave cash donations which totaled \$380.00. The cash donations enabled us to purchase items to specifically fill in any gaps. Thanks also goes to Rexall drugs in Billings Bridge who gave us a donation towards our project. The gift bags will be given to our guests tonight at their Christmas dinner. **Thank you one and all for your support this year!**

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO LAUREN SAINDON:

Lauren has been the pianist for the 9:30 choir for the past several months. She has accepted a position with another church and her final Sunday with us will be December 31st. We sincerely thank her for her wonderful contribution to our music ministry and wish her every success in her new position.

FR. PIERRE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwell in the land of gloom, a light has shone!" Thus begins the reading from the Prophet Isaiah for the Mass at Midnight. Throughout the Scriptures, the birth of Jesus is described as a light shining in the darkness. The shepherds are out in the fields, keeping watch over the flocks at night. We all have darkness in our own lives, and I am not just speaking about the absence of the light of day. Darkness and anxiety dominates our world and our culture. It manifests itself in a wide range of expressions such as war, hunger, famine, sickness, grief. Some aspects of darkness are social, while others are personal in nature. Some people live in the darkness caused by the loss or weakening of their faith. Into this emptiness of the human heart comes the Word, Jesus, born in time and place. For each of us, and in every kind of darkness, the light of Christ shines anew. The message of Advent has been, *"Awake, O sleeper and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."* There is no darkness in our world that is so great, that the Light of Christ cannot penetrate. On our part, we must give Jesus permission to shine upon us, and dispel our darkness! It is then, that we become children of light. To those caught up in the darkness of a broken world, the victims of terrorism and greed, we ourselves are called to be light in their darkness. When Jesus told His disciples that we are *the 'light of the world'*, he was giving us a commandment to 'make a difference.' As we celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas, I pray that the light of Christ will shine in the hearts and homes of all of us. May the light of Christ shine and reign in your hearts this Christmas season and always!

Merry Christmas, Fr. Pierre