



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

#### Mary, Holy Mother of God – January 1<sup>st</sup>

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

#### Epiphany – January 7<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM – For Kenneth Kennedy  
Requested by Alma Kennedy

11:30AM – For the Intentions of Our Parish

### Readings Next Sunday - Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6  
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72  
Second Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12



### FINANCIAL REPORT December 17<sup>th</sup> Collection

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

#### WEEKDAY MASSES DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

Weekday Masses between Christmas Day and New Year's Day are cancelled. The regular weekday Mass schedule resumes on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

**PARISH BULLETIN:** The Parish Bulletin will be published for Christmas Day. There will be no bulletin for New Year's Day.

**TAX RECEIPTS:** Preparation of tax receipts will begin in January with a projected issue date of the last Sunday in January. If your address has changed in 2016 please advise the office if you have not already done so.

**FINANCIAL RECAP FOR 2017:** Our Parish has faced increasing financial challenges over the past few years. From January 2013 to August 2016 we were without a permanent Pastor for most of those months. The rectory was also vacant for much of that time. As a result an artificial financial situation was created due to unusually low salary costs and decreased utility charges for the rectory.

In August 2016 we returned to our normal expected costs with the arrival of a part-time Pastor who resides in the rectory. It became quickly apparent that the shortfall in our weekly offerings was an issue.

Fr. Pierre fully reported the situation to the Parish and asked parishioners to prayerfully consider increasing their weekly giving goal. The response was positive and has resulted in a 10% increase in donations to the General Fund and 30% increase to the Building Fund.

We have seen an increase in donations using the Pre-Authorized Debit program with six more households choosing this method of contribution. This is especially helpful as it provides the Parish with a stable and consistent income each month.

Our situation has improved but there is still work to be done. Our church was built in 1914. An aging building will always need maintenance. In July 2017 we had an electrical fire due to old wiring that was not to current code. We incurred considerable expense to replace the wiring and electrical panels.

As we go into the New Year, Finance Council will provide a full and accurate report to the Parish once the accounts for the year are finalized. A sincere thank you to all who have stepped up and increased their support this year. It has helped us to continue working towards building a stable and viable community.

**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY:** Our next hospitality will be on Epiphany, January 8<sup>th</sup> after both Masses. Contributions of treats are always welcome!

### FR. PIERRE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwelt 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*

