

**3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024**

**Intentions:**  
**Dec 15** - For belated birthday blessing for **Pia del Papa Lagny**, requested by her family.  
 Mass Intentions: \$15.00

**Offertory Collection**  
 Dec 08 - T.B.A. **Thank You**

- **2024-2025 Living with Christ Missals** are available at the rear of the church. Cost is \$7.00.
- 2025 Donation envelopes are now available at the rear of the church.
- We encourage parishioners to make donations towards purchasing flowers for the decoration of the altar at Christmas time.

**NOTE:**

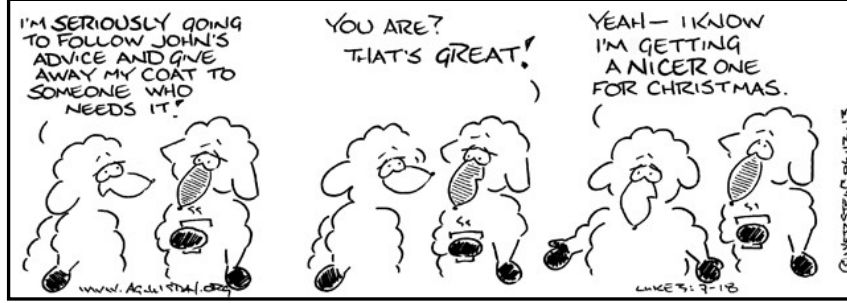
**Christmas to New Year program**

	St. Michael	St. Gabriel
Advent Confessions 18 <sup>th</sup> December	6:00 pm	-
24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas eve masses	4:00 pm	6:00 pm
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas day masses	9:00 am	11:00 am
28 <sup>th</sup> December	4:00 pm	-
29 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00 am	11:00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> January Mass	9:00 am	11:00 am

**WEST CARLETON FOOD ACCESS CENTRE:** (Food Bank) Did you Know? \*That over 58 families access the West Carleton Food Access Centre each month as of the end of September. Numbers have risen over the last 2 months so we expect that number to rise by the end of 2024. By the end of September, we had 512 orders. We served a total of 706 orders in 2023 which represents 124 families. So far this year we have served 125 families. We will have more families in 2024 over last year's numbers. \*Is 100% run by volunteers. \*That the Access Centre provides support in the form of canned goods, fresh milk, cheese, eggs, fruit and vegetables, bread, frozen meat (chicken, ground beef, hot dogs) and prepared food to individuals and families in the entire West Carleton area who require assistance. \*The West Carleton Food Access Centre is independent from all other Food Banks and does not receive extra food supplies or funding from other Food Banks. \*We provide gift cards at Christmas for clients to purchase Christmas Dinner and gifts for their children (this replaces the Angel Tree). As well we provide gift cards at Thanksgiving and Easter to purchase turkeys or hams. \*Donations can be made by cheque WCFAC 5670 Carp Road Kinburn, ON K0A 2H0 Or e-transfer: [wcfodaccesscentre@gmail.com](mailto:wcfodaccesscentre@gmail.com). Thank You for any support you can provide.



**Gospel Reflection:** The “good news” is a message of a topsy-turvy world. John baptizes and preaches to the crowds, the “common folk”, and in answer to the question “What should we do?” he answers to the effect, “more than you would wish to do or that can be expected of you”— share what you have with those who have not. John’s good news is that of a totally different way of seeing life. The question, “What should we do?” is asked three times in today’s gospel, and the answer is invariable: reach out to the marginalized with whatever you have and they need. This is the good news of John, and it is identical to the good news Jesus preached. John directs our attention to Jesus and the inauguration of his ministry to the poor and those in need. And so we ask, “What should we do?” (Living Liturgy, p. 14)



**Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for the sick among our families and friends, especially Fran Bernard, Roy Campbell, Patricia Cassidy, Bridget Floysvik, Chris Kelly, Suzanne Lafontaine, Priscilla Rowley, and Lorraine Stafford. *The names will remain on the list until we are otherwise advised.*

**Pope’s Intentions for the Month of December:**  
**For Pilgrims Of Hope:** Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



**Administrator's Corner**

**Rejoice in the Lord always:**

Today, on this third Sunday of Advent, we're offered a special olive branch of life and renewal. The Latin phrase "Gaudete in Domino semper" reminds us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." Our focus is on the joy that comes from being aware of Jesus' presence within us, even in difficult times.

Let's reflect on the acronym "JOY." The "J" stands for Jesus, encouraging us to prioritize Him in our lives. The "O" stands for others meaning that in whatever we do others will come second in priority reminding us to consider their needs. Finally, the "Y" symbolizes "you," meaning in the hierarchy of priority you come last. This emphasizes the importance of humility.

Alternatively, "JOY" can also mean "Jesus Oriented Youth" or "Jesus Only You." These interpretations inspire us to focus on Jesus and see Him in every situation. Pope Francis once said that “the closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the farther away he is, the more sadness we feel”.

In this Advent season, let's remember the gifts Jesus offers us: hope, peace, joy, and love. The desire for joy and happiness is universal, but it often seems elusive. As Fr. Anthony de Mello said, "We have everything we need here and now to be happy. The problem is that we identify our happiness with people or things we don't have and often can't have."

The coming of Jesus at Christmas offers us total transformation for our holistic wellbeing. God's presence in our world gives us a reason to rejoice and relate kindly to those around us. A joy shared is a joy well possessed. The journey of joy requires discipline, persistence, and hard work. The first condition necessary for Christian joy is to focus less on one's self and to put Jesus at the center of everything. John the Baptist is a good example in this regard. He left everything, from a young age, to put God first, to listen to his Word with all his heart and all his strength. He withdrew into the desert depriving himself of everything superfluous, to be freer to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He derived great joy not in drawing others to himself but by always pointing to "the One who was to come."

Similarly our Blessed lady derived great joy in pointing the disciples to the Lord when she said “Do whatever He tells you”. Dear friends this rejoicing Sunday offers us great opportunity to get our priorities right following the example of John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This Rejoicing Sunday offers us an opportunity to get our priorities right. Rejoice now, because God's love is perfect, even when our lives aren't. Whether you're navigating life's struggles or celebrating Christmas, God is near, saying, "I've got this, and I've got you."

In conclusion, let us remember the true meaning of JOY: J- Jesus is the reason for our joy. O - Others are the recipients of our joy. Y - You are called to share joy with others.


May we carry this JOY with us throughout the Advent season and beyond.  
 Blessings Father Anthony

**Pastoral Directory**

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**West Carleton Food Access Centre: (WCFAC)** Please remember our local Food Bank each week by donating items to St. Gabriel's grocery cart. Cash donations of \$20.00 and over will receive a tax receipt. Please include your name and address on the envelope. See Suzanne Lee if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.




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**All Welcome**



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**Weekly Eucharist**  
**St. Gabriel's** (Constance Bay) **St. Michael's** (Fitzroy Harbour)  
Sunday 11:00 am Mass Saturday 4:00 pm Mass  
Sunday 9:00 am Mass

live streaming link on YouTube St. Michael's Mass at 9 am Sunday  
**StMStG-Live**

Confessions and Sacrament Of the Sick are also available by request.  
Please contact Fr. Anthony directly to book an appointment.

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