

4th Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024

Intentions:
Dec 22 - For the parishioners of St. Gabriel & St. Michael parishes.
Dec 24 - For the parishioners of St. Gabriel & St. Michael parishes
Dec 25 - For the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**, requested by Janne Campbell
 Mass Intentions: \$15.00

Offertory Collection
 Dec 08 - \$ 631.00
 Dec 15 - \$ 526.00 Thank You

2024-2025 Sunday Missals are available at the rear of the church. Suggested donation is \$7.00.

Please don't forget to pick up your 2025 envelopes at the rear of the church.



Christmas to New Year program

	St. Michael	St. Gabriel
24 th December Christmas eve masses	4:00 pm	6:00 pm
25 th December Christmas day masses	9:00 am	11:00 am
28 th December	4:00 pm	-
29 th December	9:00 am	11:00 am
1 st January Mass	9:00 am	11:00 am

December 23

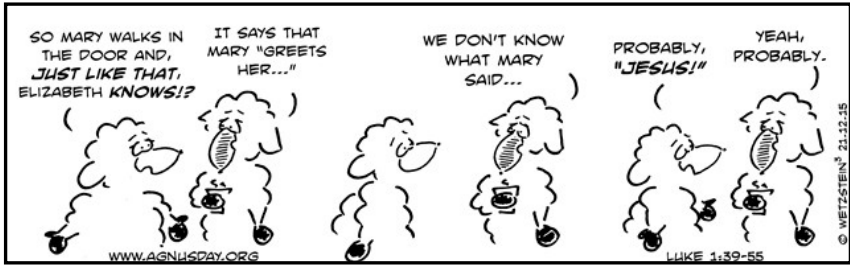
Saint John of Kanty: John was born in Kanti, Poland in 1390. After his ordination, he served in the Faculty of Theology at Krakow University. A popular teacher and preacher, John was noted for his simplicity and love for the poor. He died in 1473 and was canonized in 1767.

December 26

Saint Stephen: This celebration dates back to about the 4th century. Because his name is Greek, it is assumed Stephen was a Jew of the diaspora (Jewish communities outside Israel) who had resettled in Jerusalem. Stephen is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem at the very dawn of the Christian church. He is the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.



Gospel Reflection: The gospel for this Fourth Sunday of Advent presents us with the meeting of two pregnant women, one older but no wiser about such things than the other quite young mother-to-be, for this was the first child for both. Such a meeting! The infant in Elizabeth's womb gave a mighty kick when Mary greeted her, and Elizabeth recognized the baby of Mary's womb as her Lord. Jesus, the Son of God Most High, became incarnate—took on human flesh—as a necessary step to salvation. Jesus's body was "prepared" as the fruit of Mary's womb. He came to "do God's will." Mary believed and it was fulfilled. She didn't count the cost. Neither can we. (Living Liturgy, p.18)



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

The True Meaning of Love: A Reflection on Sacrifice

This Sunday, we light the fourth candle of Advent, symbolizing love. As we reflect on the true meaning of love, we are reminded that love is not just a feeling but a choice and a commitment. There are different forms of love, each with its own unique characteristics.

Eros love is characterized by exciting and intoxicating emotions, often associated with the initial stages of a romantic relationship. However, this type of love, built on passion or attraction to satisfy selfish ends, does not last. In contrast, **Philia** love is a more enduring bond.

Philia love is an affectionate and lasting bond that develops after a deep and long-lasting relationship. This type of love is built on mutual respect, trust, and affection, often seen in relationships between children and parents, and among siblings. Philia love lays the foundation for the highest form of love.

Agape love is the highest form of love, characterized by selflessness, generosity, and unconditional acceptance. It is a love given without expecting anything in return. As we recall, God is love, and He expressed His nature of love by giving us Jesus. This ultimate act of love is what we celebrate at Christmas.

Love requires sacrifice. It involves putting the needs of others before our own and being willing to make difficult choices for the sake of those we love. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice He made for our sake. Born in a humble manger, surrounded by animals, and cared for by Mary and Joseph, Jesus' birth restored God's eternal plan for humanity to share in His divinity.

In our daily lives, we can show love by making sacrifices for the sake of others. We can prioritize their needs, listen to them, and be present for them. As Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Examples of love and sacrifice can be seen in the daily acts of kindness and generosity that we often overlook. They can also be seen in the sacrifices made by soldiers, firefighters, and teachers, as well as in the simple acts of prioritizing family time.

As Saint Augustine wisely said, "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

In summary, love is a complex and multifaceted concept that encompasses **Eros**, **Philia**, and **Agape**. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of the importance of **Agape** love, which is characterized by selflessness, generosity, and unconditional acceptance. May we strive to show this type of love to others, making sacrifices for their sake and doing small things with great love.


Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year in advance
 Blessings. Father Anthony

Pastoral Directory

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 Deacon James Kubina
 Cover Photo: Mark Brisson

EMERGENCY: anwaohiri@gmail.com For emergencies, email this address with EMERGENCY in the subject or call the church office at 613-623-3419.

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.

Pastoral Directory on inside flap