

Second Sunday of Advent, December 07, 2025

Intentions:
December 07 - In loving memory of **Kevin Lee Reteff**,
 requested by Suzanne & Ludo.
 Mass Intentions: \$15.00



Offertory Collection:
 November 30 - \$255.00 Thank You

December 08



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: A feast dedicated to Mary's conception first appeared in the 7th century and by the 12th century it was firmly established in England. In the 13th century, great thinkers such as St. Bernard and St. Thomas Aquinas debated whether Mary could have been born without original sin if, as St Paul says, all persons are born in sin (Romans 5.12). By the 19th century, the theological debate was resolved and in 1854 Pius IX defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith. In 1846, the Catholic Church of the United States declared this to be its patronial feast.

St. Michael's December school mass is on the 10th.



2025-2026 Sunday Missals are available at the rear of the church. Suggested donation in \$8.00.

Pope's Intentions for the Month of December

For Christians in areas of conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

St. Gabriel Christmas Schedule

* Thur	Dec 18	St. Michael	.. Advent Confessions.	7:00pm
** Sun	Dec 21	St. Michael	.....	9:00am
* Sun	Dec 21	St. Gabriel	.....	11:00am
** Thur	Dec 25	St. Michael	.....	9:00am
** Sun	Dec 28	St. Michael	.....	9:00am
* Sun	Dec 28	St. Gabriel	.....	11:00am
** Thur	Jan 01	St. Michael	.....	9:00am
* Thur	Jan 01	St. Gabriel	.....	11:00am
* Regular Masses				
* Christmas & New Years Masses				
* On-Line Masses (StMStG-Live)				



Gospel Reflection: John the Baptist is prophet, judge, precursor. With these three roles we note a parallel with the prophetic, kingly, and priestly roles in Israel that come to fulfillment in Jesus Christ. John is the bridge between Israel of old and Jesus the Messiah. John forcefully reminds us that vindication or punishment is our choice, according to the life we lead. Who is this strange man John? He is the voice that cries out to us an Advent message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For those of us who are totally taken up with the present moment—simply getting up, getting to work, keeping the house, and preparing meals, etc.—it may seem strange to live in light of a future event. The beginning of Advent is a time when the Church reminds us that *how we do these everyday things* is how we bear fruit and receive everlasting life. (Living Liturgy, p. 10)

Vincentian Meditation: John knew the Advent secret: He focused his whole life on the coming of Jesus. "I am not the Christ. Another comes after me. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." He realized that his all-consuming vocation was to prepare the way of the Lord. Our vocation is very similar. St. Vincent tells us that the person of Jesus must be absolutely central in our lives, as it was for John the Baptist. As Vincentians we dedicate our whole lives to following Christ. We seek to share in his love and reverence for the Father and his compassionate and effective love for the poor. With him we trust in God's Providence, which rules over all. For Vincentians, as for John the Baptist, there is nothing else but Jesus. (Maloney, Seasons in Spirituality, p.47)

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



Administrator's Corner

An Advent Call - U-Turn to God's Mercy
 The story was once told of a little girl who wanted to join church, eager to belong to God's family. The Pastor asked if she'd experienced a change of heart. She said, "Yes." "Were you a sinner before?" "Yes." "Are you a sinner now?" "Yes." Well then, "What's the difference?" She paused, her eyes lighting up: "Before, I was converted I chasing sin like it was freedom; now that I am converted, I am a sinner running away from sin toward God." This is the U-turn to God's mercy—repentance (Metanoia), a radical change of heart, a lifelong journey of turning toward love.

The story reminds us that repentance isn't just a moment of sorrow; it's a transformation of the soul. Genuine repentance (Metanoia) means honestly acknowledging our sins (no hiding, no excuses), feeling genuine regret (not crushed by guilt, but drawn by mercy's warmth), and actively changing (not a one-time fix, but a daily reorientation). As Scripture says, "A just man sins seven times a day" (Proverbs 24:16)—but God's unfailing mercy renews us, again and again.

The Catholic faith teaches that repentance is a way of life, not a checkbox. We're called to both interior and exterior penance (Pope John XXIII): an inner contrite heart turning to God, expressed through outward acts of prayer, sacrifice, confession, and works of mercy. Why? Because penance restores what sin destroys: our communion with God, our dignity as beloved children, our inner peace. In the sacrament of confession, Christ's hand (like the Divine Mercy Image) extends forgiveness, absolution, healing, wiping away the damage, repairing the broken.

Just as trees need pruning to grow by cutting dead branches, clearing overgrowth, we need God's pruning to thrive spiritually: cutting old wounds, toxic habits, anything blocking our light. Daily, we accept life's sufferings, resist temptations, and unite our weak will to God's strong love. This U-turn shapes not just our faith, but our character, relationships, and purpose (1 Peter 2:9-10).

We can cherish the reassuring promise of God: "He who began the good work in you will bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6). This is a promise that God is committed to our growth. As his Baptized children, we're sealed as His—He prunes, perfects and never gives up on us.

In this holy season of Advent we are called to examine: What "dead branches" block my light? Confess: Let Christ's mercy wash these wounds clean. Today, let's U-turn to God's mercy. Let God prune, heal, and complete His masterpiece in us.

Transformation through God's mercy has practical implications for Christian's daily life. It calls for a response of gratitude, obedience, and a commitment to live according to God's will. This transformation is showcased in the Christian's character, relationships, and actions, reflecting the love and mercy they have received. May we be encouraged by the gracious words of St in 1 Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Pastoral Directory

Baptisms:	Father Anthony Nwaohiri	623-3419
Financial Council Chair:	Janne Campbell	832-4290
Pastoral Council Chair:	Martine Messier	808-4573
Mass Intentions & Bulletin:	Marilyn Deslauriers	222-3762
Pastoral Care:	Father Anthony Nwaohiri	623-3419
Advertising Ministry:	Lorraine Brisson	832-3351

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

Lost and Found: Periodically, please check the lost and found basket at the church entrance for articles you may have left behind.

Sts Michael and Gabriel helpinghand ministry: Her objective is to serve needy families periodically in a timely and confidential manner. More details will be announced soon. The administrators can be reached at stmichaelshelpinghands@gmail.com or (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
	Wednesday 8:00 am adoration/confession, 9am mass
	Thursday 8:30 confession, 9am mass
	Friday 8:30 confession, 9am 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