

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



the Pastor's corner

Love is the greatest of the commandments, the mother of all the virtues, and the pulsating heart of the Christian Good News. This is the message of the Bible and Tradition of the Church. Unfortunately, the word 'love' is so overused in contemporary discourse that it has lost much of its meaning. This is why we need to go back to our Christian source. In his first encyclical letter, *Deus Caritas est (God is Love)*, Pope Benedict XVI distinguishes three main kinds of love: **eros**, the spontaneous attraction between a man and woman that tends towards physical union; **philia**, the mutual love that exists between friends; and **agape** or selfless and self-sacrificing love, supremely manifested in Jesus Christ. While these three forms of love may be distinguished, they must not be separated, for we need all of them to be fully alive and at ease when we talk about love.

Our faith often reminds us that genuine love is manifested in action; it is practical and outgoing. In the words of St Augustine, *"It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of people."* Such love is demanding. It summons us to leave our comfort zones, to give our time, our energy, our talents, and, indeed, our very selves to others. And to do this not just when we feel it, or for a short time, but to do it in season and out of season, in good times and bad, until our final breath. There is something divine in this process because any love worthy of the name involves a costly process of growth from the search for self, to the surrender of self for the sake of others, for as it has been said, *"The one thing we can never get enough of is love. And the one thing we never give enough is love."* **And this is why we celebrate Christmas every year, to be reminded once again of God's endless love for all of us in the birth of His only begotten Son and Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Fr. Slawek

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Sunday, December 31st

Mass 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Mass 6 p.m.

Monday, January 1st

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Tuesday, January 2nd

No Mass

DECEMBER 24, 2023



Saint Vincent DePaul Holy Spirit Conference Christmas Assistance Program 2023

Turning concern into action

Christmas is a special time of the year. It is even more special for us at Holy Spirit because we share our love and blessings with our neighbour-in-need. By your concern and generosity, you bring them the peace and joy of Christmas.

Thank you for your support.

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes all our Parishioners a Christmas filled with the love, peace and joy of Baby Jesus .
A very Merry Christmas to all of you*

*From all of us at
Saint Vincent de Paul*

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

St. Barnabas Church

Starting January 25, 2023

7 consecutive Thursdays—7 p.m.—9 p.m.

Register online:

<https://form.jotform.com/stbarnabasto/MARPREP2024>

or go to the website at <https://stbarnabasto.ca>

MARRIAGE DATE NIGHT

Attention all Couple St. Barnabas Church will be having a **Marriage Date Night on January 20, 2024**. The topic this night is **The Blueprint of Love**. Every marriage needs a blueprint—a plan to follow for real love. Find the blueprint for your marriage in the loving actions of Christ for the Church. To register please go to website <https://stbarnabasto.ca>

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please use **2024 envelopes** starting **Jan. 1**. Print your full name, address, phone number and donation clearly on the envelope for the month so the Parish office can record the number to your name.

If you have a change of address please list it on your envelope or notify the office.



**ARE YOU MOVING?
OR
HAVE YOU MOVED
ALREADY**

Please contact the parish office so your records can be updated.
Thank you.



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 26

9 a.m. No Mass

Wednesday, December 27

9 a.m. Intentions of Anthony & Chandi Amarasingha on their Wedding Anniversary.

Thursday, December 28

9 a.m. Intentions to the Holy Innocents req. by Lulu.

Friday, December 29

9 a.m. Private Intentions..

Saturday, December 30

4:30 p.m. Repose of the soul of Silvestro De Laurentis req. by the DeLaurentis family.

Sunday, December 31

9 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Intentions of thanksgiving req. by the Joriza Porcal & family.

COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL



The Social will resume
Wednesday, January 3, 2024
After the 9 a.m. Mass
in the Parish Basement

All parishioners welcome

SUNDAY MISSAL

Are available for purchase from the parish office.
Cost \$ 6.00

Monday -Thursday
8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

YOUR HEALTH

As cold and flu season approaches, to ensure the health of the entire community, parishioners are encouraged to stay home from Mass and parish functions if they are experiencing symptoms of the flu virus, colds, etc. Respect and concern for the common good takes precedence. Thank you for your cooperation! To minimize risks please use the hand sanitizers that are located at each entrance!