

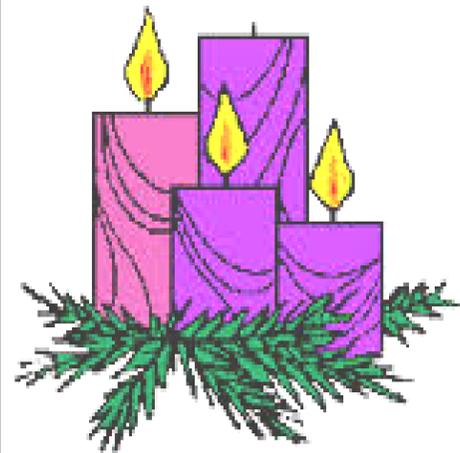
The Third Sunday of Advent—Sunday December 15th, 2013



Saint Andrew the Apostle, pray for us

Mass Schedule & Intentions from Dec. 14 —Dec.22, 2013

Saturday	5:00PM	†	Laurina Pio by Mr. & Mrs. Tom DiGioia Maria Agostino by Regina Lodge #20 O.S.I.C Rose Pisano by Mr. & Mrs. Sam Candeiora Sakach family by Angie Cvet
Sunday	9:00AM	†	Salvatore Ventresca by wife and family Pierino Ioannoni by wife Bruna and family Nicolina DiCenso by family
Sunday	11:00AM	†	For the People of the Parish
Monday	9:00AM	†	Angelo Nobile by Giuseppina Infantino
Tuesday	9:00AM	†	Edda Savio by Frank & Franca Sdao
Wednesday	9:00AM	†	Pietro Guglielmi by Frank & Franca Sdao
Thursday	9:00AM	†	Antonino & Anna Giovinazzo by family
Friday	9:00AM	†	Beni Inneoby wife Nardina & family
Saturday	6:30PM	†	Advent confession
	5:00PM	†	Pasquale Vaccaro by wife & family Peter Guglielmi by wife, daughter, grandchildren & family Luigi & Giuseppina Sorbara by Nancy Fazari Gary Garland
Sunday	9:00AM	†	Salvatore Ventresca by wife Filomena Ernie LeBlanc by Debbie LeBlanc Vincenzo Fazzalari by Fazzalari family Gary Garland by Jon & Sarah Hardt
	11:00AM	†	Angelo Nobile by family



Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
James 5.7—10

Last Sunday's Collection - \$ 1905.00
Bless you for your continued generous support.

Upcoming Events

Advent Reconciliation will be held on Friday, December 20th, at 6.30pm. Other priests will also be there to help us. Please try to join.

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule
Dec. 24th 5:00 p.m. Family Mass
Dec. 25th 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Masses: 9 AM and 11 AM
Dec. 31st 5:00 p.m. Year-end Mass
Jan. 1st: 10 AM New Year Mass



The Older I Get...
The simpler my Christmas preparations become...
The closer I feel to old friends as I write my greeting cards...
The more I cherish the oldest ornaments...
The more fondly I remember Christmases past...
The more I realize Christmas lives in the heart...
The tighter my throat gets when I sing "Silent Night"...
The more I enjoy giving than receiving...
The more I try to see Christmas with a child's eyes...
The longer I sit at night in the glow of the Christmas tree...
The more wondrously beautiful the Christmas Story is...
The deeper my awe at God's infinite love...
The More I love Christmas!

From the General Audience of Pope Francis on Wednesday December 11, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our catechesis on the Creed, we now turn to the final article: "I believe in... life everlasting". At Christ's coming in glory as judge of the living and the dead, we will be held accountable before God for the good we have done or failed to do in this life. We tend to regard this final judgment with a certain trepidation, yet the Church invites us to see it as a source of consolation and joyful hope. The early Christians celebrated this hope using the expression *Maranatha* to invoke Christ's return and the beginning of the great wedding feast of a humanity reconciled with God. At our judgement we will not be alone, for Jesus, our advocate with the the Father, will be at our side, together with all the saints. For, as he tells us, the Son was sent into the world in order to save it, and those who believe in him will not be condemned. God's judgement takes place in our lives each day, by the way in which we respond to Christ's teaching and imitate him in serving our brothers and sisters. Let us prepare, then, to meet our judge with confidence and joyful trust in his promises.

Are You Registered in the Parish?

Please do not take for granted that you are registered in the Parish just because you attend Mass here. If we have no record of your parish membership, it could be quite embarrassing to us, to you or your family, when someone wishes to make wedding plans, have a baby baptized, or if you have been asked to act as a sponsor for Baptism etc. Please come to the office and fill out a registration form. It will also help us to keep our parish register updated.

Campaign Life Coalition - Fruit Cake Sale -
at back of church.

PASSION & PURPOSE LIVE with renowned speaker and author, **MATTHEW KELLY**. On **SATURDAY, May 31st, 2014 9AM - 1:30PM** at St. Alfred's Church, St. Catharines. Tickets are available at our parish office.

Please Remember St. Andrew's Parish in your Will

From a sermon by St. Augustine **John is the voice, and Christ is the Word**

John is the voice, but the Lord is *the Word* who was *in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word *ought to grow*, and I *should diminish*? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: *My joy is complete*. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offence to the word. *I am not the Christ*, he said, *nor Elijah, nor the prophet*. And the question came: *Who are you, then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord*, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

What does *prepare the way* mean, if not "pray well"? What does *prepare the way* mean, if not "be humble in your thoughts"? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.