17 December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

PRO-CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

480 McIntyre Street West - North Bay, Ontario - P1B 2Z4

Welcome to Your Father's House!



In the first reading, Isaiah is anointed by the Lord and sent to announce a day of vindication by our God. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to always rejoice, pray, and give thanks. In the Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light and says he is the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord." In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

Our Parish Mission Statement

We, the members of the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption community, believe that we have been called through Baptism to live the Good News of Jesus Christ under the patronage of Mary, our Mother. We accomplish this by proclaiming the Word, celebrating the Sacraments, & reaching out to others.

Most Rev. Thomas Dowd, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Rev. Larry Rymes
Pastor of the Pro-Cathedral Parish

PERMANENT MINISTERS

Deacons	*Diocesan Order of Women*
Rev. Mr. Albert Falconi	Mrs. Shirley Falconi
Rev. Mr. Donald Shago	Mrs. Norma Milligan
Rev. Mr. Rick Hamelin	Miss Ruth Godon
Rev. Mr. Gary Westenenk	

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Joseph de Viveiros, CR Chaplain, Nipissing-Parry Sound District Schools

Our faith community dates back to 1886 when we were **originally located on Main Street West and called St. Mary's of** the Lake. The cornerstone of the existing Cathedral was laid in 1904. The history of our parish is recorded in the memories of thousands of people who built our community.



(705) 472-3970
office@procathedral.ca
www.procathedral.ca
facebook.com/procathedral

Parish Sacraments



Marriage: Please pick up a Marriage Information Booklet in the Church Vestibule to review prior to contacting the parish office.

Anointing the Sick: Please call the parish office for more information.

Reconciliation: 3:00 to 3:45 PM each Saturday.

Eucharist: Please see mass schedule published in this bulletin. Call the parish office to arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit the sick and shut-in who are unable to attend Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Each Friday from 11:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Baptism: Please pick up a Baptism Information Booklet in the Church Vestibule to review prior to contacting the parish office.

The Pro-Cathedral is **wheel chair accessible**. The entrance to the elevator is on Algonquin Avenue. Please enter the vestibule and ring the bell for an attendant. Service available at all weekend Masses. Weekday Masses service available 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM. A **Hearing Aid System** is available for use by the hearing impaired. Please ask an Usher or Sacristan to assist you upon entering the church.

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday	**8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**
Tuesday & Thursday	**8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**
Friday	**8:30 AM to 12:00 NOON**

READINGS: 18 ~ 24 DECEMBER

Monday	Jeremiah 23. 5-8; Matthew 1. 18-24
Tuesday	Judges 13. 2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1. 5-25
Wednesday	Isaiah 7. 10-14; 8. 10d; Luke 1. 26-38
Thursday	Zephaniah 3. 14-18a; Luke 1. 39-45
Friday	1 Samuel 1. 24-28; Luke 1. 46-56
Saturday	Malachi 3. 1-4; 4. 5-6; Luke 1. 57-66
Sunday	2 Samuel 7. 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16. 25-27; Luke 1. 26-38

What's Happening at the Cathedral This Week
Monday, 18 December to Sunday 24 December

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday	10:00 AM	Church	Funeral: Colleen Klein
Tuesday	1:30 PM	Church	SJ-SH Advent School Mass
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Church	Choir Practice
Thursday	6:30 PM	Church	Choir Practice
Saturday	10:00 AM	Church	Decorating Committee



Christmas Memorial Flowers & Decorations

Please have your names to the parish office by Tuesday, December 19.

A beautiful way to remember loved ones during this holy season is to donate memorial flowers and decorations in their memory. Pre-printed envelopes are available for your donation at the entrance to the church. Please fill out the requested information as neat as possible (printing would be best!) and return the envelope to the office by Tuesday. A listing of remembrances will be printed in the Christmas Bulletin.

Sunday 10 December 2023

Sunday Offering	Building Fund
$5,656.75	**$850.00**

ROOF CAMPAIGN REPORT

Roof Campaign Balance **$182,639.82**

Second Collection—Sunday, 10 December

Roof Loose $ 648.15
49 Receipted Donations $ 3,016.20

Roof Donations in Regular Collection— 10 Dec.

22 Receipted Donations $ 2,160.00

Roof Donation - Employee Charitable Matching

2 Donations $ 7,765.00

Corporate philanthropy in which companies match donations made by employees.

Orchard Gift Card Sales

64 Cards X $5.00 Profit $ 320.00
Total Profit to 10 December **$ 4,983.00**

Twiggs Gift Card Sales

10 Cards X $5.00 Profit $ 50.00
Total Profit to 10 December **$ 420.00**

New Roof Campaign Balance **$196,599.17**

UPCOMING MASSES

Tuesday, December 19 - 12:05 PM
Jeanne Hodgins - Philip Paquette
Lois Wishak - The Family
Angie McGuinty - Nadine and Paul Condon

Wednesday, December 20 - 12:05 PM
Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mike and Lidia Rossi - The Family
The Veraldi and Knight Families - Myrtle Veraldi
Intention of Kristy and Nicholas Beaulieu - Karen Beaulieu

Thursday, December 21 - 12:05 PM
Lloyd Voisin - Katherine Voisin and Family
Linda Jamieson - Peter and Family
Intention of the Pro-Cathedral Ushers - Pat Anderson

Friday, December 22 - 12:05 PM
Iris Vendetti - Nadine and Paul Condon
Angie McGuinty - Rita Morrissette
Intention of Deacon Rick Hamelin - Richard Levesque

Saturday, December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 4:00 PM
Maria Lapienis - John and Carol Rowe
Armand Schiavo - Arthur and Lucille Schiavo
Aurel Boudreau - Jessica and Pedro Costa and Family

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 10:00 AM
Paul Smith - Mary Lou Smith, Laura and Andrew
Dave Harris - Joyce Brooks
Intention of the Pro-Cathedral Choir Members - A Friend

**** Note: The 9 and 11 AM Masses have been merged to 10:00 AM due to the Christmas Eve Masses.**

Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord - Sunday, December 24
5:00 PM Christmas Eve
8:00 PM Christmas Eve

The Nativity of the Lord - Monday, December 25
11:00 AM Christmas Day

Midnight Christmas Eve Mass for the North Bay Region will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Church on Memorial Drive

Please Note: Tuesday, December 26 Mass Cancelled

Wednesday, December 27 - 12:05 PM
Thursday, December 28 - 12:05 PM
Friday, December 29 - 12:05 PM

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 30 - 4:00 PM
Sunday, December 31 - 9:00 AM
Sunday, December 31 - 11:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024 - 11:00 AM

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S DAY WITH $$$$$

You have until Midnight - Sunday, 31 December to Purchase your 50/50 Tickets!



www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/procathedral

Tickets Amount: 1 for $5, 4 for $10, 20 for $20, 100 for $50

This raffle is conducted by the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption, a charity in North Bay under License #RAF1286202. Purchaser must reside in Ontario.





There is so much comfort to be found in the practice of pausing to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth.

The third Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare in our hearts a sense of holy anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as well as for his promised second coming. We can study the Scriptures as a reminder of the ways God has been faithful to us through the fulfillment of prophecy—and find hope in the promises of God that are laid out in his Word.

The third Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the **joy** we have access to because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their *joyful demeanor*. Let's not allow the struggles of this year steal from the **great joy** we have because of Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-5 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

Parish envelopes are now in the church for 2024. Please do not use any of these envelopes until the New Year. Why not consider signing up for pre-authorized donations through your bank account or by using your credit card—it helps the parish have a consistent, reliable offering even when you are away.

See someone new at the Cathedral? Did you know we are all Ministers of Hospitality?

Why not approach this person and say:

- Hi, my name is . . . I've been a parishioner for __ years, I'm not sure if we have ever met.
- What is your name?
- Are you new here?
- Before you leave, let me introduce you to: Fr. Larry and some other parishioners *(introduce them to your friends and/or ministers in the parish).*
- I hope that I meet you again, I usually sit in this pew. If you are here again next week, please join me.
- Have a nice week!



The Tradition of the Christmas Candle: ***Long before the celebration of Christmas, candles were used to signify Christ as the light of the world. In medieval times there was a legend that said on Christmas Eve the Christ Child wandered throughout the world looking for a place where He would be welcomed.***



Those who loved Him, hoping He would find their homes, placed lighted candles in the windows to invite Him in.

No one, of course, knew for sure how He might appear. Perhaps He would come dressed in the rags of a beggar, or He might come as a poor and lonely child. Might He come as a disabled person who was put out to roam the streets of the city or the lonely footpaths of the countryside?

So it became customary for devout Christians to welcome into their homes all who knocked on their doors on Christmas Eve. To turn away might have meant the rejection of the Christ Child who had come in an unfamiliar garb.

In modern times, electric lights have replaced the candles of old. To many, they are simply a decoration, part of "what we do".

Perhaps this Advent, as people who know that Christ is the Light of the World, the lighted windows we see can serve as a reminder to say a prayer for those who don't yet know Him.

Catholic Community of Volunteers are in the hospital



The availability of the Eucharist to patients is on Wednesday, Friday and Sundays.

Those who identify as a member of the Catholic Community and wish to receive Eucharist must authorize the visitation as volunteers ***do not have access to patient lists to determine what patients are Catholic.***

If someone is not already on the visitation list, they or a family member can contact Deacon Rick Hamelin at 705-476-8115 or Hospital Chaplain Services at 705-491-0318 to arrange to receive the Eucharist.



Development and Peace Stamp Collection

Don't forget that your stamps affixed to the right corner of your envelopes can help fund Development and Peace projects as they sell them to stamp collectors. Please support this initiative by simply cutting off the stamps from your envelopes damaging the perforations. **Save them in baggies/ envelopes & drop them into the office mail slot.**
Our D & P Coordinator, Lorraine Atchison, will make sure they are sent to the Stamp Project. Thank you!

The Good Samaritan Corner



There is no doubt about it, winter is here. And with the change in season, the temperature drops in North Bay. The homeless are desperate no matter the season, however, cold temperatures can be especially difficult. Here is what you can do if you see someone that is homeless in the cold:

1) Save a life - call 911
2) Buy something hot to eat or drink
3) Make a handout care package – fruit, oatmeal packets, granola bars, pre-packaged cookies, pre-packaged cheese and crackers, packaged chocolates, warm socks and gloves, gift cards to a local grocery store, lip balm, a handwritten note with a message of kindness
4) Donate to a charity that supports the homeless such as Low Income People Involvement of Nipissing https://lipinipissing.com/

For more information visit https://www.fredvictor.org/2019/11/11/lets-help-homeless-this-winter/

Did you know that the Gathering Place provides the following programs: drop-in meals, a community garden, a community kitchen, food rescue, extreme weather centre, community clinics and a place to volunteer? The Gathering Place feeds, on average, 111 people each day for lunch Monday to Friday, and, therefore, is always looking for donations such as: coffee, tea, sugar, pasta, pasta sauce, cheese strings, jam, peanut butter, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Please drop off your donations at 1181 Cassells St, North Bay. For more information call 705-474-7687 and visit them online at https://www.thegatheringplacenorthbay.ca/

Feast of Theophany (Jordan) Fr. Peter Bodnar, pastor of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sudbury, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in Ukrainian/English on Saturday, January 6 at 12 Noon at the Pro-Cathedral. Great water blessing will follow after the service. Everyone is welcome. Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River. For more information inquire at stmaryssudbury@yahoo.ca



Advent Mission "Carol of Nine Lessons" THIS SUNDAY, 17 December at 6:30 PM at St. Peter's Church followed by a social in the hall. Invite a friend and together, prepare your heart for Christmas!

Free Community Christmas Day Dinner—December 25 at the Pro-Cathedral Parish Hall from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. Takeout from 1:00 to 1:30 PM only. Everyone welcome. Contact email: nbchristmasdinner@gmail.com to volunteer or if you have questions.

Coming to Stillness: An Invitation to Face Sacred Moments: Is your life too hectic? Out of balance? Do you need renewed energy for your inner life? Why not try a contemplative prayer experience on ZOOM sponsored by Shalom Place and facilitated by Sr Léa Joanisse. Each guided contemplative prayer will include restful music, inspiring meditation material silent moments for personal reflection and optional sharing. Each of the six sessions will be held on the third Monday of the month beginning January 15, 2024 and last one hour. You may register for all six sessions or any individual session. If you register for an individual session, do so by the Tuesday before the session. Register by email at shalomssm@shaw.ca, on our website at www.shalomplace.ca or by phone at (705) 254-4690. Your financial gift (whatever you can afford) allows the ministry of Shalom Place to thrive and grow. Thank you for your generosity.

Holy Name Ring the Bell Raffle Lottery — Win $25,000: All proceeds to bell tower restoration. Main Prize Draw of $25,000 on Easter Sunday 2024. Early Bird Draw of $1,000 this coming New Year's Eve. Tickets are $20 available at Holy Name or call 495-1501. Must be 18+ to purchase a ticket. Lottery License M853216.

Community Living North Bay looking for compassionate host families to open their hearts and homes to an adult with an intellectual disability. Reach out to familyhomje@clnb.org or 476-5117 ext. 225 for more information about renumeration, support and relief.

Pray During the Day! Holy Name of Jesus Church is open daily Tuesday to Friday from 11:30am to 4:30pm for prayer in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. You can pop in at any time, for how long or how short you would like. Take advantage of this beautiful opportunity to spend time with our Lord Jesus! We need adorers—call Karen at 495-6675 if you can help.



Loving Father, like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we, too, are in need of light, in need of direction, in need of your Word, to show us the way. Our busy lives and the consumerism that surrounds us make it difficult to recognize your kingdom and to hear your voice. Help us Lord, to focus on you. Amen.