



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

386 Rogers Street, Peterborough, ON K9H 1W7

705-742-5466

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASSES FOR DECEMBER 14TH – DECEMBER 20TH

DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING, ALL WEEKDAY MASSES WILL BE IN THE CHURCH RATHER THAN THE CHAPEL

Monday, December 14 th	5:00 p.m.	+ John Bagshaw, requested by Bill & Rita Allen
Tuesday, December 15 th	8:30 a.m.	+ John Bagshaw, requested by Paul & Mardi Ayotte
	10:00 a.m.	– <i>Mass for the Immaculate Conception School students</i>
Wednesday, December 16 th	8:30 a.m.	+ James McMahon, requested by the estate
	10:00 a.m.	– <i>Mass for the Immaculate Conception School students</i>
Thursday, December 17 th	8:30 a.m.	+ John Bagshaw, requested by Jane & family
	10:00 a.m.	– <i>Mass for the Immaculate Conception School students</i>
Friday, December 18 th	8:30 a.m.	+ John Bagshaw, requested by Paul & Mary O'Brien
	10:00 a.m.	– <i>Mass for the Immaculate Conception School students</i>
Saturday, December 19 th	4:30 p.m.	+ Cody Bartlett, requested by Jim & Colleen Shipley
Sunday, December 20 th	9:30 a.m.	+ <i>For the people of Immaculate Conception Parish</i>
	11:30 a.m.	– God Bless Our Polish Community, requested by the Rosary Friends

Please note that there will be no Monday Mass starting January 4th, 2021

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Aleesha, Neave Alderson, Audrey, Fr. Bart Burke, Gwendolyn Craigen, Joan Cross, Marie Cullen, George Ellis, Hender Ellis, Sawyer Growden, Marc Guerin, Julianna & Mary Hauer, Bill Heasely, Betty Johnston, Bradley L., Cathy Lochner, Peter McCarthy, Erin Sullivan, Walter & Linda VanTol, Rose Marie Vitarelli and those who have no one to pray for them. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU CLOSE TO HIS HEART.

OFFERTORY COMPARISON: Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

Nov. 2020	\$9,102.25 (5 Sundays)	Nov. 2019	\$10,629.50 (4 Sundays)
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FOOD FOR FAMILIES REPORT: Food collected: 1,229 lbs. Cash: \$20. The students of Immaculate Conception School organized and held a food and sock drive through the streets of East City this week. Stay tuned for the grand total after weighing and delivery to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. A wonderful example of social action from the students and teachers. God bless them all. (*Bins always at the back of the church.*)

REGISTRATION FOR CHRISTMAS MASS: Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass is fully booked; a few spots are left for 7:00 p.m. Mass. Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. Mass is still quite open. Please call the office at **705-742-5466** to register your name, phone number and number of family members attending. As soon as our maximum is reached for each Mass, according to COVID guidelines, no one else may be admitted. (No registration required for the 11:30 a.m. Polish Mass.)



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR: As we cannot hold our annual Advent Bake Sale to raise money for Christmas altar flowers, there will be a basket at the back of the church for your welcome donations.

DAY OF GRACE: The Cathedral will be having their annual **Day of Grace** on **Saturday, December 19th** from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with two priests available throughout the day.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS LIVE-STREAMED: The Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be live-streamed by COGECO YourTV Channel 700, from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains.

A GIFT OF WISDOM: The Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is inviting young people to honour their grandparents and the elderly. They are urging youth to post online some memory, piece of advice or "gift of wisdom" they have received from one of the elderly people with whom they have formed a bond. These can be tracked if the posts include the hashtag #GiftOfWisdom. Afterwards, the Dicastery will collect some of the best posts and share them on their [website: http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en.html](http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en.html). The Vatican is promoting this venture especially during this time of the pandemic, when many elderly people are isolated and living alone. What a great form of outreach and thanks from young to old at Christmas time!

ADVENT PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Advent means the start of a new liturgical year, and the time of preparation in advance of Christmas. It can be a tall order to focus on spiritual preparation with so many other demands on our time in December. *Journey through Advent* is a series of brief videos prepared by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Douglas Crosby offers reflections on the Advent season and on the various Sunday readings. Why not commit to viewing each video each week, making this Advent a time truly to prepare the way of the Lord? They can be accessed here: <https://www.cccb.ca/liturgy-sacraments/resources-in-english/liturgical-calendar/video-reflections/>



UNDER ONE ROOF: We once again ask for donations of **hats, scarves, mitts, socks, and hygiene products** to be distributed throughout the Christmas season. Baskets will be in the Church. Porch drop-offs can be taken at 529 Rogers Street, Peterborough, or call Sue Smith at **705-743-5973**. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Saint of the Week

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross". The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.



Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly, John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial-to-self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49—a life short, but full.

Source : <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross>

"The season of Christmas is approaching. How often do we hear people ask: "What can I buy?" "What more can I have?" Let us use different words: "What can I give to others in order to be like Jesus, who gave of himself and was born in the manger." — Pope Francis