



A WARM WELCOME TO

**ST. PETER'S PARISH
ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S
December 20 to January 3, 2010**

Pastor: Father Joe Vayalil
Deacon: Bob Birch
Sacristan: Richard Sutton
Secretary: Josephene Kealey

Welcome to everyone, parishioners, newcomers and visitors to St. Peter's Parish. We encourage the *active* participation of all in the prayer and song of our community worship.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote the love and compassion that Jesus Christ showed to all people, of every creed, with a special emphasis on the needs of the poor and the underprivileged.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. --- fulfills Sunday Obligation
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Last Sunday of every month: Mass at 10:30 a.m. only

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at 8:30 a.m.
Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

No Mass on Mondays.

No Mass on a Tuesday after a long weekend holiday.

LEGION OF MARY PRAYER MEETING:

MONDAYS at 7:00 p.m.

CENACLE PRAYER:

THURSDAYS from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

ADORATION:

FIRST FRIDAYS from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS: by appointment before Sunday Masses

First Fridays at 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS: 4:15 p.m. on Saturdays

10:30 a.m. on Sundays

No Baptisms on last weekend of the month as it is our parish monthly socials: **October to June.**

For more information kindly call our office at 613-733-1553.

MARRIAGES: Kindly give us at least 6 months notice.

A Marriage Preparation Course is required after the Pastor's approval.

PARISH ADDRESS: 1640 Heatherington Road
Ottawa, ON K1V 9P5 Canada

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stpetersparish.ca

E-MAIL: stpeters@inbox.com

PHONE: (613) 733-1553 **FAX:** (613) 733-7183

SCHOOL: Prince of Peace School (613) 731-4733
(Elementary School - Kindergarten to Grade 6)



Finance Committee

Michael Kealey - Chair

James Ulicny

John Pasqua

Erlinda Saculles

Sergio Loyo

Robella Folliet - Bookkeeper

Liturgy Committee

Fr. Joe Vayalil

Deacon Bob Birch

Richard Sutton - Liturgy

Coordinator/Sacristan

Lectors' Leaders

5:00 p.m. Mass - George Assing

9:30 a.m. Mass - Jay Hunt

11:30 a.m. Mass - Michael Murray

Ministry of Communion Coordinators

Mike and Lisa Birch

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

4th Sunday of Advent: The Fourth Sunday of Advent highlights the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the story of our salvation. God chooses to enter into our human experience through the person of the Blessed Mother. By assenting to the invitation of the angel Gabriel, Mary changes the course of human history. Her unconditional “Yes” to God’s will untangle the knot tied by the sin of Adam and Eve. Her example of fidelity and obedience serves as a model for us to follow as we seek the path of holiness and everlasting life.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas in a worthy manner, we ask the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We ask her to pray with us and for us, that we might welcome the saving presence of the Lord into our lives and embrace Him as our Savior and King. We pray that we might know the Lord’s will for our lives and embrace that will with determination and courage. As she was privileged to hold the Lord Jesus in her womb and in her arms, so may we be fashioned by God’s grace into bearers of the Lord.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas): When we are with family and friends at Christmas, we are at our best. Christ’s call is to give to all of us, again and again, the opportunity to share in His unconditional love. To let down our defenses and to marvel at all the small growth moments that touch our souls, is to keep us vulnerable and receptive to God’s presence. Above all, Christ invites us to be child-like in our faith and to trust in a creator, who always knows where we are and what we need. A creator, who knows the difference between a fish and a snake, a scorpion and an egg, when it comes to sustenance and nurture. Christmas Day keeps hope alive in our sometimes jaded and weary hearts, by reminding us of the infant Jesus, as we sit quietly, allowing peace and simplicity to seep into our souls. The nativity is God’s blessing personified our connection to the mystery of the stable. Our prayer, on this Christmas Day, should be that we experience Christ’s birth with an open heart and contemplative vision. Christmas is memorable in that it challenges us to display our spirit of peace on earth and goodwill to all humankind

Mary, Mother of God: “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us’.” The presence of God in life is far more common than we think. The problem is, unlike the shepherds, we fail to pursue the Word God sends to us through the people and events of life, through the impulses of conscience and heart.

MASS INTENTIONS & CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 19

5:00 p.m. Mass

- No intention requested

Sunday, December 20

9:30 a.m. Mass

- For the soul of Barbara Seguin, by Paul Seguin

- For Octavio Gomez, by Mauricio Gomez

- In honour of Padre Pio, by Carmela Filice

11:30 a.m. Mass

- No intention requested

Saturday, December 26

5:00 p.m. Mass

- For Alex and Emma Tobin, on their 53rd wedding anniversary, by the family

Sunday, December 27

10:30 a.m. Mass

- For the soul of Joseph Kattackal, by the family

- For the soul of Ketura Arborte, by Malbranche Arborte and family

Pastor’s Christmas Message

“The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages is now manifested and made known to all nations.” Romans 16/25
Where does God live? Children may point to the sky and say “Heaven”; others might acknowledge the tabernacle or the human heart. People of all faith might say God is everywhere, and atheists insist that God is nowhere. But Christians unanimously declare that once in history we knew precisely where God could be found. That manifestation of divinity: Jesus Christ loved in a poor country occupied by an empire largely unknown and unimportant. The Church declares that God chooses to make a home in us because God has knit divine history to human history, and eternity to the passage of ours. God pitches a tent among us and shares our lot. This newborn child is our link to God.

Wherever you are this Christmas, know that God chooses to spend the holiday with you. On this my first Christmas with you, I pray for the grace that in this short life of ours we do things His way. I extend heartfelt wishes for a blessed Christmas with many moments of serenity, peace, and joy.
Father Joe Vayalil

Collections: December 13

Total, including special collection:

\$2105.50

Thank you for your generosity and support.

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. & 9:00p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

Friday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Mass – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31 at 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

There will be NO 8:30 a.m. Mass on December 24 and 31.
The Parish office will be closed December 25 and January 1.

ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2009

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we note that Pope Benedict XVI has designated a special Year of the Priest lasting from this past June until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 11, 2010). Christmas reminds us, then, of God's saving plan in becoming human. And that, on leaving this world to return to the Father, Christ wanted priests to carry on his saving mission in the Church. The divine paradox is that God wishes weak and fragile human beings to continue Jesus' mission in the world today. The Epistle to the Hebrews says that in Jesus "we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning." When the author goes on to speak of the human priest he describes him as one "appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people" (Hebrews 4:15-5:3). Recently, we have become all too aware of weakness and sin in the priesthood. And that could cause us to hesitate to call on their ministry. What a loss that would be for us and for them! Instead of drawing back, I invite all the faithful of the Archdiocese to grasp the meaning of Christmas and celebrating the Year of the Priest by making a personal confession in 2010. For some this may mean the first celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation in years, perhaps decades. If you need help, the priest you approach will be only too glad to assist you. However, the effects of a sacramental experience of God's peace in the confessional or reconciliation room can, we believe, bring blessings to both penitent and priest. What the Christmas story illustrates so vividly, that "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16) becomes real in the priest's absolution—the wiping away—of our sins given by Christ through his frail human representative. Hearing confessions and granting the Lord's forgiveness cannot but touch the heart of the priest and remind him constantly of his desire at ordination to live as a communicator of God's mercy. In Bethlehem centuries ago, angels announced to shepherds the news that a Saviour—one who would take away their sins and reconcile them to God—could be found in a newborn baby lying in a manger. The shepherds were so moved by their encounter with the Christ Child that they told everyone they met of what they had experienced. This stirred up wonder and awe in them as they heard "what the shepherds told them" about this Child (Luke 2:18). May our encounter with the gentleness of the forgiving love of Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation help us reach out to those who desire to find peace with God. The Holy Father will soon proclaim the Curé d'Ars, St. John Marie Vianney, as the universal patron of priests, both diocesan and religious. In doing so, the pope intends to underline how the ministry of hearing confessions renews the Church. May it be so for us in the Church of Ottawa!

My prayer and that of my brother priests is that the peace and joy of Christmas may be yours at this holy season and throughout the New Year. Merry Christmas!



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Email: ccw@centrepointelaw.com

Hope Cemetery

4660 Bank Street, Gloucester, Ontario
822-1212

Traditional - Chapel
Mausoleum - Columbarium
Crematorium

Notre Dame Cemetery

455 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario
746-4175

Traditional
Columbarium (niches)

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BEQUESTS AND WILLS:

In your kindness,
please remember St. Peter's Parish
in your bequests and wills. If anyone
wishes to make such a bequest in their
Will, the following clause may be included
or added to a will or added by codicil:

*"I give devise and bequeath the sum
of \$..... to St. Peter's Parish,
Ottawa, to be used for the benefit of
the Parish and its pastoral works."*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

AN INVITATION: If you are visiting our church today,
know that we are honored by your presence.
Our parish serves the needs of the community in many
different ways. We offer preparation for sacraments,
children's liturgy, social activities, assistance to those in
difficulty, and comfort to the sick and those who mourn a
loss. If we can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call
on us.