ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WELLAND
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2024

4 St. Andrews Ave. Welland ON
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(905) 732-5046

Office Hours
Friday Only
10:00am to 2:00pm
(Please call before visiting the office)

DONATIONS:
Kindly send a cheque, payable to
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Welland
E-transfer: saint2020andrew@gmail.com

Mass Schedule & Intentions: December 21 - 29, 2024

SATURDAY December 21st - 5:00 pm
Anita & Frank Garel by Janis Garel-Martel
Greg & John Laverdiere by Rene Ventresca & Family
Tony & Connie Mazzei by Mamma & Papa

SUNDAY December 22nd - 9.00am - 4th Sunday of Advent
Milvia & Agostino Mammoliti by Tina, Nancy & Rosa
Kevin Kiss by John & Kay Kiss
Anna Maria & Antonio Giovinazza by Family

11.00am - for all your intentions

MONDAY December 23RD - Office- Open 10am – 2:00pm

TUESDAY December 24th - 5:00pm & Midnight 12:00am
Carols Begin at 11:40 pm

WEDNESDAY December 25th
Christmas Day - Mass 9:00am & 11:00am
For all your intentions

THURSDAY December 26th – 5pm - Rosary & Adoration

FRIDAY December 27th - 9:45am – (Office Closed)
Martin Nenadovich by Rosemary & Steve Lastovic

SATURDAY December 28th - 5:00 pm
George Pastirick by Family
Stella Shinton by Monique & Greg Shinton
Antonio Chiavaroli by Paola Chiavaroli

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

SUNDAY December 29th - 9.00am -
Andrea Nigro by David Fox
Laurie Bourque by Resch Family

11.00am - for all your intentions

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hello my dear friends, Christmas is a time of great joy! To enter into that joy we have to enter into that manger and see Baby Jesus, Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. That was what the shepherds did after hearing the good news from the Angel. Any amount of decorations and music or parades and partying won't replace our journey to Bethlehem. Sitting on Santa's lap and taking pictures are fun. But if we stop there, we won't be able to sit with God, the Only-Begotten Son, close to the Father's heart. Hope we are ready for the journey to Bethlehem. Let us decorate our hearts with all that are pleasing to the Baby in swaddling clothes lying in a manger and 'see the glory as of a Father's Only-Begotten Son, full of grace and truth'. I wish you all a very blessed and joyful Christmas. With love and prayers, Fr. Paul

The whole world awaits Mary's reply by St Bernard of Clairvaux

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord,* she says, *be it done to me according to your word.*

New Year's Mass Schedule

Year's Eve **- Tuesday December 31,**
Mass - 5:00pm
Mass & Adoration 11:00 pm - Mass Begins at 11:40pm
New Year's Day **- Wednesday January 1, 2025**
Mass 10:00am

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