

**PRAY PLEASE FOR:**

Michael Tomlin

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**WEEK AT A GLANCE (Dec 11– Dec 17)**

<b>Mon</b>	4:00 pm	SSVP Executive Meeting
	4:45 pm	SSVP Membership Meeting
	6:00 pm	Holy Hour
	8:00 pm	AA
<b>Tue</b>	1:30 pm	Celebrate the Word
	7:30 pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting
	8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
<b>Wed</b>	<b>All Day Confessions</b>	
	9:30 am	Rosary (Cancelled)
	10:30 am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (Cancelled)
	5:00 pm	Friendship Dinner
<b>Thu</b>	11:30 am	Jollymakers and Cards
	7:45 pm	RCIA Meeting
<b>Fri</b>	9:30 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	7:00 pm	High School Ministry
	7:00 pm	Ultreya
<b>Sat</b>	9:00 am	First Reconciliations
	5:00 pm	RCIA Dismissal & BOTW
<b>Sun</b>	9:00 am	Sunday School

Knights of Columbus Can Collection



**Altar Server (Dec 12 & 14) Alison Donkers**

*In the event of a funeral Mass on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday, Mass will be cancelled and the Mass Intentions will be offered at the funeral.*

<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>DEC 2/3</b>
Regular Envelope	\$ 6,506.45
Loose Collection	\$ 290.75
Building Fund	\$ 902.00
Total	\$ 7,699.20

Thanks!



**MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Dec 11 – Dec 17)**

<b>Tue</b>	7:00 pm	Robert Bridle Harry Vandenbergelaer Sr. Shawn Philpott Diane Bertling
<b>Wed</b>	8:00 am	Charles Mahu Geza Nagy Pozsgai Family
<b>Thu</b>	3:30 pm	Mass (Maple Manor) Kevin Armstrong Tullio Cecchetto
	7:00 pm	Nellie Rockx Julia, George Sr. Virag & Parents Joseph Harris
<b>Fri</b>	10:00 am	Henry VanderGriendt Juliana & George Sawadski Karl & Sylestine VanGoethem
<b>Sat</b>	9:00 am	Karl & Anna Kisilak Anna Manousos Mark Andrew & David Young
	5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's
<b>Sun</b>	9 & 11 am	Parishioners of St. Mary's

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (Dec 16/17)**

**Saturday (5 pm)**

Commentator: Moma Fardella  
 1st, 2nd Reader: Kathy Myny, Dave Mulholland  
 Gift Bearer: Merna Vermeeren  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Dave Bertling, Linda Bertling, Veronica Holly, Jeannette Keba  
 Greeters: Linda Bertling  
 Rosary: Deacon Andre De Decker

**Sunday (9 am)**

Commentator: Mike Bossy  
 1st, 2nd Reader: Mary Virag, Anne Stancek  
 Gift Bearer: Barbara Libon  
 Eucharistic Ministers: TBD, John Oliveria, Carol Van Moerkerke, Eric VanMoerkerke  
 Greeter: Barbara Libon  
 Rosary: John Oliveria

**Sunday (11 am)**

Commentator: Heather Pelland  
 1st, 2nd Reader: Anna Kelly, Ashley Kamenar  
 Gift Bearers: Verschueren Family  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Barry Bruder, Nora Marie Bruder, Pat D'Hulster, Rita Keating  
 Greeter: Linda DeSutter



Let your roots go down into Christ,  
 and let your lives be built on him.  
 Then your faith will grow strong in the  
 truth you were taught, and you will  
 overflow with thankfulness.  
 Colossians 2:7

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

From Fr Tom...

**DAY OF CONFESSION**

In three days, on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, you will have the opportunity to share in God's healing and forgiveness. We need to ask for the grace to abandon all that keeps us from living a full relationship with Christ. We need to allow the Lord to wash away our sins in his forgiving love and to make us whole once again.

The sacrament of reconciliation is required of all practicing Catholics at least once a year according to Canon Law. Yet there are many more reasons than this to regularly return to the Lord through this "sacrament of divine mercy". The most important to reason to go the sacrament of penance, regardless of how long it has been since you last went or how grave your sins are — the Lord is waiting for you! As St. Josemaría Escrivá says of the sacrament: "In this wonderful sacrament, our Lord cleanses your soul and fills you with joy and strength to prevent you from giving up the fight, and to help you keep returning to God unwearied, when everything seems black" (Friends of God, no. 214).

I will be available in the Church from 8 am to 8 pm to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During the day, Eucharistic Adoration will be available. I've included an article in the bulletin of tips from St. Francis de Sales to help you celebrate the sacrament fully and fruitfully and prayerfully.

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We know that every Sunday is a Holy Day of Obligation, as well as Christmas Day and Jan 1 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God). It is necessary for us to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation (Sundays, Christmas Day, Jan 1).

This year the 4th Sunday of Advent is on the weekend of December 23/24. Christmas Eve begins Sunday evening. Please do not forget that we are required to honor both the 4th Sunday (5 pm or 9 am or 11 am) and also Christmas (Christmas schedule is inside the bulletin), so, yes, we need to go to Mass twice on the same weekend!

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

51 Venison St. W.  
Tillsonburg, Ontario  
N4G 1V1

phone: (519) 842-3224  
 fax: (519) 660-7290  
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 website: stmarys.dionet.ca  
 facebook: St Mary's Parish, Till-

sonburg

**Parish Clergy and Staff**  
 Very Rev. Tom Ferrera, Pastor  
 Andre De Decker, Deacon  
 Jack Grim, Deacon  
 Brian Hanley, Deacon  
 Colleen Hanley, Pastoral Minister  
 Teena Mendonca, Business Manager  
 Melissa Sioen, Secretary

**Office Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri  
(9 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 4 pm)

**Weekend Mass Schedule**  
 Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
 Sunday Masses: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

**Daily Mass**  
 Tuesday, Thursday: 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am  
 Saturday: 9:00 am

**Reconciliation**  
 1/2 hour before all Masses

**Children's "Sunday School"**  
 Oct to May, @ 9 am Mass

**Catholic Schools**  
 St. Joseph School: (519) 660-2783  
 Msgr. O'Neil School: (519) 660-2772  
 St. Mary's High School: (519) 675-4435

**Baptism Preparation**  
 Contact Father Tom, ext. 22

**December 10, 2017**

**ATTENTION: Bulletin submissions must be received by 4 pm Tuesdays, thank-you for your cooperation.**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is a program for children who are age 3 (or toilet trained) to age 7 (in grade two) to help them learn the rituals of mass and hear the Gospel story in child friendly language, through craft and song. Father Tom, at the beginning of the 9 am Mass, calls the children forward and they process to the Parish Centre with their leader and return to you during the offertory song. For more information contact Colleen Hanley (519-842-3224 ext.23).

### STEBENVILLE TORONTO

Save the date!!!! July 13-15, 2018 it is our hope that our Parish will be sending a bus of youth going into high school or already in high school to this amazing Conference! If you have a child in grade eight they are eligible to come to Steubenville this year! Mark your calendars ... all will be REVEALED!

### WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA 2019

Young adults aged 18-29 and chaperones are invited to WYD 2019 in Panama City, Panama Jan. 21-29, 2019. Our Diocese is putting together a package deal for those interested. For more info and registration go to [dol.ca/wyd2019](http://dol.ca/wyd2019). Deadline for first payment is December 20, 2017. For more information see Colleen Hanley or see the poster at the back of the Church.

### RISE UP 2017

A Conference for Young Adults ages 18-35 hosted by Catholic Christian Outreach from Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> in Ottawa! The Diocese of London Family and Youth Ministry Outreach wants to support our young adults' participation in this event by offering free transportation to Rise Up 2017 in Ottawa. To register go to [cco.ca/rise-up/register](http://cco.ca/rise-up/register) or for more information about free transportation contact Lizzy Reaume at [ereame@dol.ca](mailto:ereame@dol.ca). If you have any questions see Colleen Hanley or the poster at the back of the Church.

### R.C.I.A.

The photos of our RCIA Catechumen and Candidates are at the back of the Church. As they journey through the first official rite of the larger Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults it is often the first time many parishioners are aware of who these wonderful people are. It is an opportunity for all of us to be a welcoming community, for we will be asked to accept these aspirants to Catholicism as catechumens or candidates for full communion. Please pray for them, their sponsors, their families and the RCIA team as we journey towards Baptism and full Communion at the Easter Vigil.

### SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE'PAUL

Reminder that there is a SSVP Executive Meeting at 4:00 pm & a Membership Meeting at 4:45 pm on Monday December 11, 2017.

### HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Our next gathering is Friday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at Harvest Retirement Community at 7 pm – bring your musical instrument (piano is provided!) to be a part of our Christmas Music Minstrels. We will be playing a variety of Christmas music and singing along, perhaps a grand finale group jingle! If you don't play an instrument please bring some jingle bells and a Santa hat! After, we will head back to the Parish Centre for our very first annual Wii Mario-Kart tournament and of course, food! Please RSVP if you are coming to Mrs. Hanley either by text or email as soon as possible.

### ALTAR SERVERS

We had an amazing time at our Annual Altar Server Bowling Tournament last Friday! Congratulations to Austin Jayne for attaining the highest score! Just a gentle reminder to our great and awesome crew of altar servers to return their sign up sheets for the Christmas and New Year Masses!

### FIRST RECONCILIATIONS

Our young children in grade two continue making their First Reconciliations this Saturday and next after the 9 am morning Mass. Please pray for them as they meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### MEN OF ST. MARY'S

Men of St. Mary's come out to the All Day Confession on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> around 7 pm for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. Following Benediction, there will be a Men's Ministry information meeting in the library in the FLPC at 8 pm about the upcoming Men's Conference in London on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Deacon Andre will also talk on doing a Cursillo weekend. Hope to see you there.

### 2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2018 offertory envelopes are available for pick-up in the Parish Centre - Room 5 BEFORE & AFTER all Masses. Thank you for your co-operation in picking up your 2018 boxed set of offertory envelopes.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There are envelopes available at all entrances of the church to donate money in memory of a loved one for Christmas Flowers. The name of your loved one will be in the Christmas bulletin.



We welcome into our faith community through the waters of baptism: **Audrey Marie Roelands, Ty Johnathon Swick, & Davyn Richard Paul Swick**. May they and their families always be guided by the Lord.

### FAMILY CATECHISM

Our Family Catechism program is January 7, 2018 in the Parish Centre. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our faith and meet other families in our community! Children are divided into age based classrooms while parents/adults are free to attend an adult formation class (video and discussion). Supervised nursery is provided for infants and toddlers! Classes are on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:00 pm on the following dates: January 7, 14, February 4, 18, March 4, 18. For more information and registration please speak to John & Karin Lansink or visit [www.famfi.ca](http://www.famfi.ca). We hope you will join us and please feel free to invite a friend!

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY REPORT- NOV 2017

"Bridges Out of Poverty," a recent workshop in Woodstock, opened with the following quotation by Dr. James Comer, "No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship." Certainly, God knows this and therefore, works through the Scriptures, the Sacraments and our daily experience to establish a significant relationship with us so we can significantly learn. Correspondingly, this dictum applies to the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. As we develop relationships with those who come to our dinners, as we begin to take an interest in their families, their illnesses, their sorrows and hopes; and as we develop relationships with those who access our phone line, listening to their story and following up, we learn. We learn about the need for empathy: about the fatigue of a single mom working a night shift, then coming home and trying to organize the children off to school; about the panic of living with chronic pain and not being able to get to the Food Bank; about the fear of never having an apartment because no one will rent to you; about the anxiety of having to provide food and gifts for your children in a consumer-driven "Festive Season"; about the burden of chronic illness and trying to hide it from your employers at the coffee shop. We learn about how challenging it is for the poor to navigate the structures of a middle-class world. God gives us many opportunities to learn and grow at our Friendship Dinner. Every week is so busy. On November 1, we served 65; on November 8, we served 84; on November 15, we served 84; on November 22, we served 89; on November 29, we served 85. In addition, we have had many requests on the emergency phone line: we provided food assistance for 12 single adults and 9 families; rent assistance for 5 single adults; hydro assistance for 2 families; Union Gas assistance for 1 family; car fuel assistance for 1 family; and clothes assistance for 2 families. Through Grace we can continue to develop relationships and continue to learn. On behalf of the Society, I thank you for your generous support, and I wish you a holy Christmas when we celebrate the Word Incarnate, evidence of God's great desire to have an intimate relationship with each of us, a relationship of loving and our learning. Anne Stancek



### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm - Children's Choir (no incense)  
7:30 pm - Folk Choir (no incense)  
Midnight Mass - Sunday Choir

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Dec 31 - 5:00 pm (no incense)  
Jan 1 - 10:00 am

### CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES IN NORFOLK

We are looking to hire a part-time Pastoral Minister/Worker for two days a week (Approx. 16 hours). This job would include working with the elderly and homebound, some Funeral arrangements and Baptism Ministry. This job includes all four parishes; St. Mary, Simcoe, St. Cecilia, Port Dover, St. Bernard, Waterford and Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, Delhi. Please contact Father Alan Dufraimont for more information at 519-582-1312 or 519-426-0887 or email at [adufraimont@dol.ca](mailto:adufraimont@dol.ca).

### RIGHT TO LIFE

Thank you to the parishioners of St. Mary's Parish for supporting the Right to Life Quilt Draw again this year.

#### **The winners are:**

- 1st *Jessica Martin* of our parish – Handmade Queen Size Quilt "Summer Glory"
- 2nd *Marj Steenbergen* of Aylmer- Apple Mini iPad
- 3rd *Sarah Klassen* of Woodstock- Grocery Gift Certificates for \$150.00

All proceeds support the "Reaching Minds Through Media" campaign to buy TV ads encouraging families facing difficult pregnancies.

Please consider taking out a Right to Life Membership in the New Year. Just put your \$20.00 cheque in the envelope included with your Church envelopes or in a plain envelope marked Right to Life. Cheques should be made payable to TILLSONBURG RIGHT TO LIFE. Your envelope may be placed in the collection basket with your church offering. Together we can make a difference!

Christmas Cakes are for sale again this year:

Small cakes (600 grams) cost \$18.00

Large cakes (1.0 kg) cost \$25.00

This is a fundraiser for Campaign Life Coalition.

To order a cake, phone Bonnie De Decker 519-913-3533.