



## Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: [office@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:office@johnxxiii.ca) • Website: [www.johnxxiii.ca](http://www.johnxxiii.ca)

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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### SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

#### SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

#### WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Check the bulletin or website for the current schedule

#### COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

Contact the parish office for assistance

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Friday 3:15 p.m., Saturday 4:00 p.m.

and/or as announced or by appointment

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## PARISH BULLETIN

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT and FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2016 and December 18, 2016

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### PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

**Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz**

204-832-7335      [rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason**

204-832-7175      [joanna@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:joanna@johnxxiii.ca)

**Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier**

204-832-7206      [sharon@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:sharon@johnxxiii.ca)

**Executive Custodian: José Barrera**

204-888-9340

**Trustee: Albert McMurdie**

204-889-6606      [mcmurdie@shaw.ca](mailto:mcmurdie@shaw.ca)

**Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt**

204-898-1893      [cfp3899@gmail.com](mailto:cfp3899@gmail.com)

**Trustee: Christine Carlyle**

204-889-0238      [rccarlyl@gmail.com](mailto:rccarlyl@gmail.com)

**Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli**

204-888-8200      [d\\_vendramelli@mymts.net](mailto:d_vendramelli@mymts.net)

**Parish Finance Council**

Fr. Robert Polz, Christine Carlyle, Anthony (Tony) Keck, Albert McMurdie, Loris Vendramelli

**Parish Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee**

Fr. Robert Polz, George Brown, Laurette Burch, Sharon Camier, Christine Carlyle, Ken Derendorf, Janine Gaudry, William Gould, Albert McMurdie, Gemma Minerva, Colette Mozol, Rod Olinyk, Marnie Puchniak, Victorina Tualla

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**FAITH FORMATION:** Catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings, September through May, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults. Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information and/or to register.

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST):** Contact the parish office for further information.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert)

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

**CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:** Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Mass will be celebrated here at Saint John XXIII Church at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**. The blessing of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will take place immediately following Mass. At 8:00 p.m. we will present the acclaimed movie, recently produced by the Knights of Columbus and narrated by Jim Caviezel, entitled ***Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message***. The evening will conclude with refreshments in the narthex. (In preparation for the feast day, we began a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe at the end of Mass on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.)



*Responding to the ongoing call to Truth and Reconciliation, our parish will place the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and, hopefully at some time in the future, also an image of Saint Kateri of Tekakwitha in the former St. Chad's Chapel as a sign of solidarity with our indigenous brothers and sisters, and the Church's commitment to inculturation, family values and the Gospel of Life. An anonymous donor has agreed to cover the cost. Eventually, our old vigil light stand will be repurposed with LED lights and placed under the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as a safe option for children. The room will continue to be utilized for a variety of purposes, eventually also as a place for families with small children to gather if they wish during liturgies. Henceforth, as agreed by consensus of the members of our parish's Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee, the former St. Chad's Chapel is to be known as the "Our Lady of Guadalupe Room" or "Guadalupe Room" for short.*

**GOURMET FRUITCAKES** made by the Benedictine Monks of Val Notre-Dame Abbey will be sold **after all Masses on the weekend of December 10 and 11, 2016**. Each one of the cakes is slowly baked and aged to perfection. Choice fruits soaked in wine, pecans, creamery butter and quality ingredients are carefully blended according to a traditional recipe creating the perfect Christmas cake - an excellent Christmas gift. The cost is \$16.00 for the loaf cake. **NEW - Christmas Basket\*\*** includes 2 boxes of 6 maple and caramel chocolates, a jar of Maple Okaramel sauce (yum) and a mini Christmas cake \$25. Also for sale are lighter fruitcakes made by Pastryworld in Yorkton Sask; The 2.5 lb. round cake - \$20.00. Sale is in support of Campaign Life Coalition.



### THE WORD AMONG US DAILY MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT 2016

Price \$2.00 each

The most popular and best value for parishioners.

- Daily Scripture readings and prayers from the Liturgy.
- Daily meditations based on the Mass.
- Practical featured articles on Advent and the saints.
- Canadian Advent Edition with CCCB approved Mass readings.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:** Once again this year we are collecting items to fill 30 Christmas Hampers. The grocery items required are on tags on the wooden Christmas tree in the narthex. Please return the tags with your donated grocery items to the display in the narthex. The tags for Children's Christmas Gifts are now also available on the other wooden Christmas tree. Please wrap gifts donated and attach a tag on the outside of the gift with child's name in **bold print**. Return gifts to the church no later than December 13<sup>th</sup>. You can also help by making a monetary donation which helps us to purchase turkeys, milk, potatoes, and oranges. Special envelopes for donations are available by the tree. Also needed are donations of knitted hats, mittens and gloves. Thank you for your kind and generous assistance. Sincerely, Coordinators Alice Fleury and Marilyn Weimer.

Christmas hampers will be delivered on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. **More volunteers are needed to deliver hampers.** Each driver is asked to make one delivery run (2-3 hampers). A delivery run generally takes approximately 1-2 hours to complete. Hampers will be going to families in St. James and the West End. **If you can help, please call Bill Patterson at 204-837-5217 or email whrpeg@shaw.ca** Thank you.

***"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."*** — Maya Angelou

## December 11, 2016 The Third Sunday of Advent

### Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The barren desert will flower and burst forth with joyful singing.

### Psalms 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10

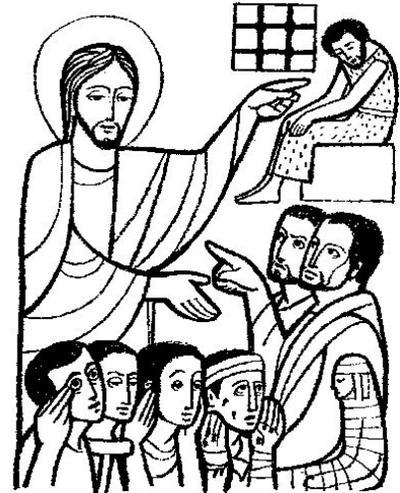
In God's reign, all who are vulnerable now  
will be made safe, whole, and free.

### James 5:7-10

Patience is the byword for those who wait for the justice of God.

### Matthew 11:2-11

Signs of the coming kingdom are all around  
for those with eyes to see.



## SONGS OF HOPE AND LIBERATION

Singing in a choir, I feel a little sorry for the Easter season. Yes, it has its music, same as any other part of the church year. But once Pentecost arrives, we forget the hymns of Easter and don't really miss them. Few people enjoy Easter music in their homes or play it on their iPods. The songs of Advent and Christmas, however, are different. Not only do we sing them in church and play them willingly in our homes: They follow us around the mall and are featured in seasonal movies and television specials. Bands of roving singers show up on our doorsteps, in our hospital rooms, or mysteriously burst forth in pre-arranged "flash mob" concerts intended to surprise and delight. The music of this season is so beloved, many people choose it as the soundtrack of December and beyond.

On Gaudete Sunday, we can be forgiven if our mood gets rosy. By this point in the season, the apocalyptic tones of early Advent give way to singing and dancing. It's the lame who dance, by the way, and the mute who sing. What Sister Pam Smith calls "Almost" Sunday is described by prophecy in mystical terms: It's a party where the marginalized members of society take center stage and teach us all how to celebrate. Moreover, in their restored wholeness they demonstrate why we celebrate.

The mute are ready to sing and the lame to dance: Are we? When John wonders aloud if it's time to celebrate, Jesus gives him a long list of prophetic signs to consider. What was lost is found. What has been missing is restored. Where there was sadness, now there's nothing but joy. Where hope had evaporated, new life rejuvenates it.

It would be hard, therefore, to separate the singing from this season. Happy people whistle, and people in love burst into song, at least according to the musicals. Music is the sound of celebration, which is why every party has a soundtrack and every wedding reception includes dancing. Of course, there are Scrooges and Grinches in each season who resist the invitation to celebrate. Some of us also endure personal circumstances out of which joy may be difficult to muster. That was true of the communities Isaiah and Jesus were addressing. The kind of joy Gaudete Sunday expresses is not merely about happy feelings and good times—which some of us have this season, and some of us may not. "Almost" Sunday reminds us that God knows the restoration we all seek and need, every broken and unfinished aspect of our lives and our world. That kingdom, the reign of wholeness and hope, is on its way.

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***"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."*** — Saint Mother Teresa

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**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Once again, we are forming a Children's Choir to sing before and during the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Remaining rehearsals will be held on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**A "dress rehearsal" will be held on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Children enrolled in our parish catechism program and other interested younger folk are welcome to participate. Parents may contact Sharon Camier for further information.



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***"Patience is the companion of wisdom."*** — Saint Augustine

## December 18, 2016 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Isaiah 7:10-14

The child of destiny is foretold, and he is God-with-us.

### Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

Entering the presence of God  
requires preparation of the interior self.

### Romans 1:1-7

Jesus embodies both the lineage of David and the holiness of God.

### Matthew 1:18-24

Two historically obscure people become the parents of Emmanuel.



## COURAGE ON THE MOVE

Every Catholic church I've seen has two guaranteed statues: one of Mary, the other of Joseph. It's such a commonplace that we often refer to the "Mary side" and the "Joseph side" of the sanctuary. These two people are so immense in our tradition that their historical obscurity surprises us. Secular histories ignore them, focused as they tend to be on rulers and generals. A carpenter and a woman would be irrelevant in nearly every generation, including our own. The Jewish Talmud notes them briefly as two people involved in a first-century "sex scandal." Even the Bible has less to say of them than other ancestors of Jesus: like Jesse, David's father, or Ruth, David's great-grandmother who garners her own book.

Joseph never speaks in the Bible. He's merely the man of silent resolve who shoulders paternity for his betrothed wife's child and so participates in the grand plan of divine rescue. Mary has more to say: dialoguing with an angel, singing a prophetic song with her mutually miraculously pregnant cousin Elizabeth, or making covert arrangements at a wedding party to ensure all is ready when her son determines to act. But stringing together every Marian moment from the Bible, we still have to fill in some decades of the rosary with church traditions about her. These two lives simply didn't play out on a world stage. Mary and Joseph are little people who surfaced for one fateful decision, to dissolve again into the shadows of time.

Yet who did more for the human race than these two? Which is why it's a happy coincidence that this year, their story takes center stage on International Migrants Day. Mary and Joseph were migrants too, forced to head to Egypt when Herod threatened their child. Like many families obliged to escape a danger, the parents of Jesus had to do what no one wants to do: leave behind home and relatives, language and familiarity. The losses migrants endure are heavy—including the sobering fact that some will lose their lives, disappearing into the oceans and deserts that stand between them and the future. Only a great urgency would compel any of us to accept such a burden.

When the United Nations determined in 2000 to honor the journey of migrants with their own day, it was with "a resolve to leave no one behind." Last year on this day, Secretary of State John Kerry noted: "Our own nation is built upon migrants' dreams." As global corporations continue to go where they please, is it right to restrict the movement of deserving individuals? We may view these people as aliens or criminals, undesirables or the undocumented. We might also call them "Mary" and "Joseph"—brave families who deserve protection and help.

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*"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."* — Charles Dickens

### **SHARING GOD'S GIFTS 2016: Our Parish's appeal target for 2016 is \$50,670.**

As of December 8, 2016, a total of **\$25,233.00** has been received at the Archdiocese and through the parish office which represents **49.8%** of our parish appeal target for 2016. Envelopes are available in the pamphlet rack at the south church entrance or in the parish office. Whether you submit your contribution to Sharing God's Gifts 2016 through the parish office or directly to the Archdiocese, **please make cheques payable to "Sharing God's Gifts"**. Pre-authorized debit and VISA options are also available – see information on the appeal envelopes. Thank you for your generous support.

## TWO WEEK SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 11 – 25, 2016

*As circumstances suggest, the schedule may be subject to change.*

### Sunday, December 11

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – “GAUDETE SUNDAY”

##### **Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Nine**

*\*\*\* Campaign Life Coalition Christmas Fruitcake Sale after Masses this weekend \*\*\**

5:00 pm Saturday  
7:00 pm Saturday  
9:00 am

**MASS** – Manuel Pereira+ (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary), requested by his family

**“KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS” Advent Concert** (in the parish hall)

**MASS** – Alicia Wmas+, requested by Minerva family

*(also John and Annabelle Javra 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marriage)*

**10:00 am**

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR PRACTICE for Christmas Eve Mass** (in the church)

**10:30 am**

**CATECHISM CLASSES** (gather in church and then go to classrooms)

11:45 am

**MASS** – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners

### Monday, December 12

#### FEAST: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

*Office closed*

**7:00 pm**

**MASS** – Thérèse Lambert+, requested by Pat and Fred Olson

7:45 pm

**BLESSING of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00 pm

**MOVIE** – Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

### Tuesday, December 13

#### MEMORIAL: SAINT LUCY, Virgin, Martyr

*Fr. Robert will attend a Council of Priests meeting today*

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office open

7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary’s Cathedral

### Wednesday, December 14

#### MEMORIAL: SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest, Doctor

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office open

**10:00 am**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION at Saint John XXIII Church**

12:00 noon

Knitting Group Gathering with Potluck Lunch (*downstairs in room 10 and the lounge*)

1:30 pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017 preparation meeting at Fr. Robert’s residence

6:45 pm

**OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS** (in the church)

**7:00 pm**

**MASS** – Eola Johnson+, requested by John and Colette Mozol

7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Patrick’s Church

### Thursday, December 15

#### FERIAL

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office open

2:00 pm

**MASS** – at Heritage Lodge, 3555 Portage Avenue

7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Charles Church

### Friday, December 16

#### FERIAL

9:00 am

Recitation of the Rosary

9:15 am

**MASS** – Intentions of Gladys and Lawrence Barton on their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marriage

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office open

10:45 am

**MASS** – at Sturgeon Creek I Retirement Residence, 10 Hallonquist Drive

**3:00 pm**

**Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy** (in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)

### Saturday, December 17

#### FERIAL

5:00 pm

**MASS** – Deceased members of the Capri and Korolyk families, req. by Tannena, Jim and Mary

### Sunday, December 18

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am

**MASS** – Deceased family members, requested by Phyllis Garet

**10:00 am**

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR PRACTICE for Christmas Eve Mass** (in the church)

**10:30 am**

**CATECHISM CLASSES** (gather in church and then go to classrooms)

11:45 am

**MASS** – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners

<b>Monday, December 19</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <i>Office closed</i> Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting
7:00 pm	
<b>Tuesday, December 20</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Recitation of the Rosary <b>MASS</b> – <i>Deceased family members, requested by Lena Gaspard</i> Office open Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Charles Catholic School
9:00 am	
9:15 am	
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	
10:30 am	
<b>Wednesday, December 21</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Office open Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank <i>(in room 12)</i> <b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <i>(in the church)</i> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Lois Olinyk+, requested by John and Colette Mozol</i>
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	
5:00 pm	
<b>6:45 pm</b>	
<b>7:00 pm</b>	
<b>Thursday, December 22</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Recitation of the Rosary <b>MASS</b> – <i>Liz Baziuk+, requested by Alexandra LaFleche</i> Office open <b>CHILDREN’S CHOIR PRACTICE for Christmas Eve Mass</b> <i>(in the church)</i>
9:00 am	
9:15 am	
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	
<b>6:00 pm</b>	
<b>Friday, December 23</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <i>Office closed in the morning</i> Office open in the afternoon <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> <i>(in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)</i>
<b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b>	
<b>3:00 pm</b>	
<b>Saturday, December 24</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> <b>Pre-Mass Carols and Candles with the Children’s Choir</b> <b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night”</b> – <i>Mary Gallagher+, requested by Margaret Downey</i> <b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night”</b> – <i>Francisca Tualla and Juan Tualla+, requested by the Tualla family</i>
<b>4:45 pm</b>	
<b>5:00 pm</b>	
<b>8:00 pm</b>	
<b>Sunday, December 25</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> <b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Day”</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>
<b>10:00 am</b>	

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT:

Darrell Aucoin, David Carlyle, Frank Clarke, Peter Corcoran, Connie Csizmadia, Phyllis Dreveski, Sylvia Ewaskow, Angela Kalichak, Whiston Luard, Deacon Gary McCallum, Debra McEnturff, Dolores and Paul Mulaire, Mak Ntwanga, Shirley Payment, Phyllis Rogoski, Hank Smith, Rose Stankewich, Marie Stuart, Jacob Trudel, Antonio F. Viegas, Maria Helena Viegas, Ted Wood and Helen Yankoski.

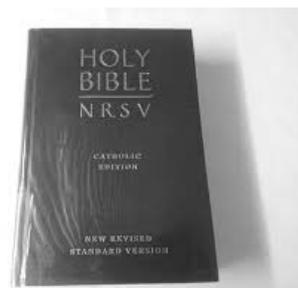
*Please contact our Pastoral Assistant, Sharon, to have names added to our prayer list. Please remember that to have names added to the list and printed in the bulletin we require permission from the person(s) concerned. Thank you for your help.*

## HOLY BIBLE NRSV – HARDCOVER CATHOLIC EDITION

Some copies are available at the parish office - price \$20.00 each

A good stocking stuffer! Same English translation we use at Mass.

- Double column text
- Footnotes
- Word list
- Maps in colour



*Central Winnipeg Deanery*

**ADVENT SCHEDULE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Cathedral, 353 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 a.m.

SAINT JOHN XXIII CHURCH, 3390 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Church, 172 Worth Street, Winnipeg

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 p.m.

St. Charles Church, 320 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament Church, 19 Elie Street West, Elie, Manitoba

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

10:30 a.m.

St. Charles Catholic School, 331 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg

7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Church, 1125 Saskatchewan Avenue East, Portage la Prairie



**MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**

*Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord*

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Masses at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10:00 a.m.

*Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: Mass at 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: Mass at 10:00 a.m.

**REPORT FROM RUMMAGE SALE held on November 25, 2016**

\$374.65 deposited, less expenses reimbursed \$62.12 = total of \$312.53

*FURTHER EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE PARISH, ARCHDIOCESE AND BEYOND*

**THE ST. JAMES ASSINIBOIA CWL CHRISTMAS PARTY (Turkey Buffet)** has been rescheduled due to inclement weather last week. It now will be held on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. For more information call Marilyn Begg at 204-832-5019.

**MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP – 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH:** Chemin Neuf community has a Monthly Prayer Group, the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m., St. Charles Retreat Centre, 323 St. Charles Street. Next one is Tuesday, December 13. We will pray with the "O Antiphons." These brief but potent prayers have been used by the Church during Advent for centuries and are the basis of the song, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." We will pray these prayers for ourselves and the world. All are welcome (no need to register). For information call 204-885-2260, email: stcharlesretreat@hotmail.com

**LIFE'S VISION MANITOBA 2017 CALENDAR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN:** For \$10.00 you can give the gift of life! For further information, please contact Life's Vision Manitoba at 204-233-8047 or lifesvision@shaw.ca or go to the website [www.lifesvision.ca](http://www.lifesvision.ca)

**ECUMENICAL CHOIR FOR CITY-WIDE CELEBRATION:** An ecumenical choir is being formed to lead music at the forthcoming celebration on January 22<sup>nd</sup> during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. No audition is required. Anyone who can carry a tune and wishes to sing in the choir is welcome! **Rehearsals will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 211 Kimberly Avenue, Winnipeg, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 8, 2017 and on Sunday, January 15, 2017.** A short final rehearsal will be held immediately before the Ecumenical Worship Service on Sunday, January 22, 2017. For further information, you may call Michele Barr at 204-453-5016 or contact her via email: mbarr41@shaw.ca

*For other events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, please see information posted on bulletin boards at the north and south entrances of the church, and/or go to the website: [www.archwinnipeg.ca/weekly\\_bulletin.php](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca/weekly_bulletin.php)*

Collections – deposited October 2016

PAD (Pre-authorized debit)	\$ 6,677.00
Regular Envelopes	12,160.10
Other Identified	910.00
Loose Collection	1,752.80
OMPH Devotions	129.60
Votive Candles	482.05
Building Envelope Repair	<u>1,325.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,436.55</b>

Collections – deposited November 2016

PAD (Pre-authorized debit)	\$ 6,677.00
Regular Envelopes	8,700.00
Other Identified	2,010.00
Loose Collection	1,458.35
OMPH Devotions	81.50
Votive Candles	702.55
Flowers and Decorations	235.00
Christmas Hampers	485.00
Other donations	<u>1,200.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 21,549.40</b>

Collections – deposited December 4, 2016

Regular Envelopes	2,898.00
Loose Collection	400.45
OMPH Devotions	15.00
Flowers and Decorations	695.00
Christmas Hampers	<u>260.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,268.45</b>

Special Collections – deposited October and November 2016

Chalice (adopted child)	\$ 198.15
World Mission Sunday	<u>1,866.00</u>
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 2,064.15</b>



Thank you for your ongoing support. Nevertheless, we need to be aware that as a parish we are not meeting all our needs at this time. We just paid our insurance bill which was \$12,560. Bills totaling \$1220 came in recently which are past due for snow clearing earlier this year. We still owe St. Charles Catholic School another \$9,450 for the second half of our yearly parish contribution to the support of our inter-parochial school. Our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter assessment owed to the Archdiocese is \$3446. Although we have cut back on office hours and part-time custodial hours, our current payroll expenses still require about \$16,000 per month. Of course, all our regular utility and other maintenance bills continue to come in each month. In reality, there currently are not enough funds in our chequing account to meet all our obligations before the end of 2016.

**While our Parish is thankfully experiencing some positive growth as new families move into our community and more children and youth are participating in our Faith Formation programs, it is apparent that our Parish is also in need of major fundraising activities/programs to help satisfy our ongoing financial obligations.**

Our weekly collections and monthly pre-authorized debit contributions do not generate sufficient funding to pay all of our bills. Therefore, as agreed by the members of our parish’s Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee, the establishment of an effective *Fundraising and Development Committee* in the New Year will be critical to our Parish’s financial well-being for the future. Early in the New Year, we hope to recruit suitable parishioners to form our *Fundraising and Development Committee*. Such persons need to be those who speak positively about the Parish and are willing to set a good example for others in the community. In collaboration with the members of our Parish Finance Council, they will be called to work together to lead the Parish in various efforts to raise funds to support the services needed to carry out the mission of the Parish.

**In the meantime, parishioners are all encouraged to consider making a generous Christmas Gift to Saint John XXIII Parish to help us meet our current obligations before the end of 2016.** In the current context, we also note that with the feasts of Christmas and New Year’s Day both falling on Sundays, we will be short two regular collections this season. So your generous response is even more important given this reality! Thank you for your prayerful consideration of our situation and thank you in advance for your helpful response.

**Parishioners are encouraged to register for pre-authorized debit. Visitors may use “My Offering” envelopes available at the church entrance. New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register for pre-authorized debit or regular offering envelopes. OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2017 ARE READY FOR REGULAR PARISHIONERS OF SAINT JOHN XXIII TO PICK-UP in the parish office following Masses on the weekend or on weekdays.**