

MASS SCHEDULE - St. John

Sat., Dec 16 Vigil Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM +Fred Clancy
from Jean Clancy and family.

Sun., Dec 17 Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM + Dee Cullen from Martin Cullen.

Mon., Dec 18 Ferial Weekday

St J 8:00 AM + Sheila Gosselin
from the Buckely family.

Tue., Dec 19 Ferial Weekday

SH 8:00 AM +Rita Duffus from the family.

Wed., Dec 20 Ferial Weekday

St J 8:00 AM + Sheila Gosselin
from the Buckely family.

Thu., Dec 21 Ferial Weekday

SH 7:00 PM + Elizabeth Ramsbottom
from Stephen and Bonnie Jalsevac.

Fri., Dec 22 Ferial Weekday

SH 8:00 AM + Jim and Pat Martin
from Stephen and Bonnie Jalsevac.

Sat., Dec 23 Vigil Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM + Mary & Robert Whiteside and
deceased children from Carol W.

Sun., Dec 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM For all parishioners.

4:00 PM **Christmas Eve Mass**

12 Midnight **Christmas Midnight Mass**

Mon., Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass

10:30 AM For all parishioners.

Weekly Collection December 10 \$ 920

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As briefly mentioned in last week's homily, there are many things within the Church (decoration, colors, arrangements) that have liturgical significance. There are other decorations that also remind us of the spirit of Christmas.

A very common treat used within the time of Christmas are **Candy Canes**. The candy cane is a **hard candy** that is supposed to remind us that Jesus is our Rock (the corner stone of the Church's foundation). The **candy's shape** reminds us of two things: that Shepherd's staff as Jesus is the Good Shepherd and when flipped upside down it is meant to form a "J" for Jesus. The **color red** represents the blood of Christ – the blood of the baby Jesus that will be shed for our salvation. The **color white** signifies purity – the purity and innocence of the baby Jesus, like the

spotless lamb. Thus, Jesus is the spotless lamb - who knew no sin - that shed His blood for our salvation.

The seasonal flower is the Poinsettia, the red stared-like flower. The Poinsettia is meant to symbolize love, hope and goodwill. Love as red implies sacrifice, reminding us that all acts of love imply sacrifice – as the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is also the greatest act of love. The flower looks like a star, and the symbol of a star is a sign of hope. It also reminds us of the star of Bethlehem, as the three wise men were guided by the star of Bethlehem in hope to find the King of kings.

Another common means of decoration are the candles at the window sill. The Irish Catholics would put candles at their window so that priest may know they were invited to stop by their home to celebrate Holy Mass In some way, this was also a sign of hospitality and constant vigilance.

Reminding us of the constant vigilance of the wise virgins who had their lamps lite until the day of the Bridegroom's return – which is the meaning of Christmas eve; vigilance until the day of Christ's birth (or return).

Together in Prayer

WEEKLY NEWS

Donation Envelopes for 2024 We thank everyone for your yearly donations! 2024 donation envelopes are at the entrances of the church. Please fill out the first envelope with your address and phone # to update our records. If you are new please pick a box that has no name and completely fill your address and phone #.

Posada (Christmas Novena) Posada will date from Dec. 16th – Dec. 24th – the first day will be after the Wish Tree Mass and Reception at Sacred Heart. Please bring a snack to share.

Sat. Dec 16th at Sacred Heart after Wish Tree Mass
Sun. Dec 17th at St. John at 6:30PM
Mon. Dec 18th at Sacred Heart at 6:30PM
Tue. Dec 19th at St. John at 6:30PM
Wed. Dec 20th at Sacred Heart at 6:30PM
Thur. Dec 21st at St. John at 6:30PM
Fri. Dec 22nd at Sacred Heart at 6:30PM
Sat. Dec 23rd at St. John at 6:30PM
Sun. Dec 24th at Sacred Heart at 6:30PM

Thank you! We Thank all those who helped this year with their donations to decorate the parish with poinsettias. We were able to raise \$673.

Christmas Adult and Children colouring contest

We invite everyone to participate. The colouring images are at the entrance of the church, please submit your art by Dec 25th to Fr. Alex or the sisters or via email at office@stjohnpeterborough.ca

Reliving the Devotion to the Sacred Heart

according to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

This year running into the 2024 and 2025 we will be celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. Each of the 4 days of the Apparition will be highlighted with Adoration, Prayers and a Reflection on what Jesus revealed to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque on that day. Join us in reliving the Devotion of the Sacred Heart for yourself! The dates are below:

Dec. 27th 2023 – 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart.

July 2nd & 5th 2024 – 6:30PM & June 27th 2025

Christmas Mass Schedule

At St. John the Baptist:

Sun Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 PM

Sun Dec. 24th Christmas Midnight Mass 12:00 AM

Mon Dec. 25th Christmas Day Mass 10:30 AM

At Sacred Heart:

Sun Dec 24th Christmas Eve Mass 5:30 PM

Sun Dec 24th Christmas Midnight Latin Mass 12:00AM

Mon Dec 25th Christmas Day Mass 9:00 AM

Mon Dec 25th Christmas Latin Mass 11:00 AM

New Years Mass Schedule

At St. John the Baptist:

Sun Dec. 31st New Years Eve Mass 4:00 PM

Sun Dec. 31st Adoration 11:00PM- 12:00AM

Mon Jan 1st New Years Day Mass 10:30 AM

At Sacred Heart:

Sun Dec 30th New Years Eve Mass 5:30 PM

Mon Jan 1st New Years Day Mass 9:00 AM

Mon Jan 1st New Years Day Latin Mass 11:00 AM

Spiritual Exercise according to St. Ignatius of

Loyola (both in English and Spanish)

February 23-26th 2024 for Men

March 1-4th 2024 for Women

Location: Fair Haven Conference Centre

B2215 Durham Regional Hwy 48,

Beaverton, ON L0K 1A0

Cost: \$300

For questions or more Information please email Fr. Alex Salazar at alexsalazar@ive.org

FORMED Sign-up

1. Visit Website – formed.org, select “Sign Up”.
2. For Parish Name type in “Saint John the Baptist 300 Wilson Street” *both parishes (Sacred Heart & St. John are using the same account)*
3. Then after selecting the Church, click on “Next”.
4. Fill in your name & email to create an account. *This will allow you to log in to the same account on multiple devices (like iPads, Phone, laptops or smart TVs)* Then Select “Sign Up”

Young Adult Group at Sacred Heart on every 2nd, 4th and 5th Friday of the Month. Please join us at 6PM for 30 minutes of adoration followed by dinner in the basement hall, talk and games.

GOSPEL John 1.6-8, 19-28 of Sunday Dec. 17

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the Prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.