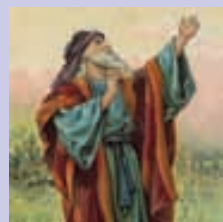


3RD SUNDAY

OF ADVENT

15 DEC. 2013



St. Columban Parish

36 Fourth St. West, Cornwall, ON K6J 2R6

Masses: **Sat Vigil:** 7 p.m., **Sun:** 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.,
Weekdays: 7:30 a.m.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD TO MY LIFE

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10
Psalm 146:6–10
James 5:7–10
Matthew 11:2–11

Justice, peace and joy
in the Holy Spirit are
signs of God's Kingdom
in our midst.

Further Reflection

from the Catechism:
CCC: 522–24, 711–12
CCCC: 155, 174
YOUCAT: 116

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

The Old Testament reading today gives a joyful account of Israel's redemption. The prophet's message is "fear not" because God will come and save. Today's passage was written to let the people who were sent into exile know that they would be brought back into their own land. The people will be helped on their journey by the saving power of God. Today's Old Testament reading ends with a message of gladness and hope. The Lord will come and bring the people everlasting joy.

The Gospel today focuses on the arrival of the Messiah who brings healing and life and who brings good news to the poor. Jesus' response to John the Baptist's question about whether or not He is the Messiah, is one that tells what kind of Messiah Jesus is. This Messiah's reign is one of mercy.

This Gospel passage goes on to describe John the Baptist. John is identified as a prophet, a messenger sent by God with the highest mission—to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Like all prophets, John the Baptist is a model of faithfulness. The Gospel today reminds us to be faithful and spread the good news about Jesus throughout the world today—a world in need of healing and mercy.

A KEY THEME:

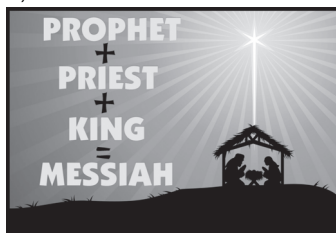
We see in the Old Testament Scriptures that a prophet is one called by God to speak in God's name. The prophet Isaiah tells the people about God's future Kingdom, which will be accomplished through the coming of a messiah. The prophets in the Old Testament challenge the people by speaking God's truth. They also bring God's message of hope. Prophets let the people know of God's promise of mercy and faithfulness in times of fear and confusion. The prophet's message was frequently unwelcome, and they were often persecuted for following God's call.

Catholics consider John the Baptist to be the last great prophet in the Old Testament line. He called for the people to turn away from sin and he pointed the way to Jesus, the Messiah.

After the time of the Old Testament and John the Baptist, people continue to be called by God to speak God's truth. In the New Testament Scriptures Paul names prophecy as a charism, or a gift of the Holy Spirit. By our Baptism, all Christians share in Christ's identity as priest, prophet, and king. We are called to listen for and speak God's message in the world.

THINKING ABOUT IT

- What is a prophet?
- Why are prophets often persecuted?
- Who are some modern day prophets?



THE GOSPEL IN LIFE

How can you announce the good news about Jesus this Christmas?

Excerpted from RCL Benziger Lectionary Resources



PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Dan VanDelst, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Marcel Brunet, Deacon

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Kelly Poitras

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Evenings by appointment

BAPTISMS

By appointment 1 month in
advance

MARRIAGES

Please give 6 months notice

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.
Also by appointment

OFFICE PHONE

613-932-9616

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

stcolumban@alexandria-cornwall.ca

WEBSITES

PARISH FOUNDATION

www.stcolumbans.com

DIOCESE

www.alexandria-cornwall.ca

FOR TIMELY PUBLICATION, PLEASE
E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO
stcolumbanbulletin@sympatico.ca
BY 4 P.M. FRIDAY
(ONE WEEK PRIOR TO REQUIRED
WEEKEND PUBLICATION)

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, December 14th

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions
 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions
 7:00 p.m. George & Carmel Belmore by the family

Sunday, December 15th

7:30 a.m. Intentions of parishioners
 9:30 a.m. Suzan Smith by Mom, Steve, Lisa & Mike
 11:00 a.m. Special Intention for Fr. Tom Villeneuve
 on his 60th Anniversary of Ordination

Monday, December 16th

7:30 a.m. Shana McGlynn by Mom, Dad & Son Lucas

Tuesday, December 17th

7:30 a.m. Barbara & Joe Parisien by Christa & Andrew Lauzon

Wednesday, December 18th

7:30 a.m. Gerald Caron by Georgette Brand & Lynn Heatley
2:00 p.m. Advent Penitential Service

Thursday, December 19th

7:30 a.m. Fr. Tom Villeneuve on his 60th Year of Ordination
 by Carol Papps

Friday, December 20th

7:30 a.m. Jim McIntosh by his sister Ethel Bingley

Saturday, December 21st

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions
 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions
 7:00 p.m. Bertha, Donny, Robert & Sharon Depatie
 by Joe, Pauline & family

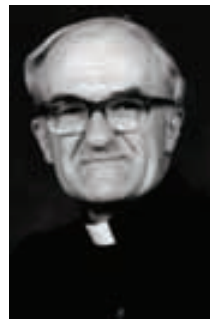
Sunday, December 22nd

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Parishioners
 9:30 a.m. Cyril Dumond & deceased family members
 by wife Viola & family
 11:00 a.m. Germaine Lafrance (16th Anniversary of Death)
 by Gilles & Diane Lafrance

Monday, December 23rd

7:30 a.m. George Watson by wife Isabel & family

IN OUR PARISH



Father Tom Villeneuve 60th Anniversary of Ordination

Congratulations and Best Wishes from all of us here at St Columban's Parish. We have been greatly blessed by your Priesthood. Thank you for your love of God and service to the people of this diocese.

ADOPT-A-CANDIDATE CHRISTMAS CARD OR MESSAGE
 to your child is due by 16 Dec. You may put it in the collection basket or the office mailbox and it will be distributed to your child. Thank you for responding to the opportunity to pray for our children.

ST. COLUMBAN - CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
 Christmas Vigil Tues. Dec. 24th - 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 12 midnight
 Christmas Day Wed. Dec. 25th - 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
NEW YEAR'S - MASS SCHEDULE
 New Year's Eve Tues. Dec. 31st - 5:00 p.m.
 New Year's Day Wed. Jan. 1st - 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS - CHRISTMAS
 Tuesday December 24th Closed at 12 noon
 Wed & Thurs. December 25th & 26th Closed all day
OFFICE HOURS - NEW YEARS
 Tuesday December 31st Closed at 12 noon
 Wed. & Thurs. January 1st & 2nd Closed all day

13-MONTH CATHOLIC CHURCH ART CALENDARS
 On the book table – only \$5.00 – Limited number available.
from "St. Joseph Workers for Life and Family"

DONATIONS IN AID OF THOSE IN GREAT NEED
Thanks to your care and generosity
 \$8,074. was collected in aid of the Philippines disaster and
 \$2,055. was collected for the Shelterbox Outreach Project.

REST IN THE PEACE AND LOVE OF THE LORD
 Gilles Lacelle, John Sampson, Yvon Berniquier,
 Mary McManus and all who died this past week.

BECAME CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH BAPTISM
 Brooklynne Snyder-Cayer, Hannah Peach, Easton Pross &
 River-Rylley Sarault Fortier were Baptized here last weekend.

MESSAGE FROM THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
 Once a year, during the Advent Season we solicit funding to see ourselves through the upcoming year. To this end an envelope is included in this weekend's bulletin that will allow you to donate, if you wish and your means will allow. SVDP is a totally volunteer organization and all funds received will assuredly find their way to the less fortunate. Recalling Matthew's Gospel "*Amen, I say to you, whatever you do for one of the least brothers of Mine, you do for Me.*" We ask that you consider our request. Tax receipts will be issued to all donors who provide their full name and address.

Coffee and Chat - This Weekend

Today the church marks the 3rd week of Advent, which is a time of joy. Share in this joy by taking a little time after Mass today to stop and chat and enjoy a cup of coffee and Christmas goodies baked and shared by some of your fellow parishioners.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

2 p.m., Wednesday, 18 December - St. Columban
 7 p.m., Thursday, 19 December - Blessed Sacrament

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING 2013 TAX RECEIPTS

We need to close the Parish Financials Books on Dec. 27th. All money received after December 27th will be credited for 2014. If you wish that your donations be included on your 2013 Income Tax Receipt; please bring it in before Dec. 27th.

IN OUR PARISH

COLLECTION – 1 DECEMBER – THANK YOU

Sunday Env.	\$4,443.00	Book Table	\$ 113.67
Loose	596.15	Candles	164.40
Total	\$5,039.15	Christmas	26.00
		D&P Philippines	2,963.00
Priests Pension	\$ 65.00	Shelterbox	1,635.00

IN THE DIOCESE, ETC.

St. Francis de Sales Parish extends an invitation to attend a
RETIREMENT PARTY FOR FR. GEORGE MALONEY
 in St. Francis Parish Hall. Best wishes only.
2 TO 4 P.M., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
 Join us in wishing Fr. George a well deserved retirement.

FAMILY BREAKFAST

St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall – everyone welcome
8:30 A.M TO 12 NOON, SUNDAY, 22 DECEMBER

SALESIAN YOUTH CENTRE – 300 MONTREAL ROAD

For youth ages 8 to 16 – meets Fridays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 Call Sr. Francoise at 613-937-4956 for more info.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL – K OF C HALL

Hot & cold buffet at midnight. Door Prizes & Spot Dances
8 P.M. TO 1 A.M., TUESDAY, 31 DECEMBER
 Call 613-932-7600 for tickets - \$20/person

“STEUBENVILLE TORONTO”

July 4th to 6th, 2014 – Save the date and join thousands of young people to discover the richness of the Catholic Church through prayer, praise and reflection. “Steubenville Toronto” is for youth who will be in Grade 9 in Sept. 2014 up to those who will be graduating high school by the end of 2014. The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is organizing a youth delegation for this major event. Visit the web site: <http://www.ocytoronto.org/steubenville/>

Precious Blood Parish in Glen Walter will be hosting their next
BINGO ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH,
 in the church hall starting at 7 p.m. Early Bird Games start at 6:20

SALT AND LIGHT T.V. – CABLE CHANNEL 185 THE CHURCH ALIVE – THE ENVIRONMENT

Continuing at 9 p.m., December 15th, *The Church Alive* is a fast-paced, segmented and interactive show focusing on the New Evangelization. The goal: to inspire people and get them talking about the faith, to share stories of the New Evangelization, and to highlight the broad and inclusive nature of Catholicism and its rich tradition. This week's episode explores in depth, the topic of Catholic education. "Yes, the Church is Alive... and the Church is young." - Pope Benedict XVI

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Various sessions for couples (Jan. 23 @ 7pm), parents (Jan. 24 @ 7pm) and young adults are offered in Montreal, from Jan. 23-25, 2014. Join Christopher West, the world's most recognized teacher of Blessed John Paul's II Theology of the Body for a humorous, honest, and insightful exploration of human sexuality. For more information visit <http://www.diocesemontreal.org/>

POPE FRANCIS



THE COMMUNITY DIMENSION OF FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Vatican City, 20 November 2013 (VIS)

The forgiveness of sins, with reference to the so-called “power of the keys”, biblical symbol of the mission Jesus gave to the Apostles, was the theme of the Pope's catechesis. “The agent of the forgiveness of sins is the Holy Spirit”, said Pope Francis, explaining that in His first appearance before the Apostles, the risen Christ performed the gesture of breathing on to them, saying “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained”. Jesus, bodily transfigured, is now a new man, who offers the Paschal gifts, the fruit of His death & resurrection: peace, joy, forgiveness of sins, the mission & above all the Holy Spirit that is the source of all this. The breath of Jesus indicates the transmission of life, the new life regenerated by forgiveness. But before this gesture Jesus shows the wounds on His hands & His side: these wounds represent the price of our salvation. The Holy Spirit brings us God's forgiveness, 'passing through' Jesus' wounds". In turn, the Church is “the depository of this power. God forgives all men in His sovereign mercy, but He Himself wishes for them to belong to Christ and His Church, receiving pardon through the ministers of the Community. In this way, Jesus calls us to experience the ecclesial & community dimension of reconciliation. The Church accompanies us along the path of conversion throughout our lives. The Church is not the 'owner' of the power of the keys, but is rather the servant of the ministry of mercy”.

“Many people perhaps do not understand the ecclesial dimension of forgiveness, as individualism & subjectivism dominate. Certainly, God forgives every repentant sinner, personally, but the Christian is bonded with Christ, & Christ is united to the Church. For us, as Christians, it is an extra gift, but it is also an extra commitment; to pass humbly through ecclesial ministry. We must value this. I go to my brother priest and say, 'Father, I have done this...' and he answers, 'But I forgive you; God forgives you'. In that moment I am sure that God has forgiven me”. The Pope's final point of reflection was the figure of the priest as a 'tool' in the forgiveness of sins. “The priest, a man who, like us, is in need of mercy, truly becomes an instrument of mercy, bringing us the limitless love of God the Father. At times we hear of those who claim to confess directly to God ... yes, as I said before, God always listens, but in the Sacrament of Reconciliation He sends a brother to bring forgiveness to you, the certainty of forgiveness, in the name of the Church”. The service that the priest offers as a minister of God in forgiving sins requires that “his heart is at peace; that he does not mistreat the faithful, but rather is humble, benevolent and merciful; that he knows how to sow hope in hearts & above all, is aware that the brother or sister who seeks the Sacrament of Reconciliation seeks forgiveness and does so in the same way that many people sought Jesus, in order that He might cure them.. “Let us not forget that God never tires of forgiving us; through the ministry of the priest He holds us in a new embrace that regenerates us and enables us to get up again & continue anew on our path”.

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