

Immaculate Conception R.C. Church Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church

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Office Hours: 9am to 4:30pm Tuesday to Friday

Pastoral Team

Rev. Fr. Paul T. Hancko, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Stephen Palmer



prepare the way...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUTTON

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec 24	5:00pm: Parishioners (Pro Populo) 10:00pm: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tues.	Dec 25	8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sat.	Dec 29	5:30pm: + Marion McCausland
Sun.	Dec 30	8:30am: Charles Savoie req. Beatrice Savoie
Mon.	Dec 31	4:00pm: <u>Holy Hour</u> 5:00pm: Blessings Upon MacGregor Abate Campbell req. Melinda Garel
Tues.	Jan 1	8:30am: For those in whose memory Christmas poinsettias were donated to our Church
Wed.	Jan 2	6:45pm: Devotion to Our Lady 7:00pm: + Michael & Rita Little req. Pat & Joan Fahey
Fri.	Jan 4	5:30pm to 7:00 - Holy Hour 7:00pm: Blessings upon the Clarkson & Thompson Families req. Joe Thompson
Sat.	Jan 5	5:30pm: + Judith & Kevin Derouin req. Derouin Family
Sun.	Jan 6	8:30am: + Edgar Mackay req. Alison Smith

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please keep the following people in your prayers. Erica Barry, Tyler Clements, John Hopkins, Eduard Konrad, Grant Madill, Diane Pereira, Rosemary Rupert, Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Serravalle, Adriana Smith, Jennifer Teeluck

FATHER PAUL'S PILGRIMAGE

Father is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land between November 4th and 15th. Details will follow.

ADVENT WREATH – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light three purple candles and the pink candle this **4th Sunday of Advent** and say a simple prayer such as: *Jesus, You are the light of the world, yet You were born in a cold stable. Let Your light shine on us so we can see You in all the poor, the homeless, the oppressed, and the rejected. Teach us how to love You in them. Amen.*

PAPAL CHRISTMAS MASS on EWTN – Roger 239

Dec. 24th at 10pm, Dec. 25th Urbi et Orbi at noon.

KESWICK

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec 24	8:00pm: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tues.	Dec 25	10:30am: Parishioners (Pro Populo)
Sat.	Dec 29	4:00pm: Blessings upon Melinda Garel
Sun.	Dec 30	11:00am: + Luis & Anna Calderon req. Mrs. Abreu
Tues.	Jan 1	10:30am: Blessings upon Fortunato Del Col req. John Del Col
Thurs.	Jan 3	8:30am: Blessings upon Lou Conte req. Debra McMillan
Fri.	Jan 4	8:30am: Blessings upon Deacon Peter Lovrick & Family req. Debra McMillan
9:00am to 10:30am – Holy Hour		
Sat.	Jan 5	4:00pm: + Kurt Ochnitzberger req. Melinda Garel
Sun.	Jan 6	10:30am: Parishioners (Pro Populo)

COLLECTION UPDATE

Weekly Offertory: Dec 15/16: Not available before publication.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sutton - Immaculate Conception Church

December 24th 5:00pm and 10:00pm

December 25th 8:30am

Keswick - Our Lady of the Lake Church

December 24th 8:00pm

December 25th 10:30am

NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Sutton

December 31st 4:00pm – Holy Hour

5:00pm

January 1st 8:30am

Keswick

January 1st 10:30am

“From Mary we learn to surrender to God's Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!” – St. Pope John Paul II

Father Paul, Deacon Steve and the Parish Staff wish God's blessings upon all of our parishioners and their loved ones during this beautiful Christmas season celebrating the birth of our Lord.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

St. Francis of Assisi gave us one of the most beautiful Christmas customs. One December, St. Francis was staying in a cave on a hillside outside of a town named Greccio. He always had a great love for Christmas and he wanted to help the townspeople celebrate it in a special way that year.

The Holy Father gave him permission to put on a kind of Christmas play. St. Francis told the people of the town to bring their animals (donkeys, sheep, oxen) to the cave. He also set up a crib as there had been in Bethlehem. Then the people celebrated their Midnight Mass to welcome in Christmas Day.

During the Mass, St. Francis, who was a deacon, proclaimed the Gospel. He was so filled with love that the people who were there saw a vision in which St. Francis reached down and picked up the Baby Jesus, whom they saw as alive and real. The people were overflowed with joy and love at this great event, and it was said that they did not even need their torches to find their way home that night, for they were glowing with love. The friars who followed St. Francis have spread the custom of setting up Christmas manger scenes all over the world.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

One of the most beautiful carols is "Silent Night, Holy Night", written almost by accident by Fr. Joseph Mohr in Austria. When he was getting his church ready for Christmas Midnight Mass in 1818, he discovered that the Church organ would not work. Fr. Mohr was worried that there would be no music so he asked the schoolmaster, Franz Gruber, to set a Christmas poem he had written to music. Gruber worked on the song for the rest of the day and then that night they sang their song, "Silent Night," to the music that he played on Fr. Mohr's new guitar.

Another beautiful carol is "Good King Wenceslaus" about a king who ruled long ago in Bohemia. Wenceslaus was born at the time when the Catholic faith arrived in Bohemia. His grandparents and father were Catholic, but his mother was a pagan. His father, the King, died when he was 12 and in his childhood his mother tried to make him a pagan but he continued to read the bible in secret and sneaked priests into the palace to teach him. When he turned 18 he became King. He ruled in a wise and just manner and was famous for treating the simple people with respect and often would pay their debts to save them from slavery. After two years as King the pagan nobles had him murdered but the people loved him so much they never forgot him and to this day we sing their beloved "Good King Wenceslaus."

SANTA CLAUS

What would Christmas be without Santa Claus. Originally, Santa Claus, like St. Wenceslaus and St. Lucy, was a saint. His name was St. Nicholas, and he was a bishop of a city named Myra in Turkey. He lived in the early part of the fourth century and died on December 6 or 7 in the middle of the fourth century.

The most famous story told about St. Nicholas has to do with three young sisters who were very poor. Their parents were so poor that they did not have enough money for the daughters to get married. Nicholas heard about this and wanted to help them, but he did not want anyone to know that he was the one who was helping them.

Here the story is told in a few different ways. IN one of the versions, he climbed up on their roof three nights in a row and threw gold coins down their chimney so that they would land in the girls' stockings, which had been hung by the fire to dry.

When the Dutch settlers came to the new world, they also brought their devotion to "Sinter Klaus" (St. Nicholas). In their legends, he was no longer pictured as being thin, but he began to look more and more like the Santa Claus that we know, with a jolly red face and a white beard.

CHRISTMAS DAY

In the early days of the Church, no one was sure of when Jesus was born. So Christians in Rome chose to celebrate His birth on December 25, because the pagans already had a feast on that day when they celebrated the birth of the sun. This way, they might convince some of the pagans to become Christians. So we too celebrate Christmas on December 25.

For many of us Christmas is the happiest day of the year. It is a wonderful day when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the weeks before Christmas, we decorate our Christmas tree and bake cookies and prepare a list of those things for which we will ask and those things we would like to give to our parents and brothers and sisters. Then on Christmas Day we go to Mass to begin our Christmas Day with God. When we arrive home, we open our Christmas presents and eat our Christmas meal.

Most of all, Christmas is a day to remember God's great love for us. We join with people from all over the world in giving thanks to God for His love. We thank Him for having sent His only Son into the world to be born as a baby in Bethlehem.

*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
from Loretto Maryholme Spirituality Centre
and The Loretto Sisters.*

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