

12 December
2021

Third Sunday
of Advent

PRO-CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

480 McIntyre Street West - North Bay, Ontario - P1B 2Z4

Welcome to Your Father's House!



In the first reading, a joyful hymn praises God for his removal of judgment of his people. Saint Paul assures the Philippians that *the Lord is near*, and that they should *have no anxiety at all*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist tells the people about the Messiah to come who will be mightier than him. As we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, our Liturgy of the Word emphasizes our call to rejoice. We rejoice because the Messiah is coming. We rejoice because God has fulfilled his promises. We rejoice because there is no more need for fear or anxiety. In Christ, we are fulfilled. **Rejoice! One mightier is coming!**

Our Parish Mission Statement

We, the members of the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption community, believe that we have been called through Baptism to live the Good News of Jesus Christ under the patronage of Mary, our Mother. We accomplish this by proclaiming the Word, celebrating the Sacraments, & reaching out to others.

Parish Sacraments

Marriage: Please pick up a Marriage Information Booklet in the Church Vestibule to review prior to contacting the parish office.



Anointing the Sick: Please call the parish office for more information.

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 3:00 until 3:45 PM.

Eucharist: Please see mass schedule published in this bulletin. Call the parish office to arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit the sick and shut-in who are unable to attend Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: On the First Friday of each month from 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon.

Baptism: Please pick up a Baptism Information Booklet in the Church Vestibule to review prior to contacting the parish office.

Most Rev. Thomas Dowd, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie



Rev. Larry Rymes
Pastor of the Pro-Cathedral Parish

PERMANENT MINISTERS

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Albert Falconi
Rev. Mr. Donald Shago
Rev. Mr. Rick Hamelin
Rev. Mr. Gary Westenenk

Diocesan Order of Women

Mrs. Shirley Falconi
Mrs. Norma Milligan
Miss Ruth Godon

Our faith community dates back to 1886 when we were originally located on Main Street West and called St. Mary's of the Lake. The cornerstone of the existing Cathedral was laid in 1904. The history of our parish is recorded in the memories of thousands of people who built our community.



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 (705) 494-8222
 office@procathedral.ca
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 facebook.com/procathedral

The Pro-Cathedral is **wheel chair accessible**. The entrance to the elevator is on Algonquin Avenue. Please enter the vestibule and ring the bell for an attendant. Service available at all weekend masses. Weekday masses service available 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM. A **Hearing Aid System** is available for use by the hearing impaired. Please ask an Usher or Sacristan to assist you upon entering the church.

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday	8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Friday	8:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

READINGS: 13 — 19 DECEMBER

Monday	Numbers 24. 2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21. 23-27
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3. 1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21. 28-32
Wednesday	Isaiah 45. 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Luke 7. 19-23
Thursday	Isaiah 54. 1-10; Luke 7. 24-30
Friday	Genesis 49. 2, 8-10; Matthew 1. 1-17
Saturday	Jeremiah 23. 5-8; Matthew 1. 18-24
Sunday	Micah 5. 2-5a; Hebrews 10. 5-10; Luke 1. 39-45



A huge thank you to our ushers for all their volunteer time last week. Your assistance during our regular masses is always appreciated, but a special thank you for coming out each evening during the Bishop's Mission!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Each Friday 11 AM - NOON
in the Cathedral



On Tuesday of last week, Bishop Thomas Dowd celebrated the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. On Friday, December 17, he will celebrate his first anniversary of his installation as bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

Please keep Bishop Thomas in your prayers.

Did you know that the bishop's motto, *Cor et Anima Una* comes from Acts 4:32, which describes the members of the early Church as having been "one in heart and mind"? This is what our bishop has to say about his motto:

"I love this concept. The heart, in Biblical terms, is the center of decision-making, while the mind is the place of reason and truth. The concept, as I see it, is that the original community worked at having a common vision of things, and then chose to act according to that common vision. Acts 4:33, the subsequent passage, speaks of the early Christians also placing their goods in common, to take care of the poor... but an obvious prerequisite to common action is this unity in heart and mind.

Unity has been a core theme of my own spiritual life for many years. In fact, I'd say the desire for unity is even a part of my personality — as I look back, it certainly has shaped many of my choices. When I did a retreat back in 2001 based on the exercises of Saint Ignatius, the theme of being a "man of unity" arose very strongly, and in a positive way. Certainly, this desire for unity has been at the heart of my desire to promote ecumenism, as well as to enter into dialogue with people with different perspectives on life and faith.

In more practical terms, unity has also been a core theme for my leadership style. I remember when I was named parochial administrator (temporary pastor) of a parish some years ago, I worked at helping the team truly "be of one heart and mind". In fact, you could say that was our "mantra" as we sought to lead the community. As I was reflecting on what my motto as a bishop should be, I couldn't help but think about those days and bring them forward in my mind.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Celebrations are Held at 12:05 PM

Monday, 13 December - Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin/Martyr
COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday, 14 December - St. John of the Cross, Priest/Doctor

Mildred Puddister - The Family
Teresa and Frank Piekarski - Trudy, George and Jillian
Intention of John Follis and Family - The Laplante Family

Wednesday, 15 December - Weekday in Advent Season

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prior to Mass

Trevelyan Gagnon - Suzanne Lukasik
For Souls in Purgatory - A Parishioner
Linda Jamieson - Tom and Nancy Ann Hedicar

Thursday, 16 December - Weekday in Advent Season

Stephen Zimbalatte - Connie Zimbalatte
Zofia and Wiktor Nowicki - Margaret Sroga and Family
Intention of Kristy and Nicholas Beaulieu - Karen Beaulieu

Friday, 17 December - Weekday in Advent Season

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Sheila Flannery - The Family
Dianne Ross - The Family
In Thanksgiving to Armand Foubert - Andree Cornish

4:00 PM Saturday, 18 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jeanne Hodgins - Philip Paquette
Katie and Lorne Brownson - Carol and John Rowe
Intention of Tom Killoran - The Siblings

Sunday, 19 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Mike and Lidia Rossi - The Family
Glen Slinger - Suzanne Lukasik
In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary -
Arthur and Lucille Schiavo

11:00 AM Intention of the Parishioners - Rev. Larry Rymes

Indigenous Peoples and the Church



A group of Indigenous residential school survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers and young people have accepted the invitation of Canada's Catholic Bishops to meet with the Holy Father from December 17-20, 2021 at the Vatican. The delegation will include small group meetings with Pope Francis as well as a larger final audience with all participants. We invite you to pray for all participants in the delegation, which will help provide a foundation for a future Papal Visit to Canada as part of the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation.

A link can be found on our website at procathedral.ca under Indigenous Peoples and will provide resources for the faithful, including an Advent Video Series on Healing & Reconciliation: <https://bit.ly/healingandreconciliation>

You will also find a video featuring Bishops from across the country reading the "Apology by the Bishops of Canada to the Indigenous Peoples of this Land." The video is also posted on our website: <https://youtu.be/M6BazS2PEN0>



Our next Baptismal Preparation Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 beginning at 7:00 PM. Those who wish to register for this meeting to have their child baptized are asked to call the parish office by Monday, December 13.

Baptism Preparation is mandatory by Diocesan Policy.



Thank you for your donations—we now are well supplied with wipes but could use more cans of disinfectant spray (any brand). If you can donate a can or two it will be much appreciated! Drop off at the parish office or bring it to church on Sunday and give to an usher. Thank you!



Christmas Memorial Flowers & Decorations

A beautiful way to remember loved ones during this holy season is to donate memorial flowers and decorations in their memory. Your donation will help decorate the altar and sanctuary during the Christmas Season. Pre-printed envelopes are available for your donation at the entrance to the church. Please fill out the requested information as neat as possible (printing would be best!). Include your donation and return the envelope to the office or in the weekly collection. ***Please have your names to the parish office by Monday, December 20.***

Remember your loved ones this Christmas and give glory to the Lord by helping to decorate for this beautiful season!

Collection Report: 05 DECEMBER	
Sunday Offering	Building Fund
\$5,044.19	\$1,533.00

NOVEMBER Pre-Authorized Donations	
Sunday Offering	Building Fund
\$7,637.00	\$2,302.00

Brick Fundraiser: \$24,673.00
Accumulative Total ~ Goal: \$56,000

THANK YOU FROM THE PRO-CATHEDRAL CWL!



The Pro-Cathedral CWL would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support of their **Christmas Bake Sale!** Because of your generous support, we can continue our work in supporting our parish and local community for God and Canada.



Special thanks to Trevor Thomas



from Century 21 for supporting our Pro-Cathedral CWL Bake Sale through his order of 20 boxes of baked goods as well as donating to our baking supplies. This is the second time Trevor has significantly donated to the Pro-Cathedral CWL fundraising efforts and we are grateful!

From Left to Right: Trevor Thomas, Real Estate Agent for Century 21 and Shirlene Condie-McVeigh, President, Pro-Cathedral CWL Council.



Synod 2021-2023

Pope Francis is inviting the universal Church to participate in this important Church event. In our diocese, we will mark the opening of the Synod on the third Sunday of Advent.

In January 2022, you will be invited to participate during the consultation phase, by sharing your ideas about the Church. Let us pray for the success of the Synod and may we welcome the Holy Spirit to guide us on this synodal journey together.

The Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.



Third Sunday of Advent

Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice.

Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

"What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR TO HELP MAKE ADVENT MEANINGFUL

Each day add an item to a box. On the weekend of December 18-19, bring your donations to the church to be donated to the Catholic Charities Food Bank. Located in the Pro-Cathedral parish rectory, our food bank distributes items on Tuesday mornings. Some ideas as you gather items: Box of cereal, peanut butter, school snacks, box of potatoes, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, canned tomatoes, tea bags, instant coffee, cake mix, applesauce, granola bars, canned beans and potatoes, crackers, packages of rice, box of toothpaste, package of pasta, canned sauce, bar of soap, dried milk, relish, mustard, ketchup, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, canned soup, vegetables, tuna, jar of jam, drinking boxes, etc.

You don't have to wait until the end of December to drop items off. Feel free to bring them anytime you attend mass or drop by the parish during office hours.



REGIONAL NEWS

Christmas Day Dinner will again be held this year at Memorial Gardens on Christmas Day, December 25 from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Entertainment and Gifts for Everyone!

Please note that all volunteer positions have been filled. Don't be alone or hungry this Christmas - everyone welcome!

Marriage Preparation Program: 6:30–9:30 pm on Friday, January 28, followed by 9:30 am–5:00 pm on Saturday, January 29. Interested couples should call Samantha at 705-471-3284 for more information or to sign up.

The Sisters of St. Joseph present an Advent Reflection to CALL– Theology Perking Via Zoom on December 16 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Sister Romano at cromano@csjssm.ca



The Good Samaritan Corner: Sharing the Warmth

The community of North Bay has, once again, stepped up to support those of its members in need. Continuing the Backpacks of Love with a winter campaign in late October, the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay put a call out to the community to give generously, with a goal of 150 backpacks and 150 supplemental bags. As of Friday, December 3, 2021, that goal was met!

"Once again, we had a great outpouring of generosity from the community!" stated Rebecca Riesen, lead organizer of the Backpacks of Love. "Organizations like The Gathering Place, the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, The Aids Committee of North Bay, and the Crisis Centre were very excited and thankful to receive the donated packs and bags as they were preparing the homeless for the upcoming inclement weather."

A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of North Bay, Silver Birches Elementary School and HGS as super supporters of the Backpacks of Love winter campaign. As well, a heartfelt thank-you to the countless individuals who donated essential items and monies during our drop-off days.

The Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay was created just over a year ago, and based on research conducted, the Backpacks of Love campaign was born. "With 10 churches involved, and 20 volunteers through faith, service and social justice we are addressing the urgent needs of the homeless and are engaging with all levels of government to ensure that homelessness is front and centre in the political arena," states Leah Pierce, chairperson.

What's next for this faith-filled committee? In late January, early February volunteers with the committee will be running a campaign addressing the urgent needs of the homeless in bitterly cold temperatures and harsh conditions. With the Point-in-Time count that was conducted 13-14 October, the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay will apply this research to determine the number of the homeless in North Bay.

The committee is made up of the faithful from churches primarily in North Bay's downtown, who have joined together to address the immediate needs of the homeless. Its goal is to work with the City of North Bay, existing support services and organizations to find homes for the homeless who want them. Each committee member has received a calling by the Holy Spirit to help the homeless.

For more information about the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay visit <https://www.facebook.com/compassionatecommitteeofnorthbay/> or contact Leah Pierce at 705-472-5687 or at pn.thebay@gmail.com