

24 December
2023

Fourth 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, David ruminates on building a house for the Lord. However, the Lord reminds David how he has favored him and states that it is God who will build a house for David. In the second reading, Paul gives glory to Christ, acknowledging the prophets and wisdom through the ages that have all participated in this revelation. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel announces that Mary will conceive a son – the Son of God – and Mary accepts the honor, saying, *may it be done to me according to your word*. Today's readings make evident the goodness of the Lord, and that he is the source of all blessings. The Lord promises to build a house for David – one that will last forever. And from the lineage of David comes Jesus, God himself, to dwell among us. He is our shelter, our bodies are his temple, and his kingdom endures forever. We will soon celebrate the feast of his Incarnation and Nativity, while awaiting still, with joyful hope, the time when he will come again.

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.

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

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Joseph de Viveiros, CR Chaplain, Nipissing-Parry Sound District Schools

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: 3:00 to 3:45 PM each Saturday.

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: Each Friday from 11:00 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.



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.



The Parish Office will be Closed
Between the Week of Christmas and New Year's
Open again on Tuesday, January 2, 2024
Have a Blessed Christmas & Joyous New Year!



PURCHASE BEFORE DECEMBER 31ST

Visit our Homepage: procathedral.ca

This raffle is conducted by the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption, a charity in North Bay under License #RAF1286202

READINGS: 25 ~ 31 DECEMBER

Monday	Isaiah 52. 7-10; Hebrews 1. 1-6; John 1. 1-18
Tuesday	Acts 6. 8-10; 7. 54-59; Matthew 10. 17-22
Wednesday	1 John 1. 1-4; John 20. 2-8
Thursday	1 John 1. 5—2.2; Matthew 2. 13-18
Friday	1 John 2. 3-11; Luke 2. 22-35
Saturday	1 John 2. 12-17; Luke 2. 36-40
Sunday	Sirach 3. 2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3. 12-21; Luke 2. 22-40



Thank you so much to our Knights of Columbus who matched our second collection for the Roof Fund collected on December 10. The total that was matched was \$3,664.35 which doubled due to their generosity! Thank you!

Sunday 17 December 2023

Sunday Offering	Building Fund
\$3,903.60	\$964.00

Pre-Authorized Bank Donations NOV

Sunday	Building	Roof
\$6,785.00	\$1,985.00	\$396.00

Pre-Authorized Credit Card NOV

Sunday	Building	Roof
\$3,624.67	\$1,211.00	\$245.00

Pre-Authorized Credit Card DEC

Sunday	Building	Roof
\$3,524.67	\$1,211.00	\$245.00

ROOF CAMPAIGN REPORT

Roof Campaign Balance \$196,599.17

Second Collection—Sunday, 17 December

Roof Loose \$ 508.50
30 Received Donations \$ 1,414.00

Roof Donations in Regular Collection— 17 Dec.

17 Received Donations \$ 4,172.50

November 50/50 Draw Profit \$ 319.97

Knights of Columbus—Second Collection

Matching 10 Dec. Collection \$ 3,664.35

Purdys Chocolate Fundraiser \$ 1,280.50

Orchard Gift Card Sales

72 Cards X \$5.00 Profit \$ 360.00

Total Profit to 17 December \$ 5,343.00

Twiggs Gift Card Sales

43 Cards X \$5.00 Profit \$ 215.00

Total Profit to 17 December \$ 635.00

New Roof Campaign Balance \$209,419.99

UPCOMING MASSES

Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord - Sunday, December 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve

8:00 PM Christmas Eve

The Nativity of the Lord - Monday, December 25

11:00 AM Christmas Day

Midnight Christmas Eve Mass

*for the North Bay Region will be held at
Holy Name of Jesus Church on Memorial Drive*

Please Note: Tuesday, December 26 Mass Cancelled

Wednesday, December 27 - 12:05 PM

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Emile Lamothe - Ella Lamothe

Linda Jamieson - Peter and Family

Dino Roveda - Peter Jamieson

Thursday, December 28 - 12:05 PM

Angie McGuinty - Louise and Joe Defonzo and Family

Intention of Judy and Robert - Jessica Costa

Intention of Kristy and Nicholas Beaulieu - Karen Beaulieu

Friday, December 29 - 12:05 PM

Clarence Lefebvre - Carol Lefebvre and Family

Bill Balfour - Mary Ellen Balfour

In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary - Arthur and Lucille Schiavo

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 30 - 4:00 PM

Sam and Lillian Veraldi - Myrtle Veraldi

Virginia Lafontaine - The Morrisette Family

Intention of Ben and Helen Vaillancourt - A Friend

Sunday, December 31 - 9:00 AM

Tony Smears - Gwen Duggan and Family

Angie McGuinty - Theresa Duffy

In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony - Marthe Smith

Sunday, December 31 - 11:00 AM

Intention of the Parishioners - Fr. Larry Rymes



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024 - 11:00 AM

Parish envelopes are now in the church for 2024. Please do not use any of these envelopes until the New Year. Why not consider signing up for pre-authorized donations through your bank account or by using your credit card—it helps the parish have a consistent, reliable offering even when you are away.



Alpha Is Back!!! @ Pro-Cathedral

Tuesday January 16 at 6pm
Register at AlphaNorthBay.com



The celebration of **First Reconciliation** will be held in **March 2024** & **First Eucharist** will be held in **June 2024**.

Please pre-register your child now. Preparation Dates as well as the on-line registration form can be found on our website under **SACRAMENTS** under both Eucharist and Reconciliation.

The forms have the option to register for one or both of the sacraments and once completed, they can be emailed to: office@procathedral.ca

Children who have already celebrated Baptism are invited to participate in Reconciliation and Children who have received Baptism & First Reconciliation can register for First Eucharist.

Register soon - thank you!



The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd®

Advent Wreath Prayer Fourth Week of Advent – Year A

(This prayer is repeated each day during the fourth week. After the prayer, the head of the family will light all 4 candles)

All make the Sign of the Cross.

The leader says: The King of glory dwells among us. May His love cover the world as we light four candles on our Advent Wreath.

Let us pray,
We shout Glory to the King of Kings.
Whose love reigns in our hearts.
May these final days of the season bring us closer to one another and mystery of the Incarnation, as You enter our homes, our lives, and our history.
We ask this in your most holy name. **Amen.**

Reader: **(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**
The Lord's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

All: **(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**
Reader: Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

All: **(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**
Reader: He shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

All: **(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**
Leader: Let us light all four candles on our wreath, as we sing our Advent Wreath song.

(All four candles are lit before and left burning during the evening meals on each day of the fourth week in Advent)



Making a home for God

Today, Mary is invited to make a home for Jesus in a unique and special way. To carry the spark of the light of the world in her womb, a place of warmth and darkness and secrecy and protection. A place where the heartbeat of the savior of the world is in harmony with the heartbeat of the Blessed Mother.

By her willingness to say yes to the invitation, Mary models the way of making a home for Jesus, and not only Jesus, but all who follow him. Even though she did not know where her "yes" would lead, she trusted the message of the angel and opened her heart to the ark of God—the ark of the covenant, God's promise to be present to all who believe. Once Mary had said yes, she was also offering a welcome to all those who follow Jesus.

Once we learn how to welcome Jesus, who else do we welcome inside? Do we gaze upon homeless encampments and come to the same realization that King David did? "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"

Can we imagine those experiencing homelessness as home for the ark of God? Perhaps God would more readily be found there than in a perfect Hallmark house.

The invitation of Mary and the Christ child is to make our home where we are most likely to encounter God. We do not need to be afraid to respond to this invitation.

Mary, Mother of the Church, in joy and in sorrow, shows us her Son and invites us to trust. And He, Jesus, is our only hope!" Emmanuel: God with us.

2024 Northern Ontario Catholic Leadership Conference



Calling all youth aged 13-19! The Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie will once again host the 2024 Northern Ontario Catholic Leadership Conference!

The event will be held Saturday, February 24, 2024 at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall in North Bay, Ontario. See all the details at our new website: www.northerncatholic.ca

This event is for ages 13-19 and includes a day full of prayer, music, workshops, games, Catholic vendors and presentations from our Keynote Speaker, David Patterson. David has led the way in youth ministry, high school chaplaincy and most recently through social media by founding Yes Catholic, an organization that calls young people to the Catholic faith by sharing real life stories that have the power to change hearts.

Young people from all over Northern Ontario and beyond are welcome to attend this conference. This day will build up faith and personal gifts and talents to form young Catholic leaders in our communities. Registration opens January 2, 2024.

Feast of Theophany (Jordan) Fr. Peter Bodnar, pastor of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sudbury, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in Ukrainian/English on Saturday, January 6 at 12 Noon at the Pro-Cathedral. Great water blessing will follow after the service. Everyone is welcome. Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River. For more information inquire at stmaryssudbury@yahoo.ca



The Good Samaritan Corner

The Gathering Place has, once again, stepped up to run a warming centre over the winter months in North Bay. It is located at 579 Fraser Street, during the hours of 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, any day of the week.

If you are able, please consider donating coats, blankets, dried soup, oatmeal packets, tea and coffee, puzzles, books and games.

They are also looking for volunteers. For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bryan Eade at 705-494-0850 or at bryaneade@hotmail.com.

Over the past three years the Compassionate Committee has held its Winter Boot Campaign and was able to collect/purchase 195 pairs of brand-new boots which in turn were provided to frontline organizations who support people experiencing homelessness? A huge thank you to the faith-filled members of North Bay for their compassion!

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

On behalf of the members of the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay, we wish you all a healthy, happy and blessed holiday season and a warm and safe New Year!

Catholic Women's League Annual Christmas Bazaar & Tea

The weather cooperated this year as countless volunteers welcomed hundreds of people to the Pro-Cathedral on November 18, in support of the Annual Christmas Bazaar & Tea. With this year's theme: 'Fun with Frosty,' people were surrounded by a variety of happy Frosty the Snowmen including creative hats as center pieces, as \$11,897.00 was raised in support of numerous charities including: School Breakfast Programs, Meals on Wheels, the North Bay Food Bank Catholic Charities and the Gathering Place.



"Our volunteers created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and I am blessed to be surrounded by a team of experienced, dedicated and hard-working women whose efforts produced another successful Christmas Bazaar," stated Leah Pierce, Bazaar & Tea convener. "The support of the church community never fails to bring hope to those who need it the most in North Bay."

With 173 members, the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption CWL is part of the larger national CWL of more than 63,000 members each called to grow in faith, and to witness the love of God through ministry, service and social justice.

Christmas Greetings from the Catholic Women's League



*Dear Sisters in the League
and Pro-Cathedral Parishioners,*

Peace and Joy and Love to you and yours this Christmas and always.

May God's Blessings come to you a thousand fold;

May the Love in your heart never grow old;

And may you find treasures more precious than gold.

May this Christmas be full of light and laughter.

Let us remember our loved ones, those suffering, those alone, as we celebrate with Hope and Love and Joy, the happening that night, long ago, in starlit Bethlehem, and the blessed gift from our God, in the birth of Jesus, born into the world, as our Savior.

As the New Year dawns, may it be filled with hope and a promise of a bright tomorrow. May health and happiness be yours in the New Year, ahead. May you live your life to the fullest.

Annette Dutrisac, President