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**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**  
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PASTOR: REV. FR. RANDY FOSTER DEACON: REVEREND MR. PAUL DUNFORD

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022**



"All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:22-23).

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is a special time which touches our hearts in real and deep ways. It conjures up images of family, hearth, and home, and we know that it is natural to want to be "home for the holidays." People will travel great distances to be with the ones they love, eager to share together the joy of this season.

It is ironic therefore to think that, at that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph were far from home, away from family, having to rely on the kindness of strangers while bunking down in a stable. Despite all these challenges, they welcomed the baby Jesus with joy, knowing that he was God's gift not only to them, but to the entire world. That stable may have been messy and noisy, but it was a place filled with love, faith, and thanksgiving. And it was a moment that would forever speak of God's love, compassion and faithfulness toward each of his beloved children.

Wherever we find ourselves this Christmas - at home or far from it - we are called to make a place for the Lord Jesus, whose humble birth we celebrate. He is truly Emmanuel, God with us, who comes to us in our joys and sorrows, our triumphs and trials, our celebrations and our sadness. Let the Lord find a home in your hearts this Christmas: be assured of God's constant love for you and let that grace inspire you to gladden the hearts of others.

May you enjoy a Merry Christmas Day and Season.

Yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend Daniel Miehm  
Bishop of Peterborough



# WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

## Christmas & New Year's

### Dec. 24, 25 and Dec. 30 Jan. 1.

#### St. Joseph's Parish Mass Intentions

**TUESDAY Dec 27 8:30 am NO MASS**  
**WEDNESDAY Dec 28 8:30 am NO MASS**  
**THURSDAY Dec 29 11:30 am NO MASS**  
**FRIDAY Dec 30 8:30 am NO MASS**  
**New Year's EVE Dec 31 5:00 pm People of the Parish**  
**New Year's DAY Jan 1 10:00 am †Marie Heffernan (by the Bartlett Family)**



The Office will be closed until January 3, 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a Joyous New Year.  
 Maryann Clancy,  
 Parish Administrative Assistant.

LECTORS	SAT - 5:00 PM	SUN -10:00 AM
Dec 24	5pm Gerard Sullivan	7pm Kelly Towns
Dec 25		Margie Morrissey
Dec 31-Jan1	Larry Carlow	Brian Moloney
Jan 7-8	Bob Condon	Sharon Moloney
<b>EUCHARIST</b>		
Dec 24	5pm Wendy Tedford	7pm Rosemary Towns
Dec 25		Loretto Coones
Dec 31-Jan1	Bob Condon	Margie Morrissey
Jan 7-8	Ray Johnston	Debbie Riel
<b>USHERS</b>		
Dec 24	5pm Barry Condon	7pm Jim Holland
Dec 25		Gerald Heffernan
Dec 31-Jan1	Murray Carlow	Paul Yasyszczuk
Jan 7-8	Albert Heffernan	Mike Moloney
<b>CLEANERS</b>		
Week of Dec 26	Jean Heffernan	Rosemary Towns
Week of Jan 2	Dorothy Perdue	Bernice Heffernan
Week of Jan 9	Joyce Manser	Jill Scott

**THANK YOU TO SO MANY** We would like to take this opportunity at this special time of year to thank all of those who contribute their time and talents to bring so much to our parish. All of our Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors Ushers and Altar Servers. Those in the choir whose music allows us to "pray twice". Also the church decorators and cleaners. We thank them for bringing beauty to our beloved church.



If you are thinking of improving your TAX RETURN by increasing your giving please do so before our year end on December 31.

**CURRENT CANDLES ARE LIGHTED THE BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE BURNS Dec 24-30 IN MEMORY OF SHAWN CAMPBELL**



**OUR ST. JOSEPH CANDLE IS LIGHTED Dec 24-30 FOR DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE MOHER & RYAN FAMILIES BY SHELLEY RYAN**



#### Parish Stewardship

Dec 18, \$3,896 including \$858 of pre-authorized offering.  
 We thank you for your continued support of our Parish!

#### St. Joseph's Parish Mass Intentions

**TUESDAY Jan 3 8:30 am †Erin Sullivan (by Bob & Marie Sullivan)**  
**WEDNESDAY Jan 4 8:30 am †John Ross ( by Mike & Rosemary Towns)**  
**THURSDAY Jan 5 11:30 am †John Ross ( by Carl & Mary McKeiver)**  
**FRIDAY Jan 6 8:30 am †Joanne Healey (by Mike & Rosemary Towns)**  
**SATURDAY Jan 7 5:00 pm People of the Parish -11:00 am Funeral for Peter Towns**  
**SUNDAY Jan 8 10:00 am †Marguerite Young ( by Bob & Maureen Sullivan)**

We are currently booking masses in February

#### Merry Christmas Everyone!

On behalf our Bishop Miehm and myself, our amazing parish staff, please know of our love and best wishes as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we contemplate the gift of the Incarnation, in which God is born a little child in a stable, making holy this earth he created out of love in the most simple of conditions, we realize that the true meaning of Christmas is so simple. It is LOVE! And a love that translates into the awesome and challenging quality of mercy for others!

My prayer is that we accept that LOVE in a new way and live that LOVE in new and merciful ways in a world which, as the song says, is a world "in sin and error, pining."

Let the party begin! Prepare the gifts of LOVE and MERCY! And Christ will smile!

Sincerely, with love and many blessings for you and all those dear to you,

Fr. Randy Your Pastor

#### The ANGELS PROCLAIMED GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!

Today we find Him not in the manger, but in every tabernacle throughout the world. May the Infant Jesus always bring you an abundance of His peace and joy, as you receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. A Blessed Christmas to all!

#### CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

Tis Christmas in Heaven what a beautiful sight! It's My first one here; everything is all right!

The crib is adorned with the brilliance of the star; Wiseman have come from near and far.

I've met all our dear ones who preceded us here; the reunion was lovely, an event full of cheer.

And tonight, we'll all gather, in reverence we'll kneel, for the babe in the cradle, up in Heaven is REAL!

I think of my family, that I left behind and I pray that your Christmas is as blessed as mine.

Please shed no more tears, for my soul is at rest. Just love one another, live life to its best.

Yes, it's Christmas in Heaven, so I've heard them say, Yet Christmas in Heaven happens every day **Reflection:**

**ST. JOSEPH CWL** would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to the **Lakefield Food Bank**. Your gift to those in need is truly appreciated, especially at this time of year.

An early reminder that the first CWL meeting of 2023 will be on January 3 at 1:pm in the Parish Hall.



"I rejoiced when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1



We welcome all visitors and parishioners who have come to worship here today on **Christmas**. To our visitors, you may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray you will find peace, hospitality, and friendship with us.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we are glad you're here and hope that you come back again. The doors of our parish and our hearts are open to you. Please be in touch.

#### A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

As we mark the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lit four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world. Let us pray...

God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen

#### Christmas Flowers in memory of our Departed Loved Ones

- \*Frank Forrest
- \*Chris Hartwick
- \*Kenny McMillan
- \*Neil Allen
- \*Meade Family members
- \*Tim Morrissey
- \*Jerry Ryan, John & Colette Moher
- \*Kathleen Ryan
- \*Murray O'Brien
- \*Carl O'Brien
- \*Leo Moloney
- \*Mart, Marie & Don O'Brien
- \*Fr. Ray Heffernan
- \*Cletus & Marguerite Sullivan
- \*Hiebert Family Members
- \*Monica Sullivan
- \*Richard & Marie Moher
- \*Vincent O'Brien
- \*Sheehan & Sullivan Family Members