

Dates	Time	Mass Intentions and Celebrations	Prayer Calendar
MONDAY, December 31 1 John 2.18-21 John 1.1-18 St. Sylvester I, (OM)	7:30 am	† Xavier Joseph	Rev. Peter Meyer
	5:00 pm	For all parishioners, (Missa pro Populo)	
TUESDAY, January 1 Numbers 6.22-27 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.16-21 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God	9:00 am	† Sharon Brown	Rev. Jim Petrie
	11:00 am	† Holy Souls in Purgatory	
WEDNESDAY, January 2 1 John 2.22-28 John 1.19-28 St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen (M)	7:30 am	† Annie, Albert & Michael Churchill	Holy Cross Fathers
	6-6:45pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
	7:00 pm	Living & Deceased members of the CWL † Fabio Pettorossi † Anne Van Troost Living & Deceased members of the K of C † Holy Souls in Purgatory † Bill Meek Special Intention for Barbara King † Angelo & Ernesto Luison † Dora Gallo	
THURSDAY, January 3 1 John 2.29; 3.1-6 John 1.29-34 Most Holy Name of Jesus(OM)	7:30 am	† Bill Meek	Rev. Kevin Cull
	11:00 am	Mass at Amica Retirement Home - † Anna Oddi	
FRIDAY, January 4 1 John 3.7-10 John 1.35-42	7:30 am	† Vincenzo & Maria Coccaro	Rev. Stephen Gilbert
	8 – 9 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament , in the Church (Benediction at 9 am)	
	5 – 7 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament , in the Church (Benediction at 7 pm)	
SATURDAY, January 5 1 John 3.11-21 John 1.43-51 Our Lady's Saturday, (Optional Memorial)	8:30 am	† Angelo Tirone	Rev. Marko Puljic
	4 - 5 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
	5:30 pm	† Virginia Alllega-DiSanza † Domenico Eramo † Domenico & Rosaria Almonte † Elisa & Flaviano Quercia † Raffaele Del Monaco † Nellie & Tony Bober † Achille Luison † Giovanni Maurizio † Kay & John Kwiecien † Sergio Piccolo † Iolanda Maurizio † Joseph Del Monaco † Donata Raniero	
SUNDAY, January 6 Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2.1-12	9:00 am	† Mike & Mary Kolich	If you are visiting our community this Christmas, St. Francis Xavier Parish welcomes you!
	11:00 am	† Angelo Giglia	
	4:00 pm	† Gaetano Marini	



to it. We might join a faith-sharing group or volunteer to read Scripture to the sight-impaired. The most fruitful Christianity is that lived simply and quietly but steadily and resolutely: dying to self for the sake of a new and better life for others. Our most fruitful reflecting and pondering might lead us to see the Christ in all those we meet." (Living Liturgy)

January 1st is World Day of Peace!

The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that "every year this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come." Each year has a specific theme chosen by the Holy Father. The theme of the 52nd World Day of Peace and of the Pope's Message for the occasion is "**Good Politics at the Service of Peace**." "Political responsibility belongs to every citizen and, in particular, to those that have received the mandate to protect and to govern." And see in what this responsibility consists, which passes through dialogue: "This mission consists in safeguarding the right of and in encouraging dialogue between the actors of society, between the generations and between the culture." The commentary emphasizes "trust." There is no peace without mutual trust. And trust has, as the first condition, respect for the given word." "If the Lord calls you to this vocation to engage in politics, it will make you suffer, that will make you sin, perhaps, but the Lord is with you. Ask for pardon and go forward. But let us not allow this culture of rejects to reject us all! It also rejects creation, because everyday creation is destroyed more. Don't forget this word of Blessed Paul VI: politics is one of the highest forms of charity."

Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on: Tuesday, January 1st (New Year's Day)

Thank You!!

To our wonderful parishioners who bought gifts for our St. Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree. With your help we were able to give gifts to 28 adults from Emmaus Place, 15 young adults from Catholic Children's Aid Society, 5 seniors and 2 families including 2 adults and 7 children from Good Shepherd Centres and 60 families from one of our local schools. We are sure this has made the lives of people in need much happier. "Thank you for helping us serve in hope."

Marriage Preparation Program

Will be taking place on **March 1 / 2, 2019**. Letters are going out in January to those couples from our parish who will be getting married in the near future. Anyone wishing more information, please call the parish office at 905-662-8593 as soon as possible. Thank you

From Parish Staff

Thank you to all who made our Christmas celebrations special. Our Sacristans, Choirs, Musicians, Choir Directors, Altar Servers, Lectors, Ministers of Communion, Commentators, the Parish Youth and those who set up schedules for the year, Ladies of the Altar Society and all those who helped decorate the Church, Ushers, and those who set up the Nativity Scene. Your service and dedication is a true Blessing from God! Thank you!

A Gift for You

We are pleased to give you a free subscription to formed.org. Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks, and a great selection of popular ebooks—all just a click away! It's easy to get started: Go to: **formed.org** – click: Register, enter this code: **4B3RPK**. Enter your email and create a password (you'll need this to login later) You're all ready to access the inspiring and engaging content on FORMED!



Honoring Mary as the Mother of God



"Honoring Mary as the Mother of God goes beyond the event of her giving birth to the Son of God. By keeping "all these things" and "reflecting on them in her heart," she exhibits a life of encountering God and being open to whatever God asks of her. Like Mary, we must ponder God's entry into our own lives, making the divine Presence the very "stuff" of our hearts. We, too, must be open to whatever God asks of us. Often New Year's resolutions are about such things as losing weight, trying to stop smoking, cleaning up our language, etc. The readings for this festival honoring Mary might challenge us and our resolution-making in another direction. Perhaps this year we might resolve to take time each day to see and hear what God is revealing to us in the ordinary things of our lives: in the grateful smile of a child, in the gift of a compliment, in the unexpected call or visit of a friend. Or our resolution might be to look for encounters with the Son of God in unexpected circumstances and through people whom we might too easily dismiss. We might also resolve to spend more time, as Mary did, pondering and reflecting in our hearts God's mystery of salvation. We might set aside a special time each day to pray and then stick

Year-end Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2018 donations in 2019. If you would like to make a "year-end donation", please do so **before or by December 30, 2018**. Donations received after December 30th must be credited for 2019. Tax receipts will be issued for \$20 donations or more. Your co-operation and understanding is appreciated. As a registered Charitable Organization, the Parish must comply with these CRA regulations. Thank you for your understanding.



CWL New Members Welcome!

We invite ladies of the parish, aged 16 and over, to become members of the largest organization of women in Canada. Meet and get to know other women in the parish. Feel a stronger sense of belonging. Become more aware of the various church and community activities that take place. Be part of an active group of women that supports local charities. Attend the various CWL social functions at our parish or at neighbouring parishes. We meet in the Parish Centre, at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Attendance at the meetings is encouraged but many of us attend only when we are able. Informative brochures are available at the Church entrances. For details, call the Parish Office at 905-662-8593 or visit www.cwl.ca.

A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

MARY: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is our next Bible Study starting **January 8, 2019** and ending February 26th. We meet on Tuesday evenings 7pm to 8:30 pm. To register and for more information: call Vera - 905-561-9099 or email vfedorik@skyline.net. (Register early - we need to know how many workbooks to order.)

2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 Offering Envelopes have been available in the Chapel Hall for the past few weeks. If you have used envelopes this past year, there will be a box for you in 2019. **Please do not use envelopes from previous years or envelopes from other Parishes.** This will result in posting errors to your account. For parishioners who do not have envelopes and would like to begin using them, please complete a Parish registration form and indicate at the bottom of the form that you would like to support the parish through the use of offertory envelopes. The envelopes will be available for you the following weekend. For parishioners who travel south for the winter, please call the office and we will be happy to hold on to your envelopes until you return home. **Another option for all to consider is signing up for automatic withdrawal donation option. Pamphlets with additional information and forms are located in the narthex of the church.**



From the Pastor's Desk

The parish staff would like to say a big thank-you for the Christmas cards and treats that we've received from parishioners. Thank-you for taking the time to remember us, especially during the busy Christmas season. We want to wish each and every parishioner a blessed, peaceful, and **Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**

Mrs. Louise Kunkel, our dedicated and long-serving secretary, will be retiring at the end of December. We wish her only the best for the future and thank her for all she has done for our parish community. Louise, we have been so blessed by your kindness, compassion, and love of the Lord. There will be an open house gathering for Louise on **Sunday, January 13, 2019 after 11AM morning Mass** in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to stop by to see Louise and wish her well. We also wish to welcome Mrs. Leorita Staresina to the parish staff as our new part-time secretary! Leorita has been giving her time, talents, and energy to our parish for many years in a variety of volunteer roles including RCIA, youth ministry, New Evangelization, and liturgical ministry. We look forward to having her in this new role and wish her all the best as it begins!

Fr. Mariusz

Theology on Tap

will be hosting our 3rd event of the season, on Tuesday, January 15th from 7-9 pm at the Albion Hotel, in Guelph. Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry for the Hamilton Diocese, will be speaking on the topic "Living Life in a Throw Away Culture". Free finger food will be provided. A special invite goes out to young adults between the ages of 19 and 40. All are welcome. For more information, please visit us on Facebook "Theology on Tap Guelph" or contact us at theologyontapguelph@gmail.com.

There is Hope after an Abortion

Are you struggling with an abortion decision – either your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone or emotional, or angry? Project Rachel is a ministry of healing for any person suffering pain or problems from an abortion experience. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or 1-888-385-3850.

Questions of the Week

Theme: Mary is the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God and our mother. **Question for Children:** What do you want to tell others about Mary? **Question for Youth:** What can you learn from Mary that will help you grow closer to Jesus? **Question for Adults:** When the shepherds encountered Jesus, their lives changed forever. How has your relationship with Jesus changed your life?

Thank you to all who support our Parish with their offerings - your contributions assist in the spiritual, pastoral and practical work of the Parish and the upkeep of St. Francis Xavier Church.



MARY: A Biblical Walk with our Blessed Mother

This is a powerful Bible Study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. You will experience the gospel through the eyes of Mary and get a vivid glimpse into her daily life. Seeing her in this way will lead you to a deeper relationship with the Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus. Based in the Gospel of St. Luke, we will explore the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation and Finding Jesus in the Temple. We will continue with the Wedding at Cana and Mary at the Cross in the Gospel of John, concluding with the Book of Revelation, where Mary is Crowned with Glory.

- Tuesday evenings: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
 - **January 8, 2019 to February 26, 2019** in the Chapel Hall, Saint Francis Xavier Parish.
 - Class Format: 7 pm to 7:45 pm: Opening Prayer / Small Group Discussion.
 - 7:45 pm to 8:00 pm: Refreshments / Fellowship
 - 8:00 pm: Video / Closing.
 - Workbook: \$36.75 ea. (purchase at first class), 106 pages, beautifully illustrated with questions & responses.
 - a great "keepsake" addition to your personal library
- Registration / Information:** call Vera at 905-561-9099 or vfedorik@skylinc.net. (Register early - we need to know how many workbooks to order).

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 52nd WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1 January 2019

1. "Peace be to this house!"

In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you" (Lk 10:5-6). Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ's disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history. The "house" of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our "common home": the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate. So let this be my greeting at the beginning of the New Year: "Peace be to this house!"

2. *The challenge of good politics*

Peace is like the hope which the poet Charles Péguy celebrated. It is like a delicate flower struggling to blossom on the stony ground of violence. We know that the thirst for

power at any price leads to abuses and injustice. Politics is an essential means of building human community and institutions, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction.

Jesus tells us that, "if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (Mk 9:35). In the words of Pope Paul VI, "to take politics seriously at its different levels – local, regional, national and worldwide – is to affirm the duty of each individual to acknowledge the reality and value of the freedom offered him to work at one and the same time for the good of the city, the nation and all mankind".

Political office and political responsibility thus constantly challenge those called to the service of their country to make every effort to protect those who live there and to create the conditions for a worthy and just future. If exercised with basic respect for the life, freedom and dignity of persons, political life can indeed become an outstanding form of charity.

3. *Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace*

Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the *pólis*... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have... Man's earthly activity, when inspired and sustained by charity, contributes to the building of the universal city of God, which is the goal of the history of the human family". This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity.

In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002:

Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.

Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.

Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.

Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.

Blessed be the politician who works for unity.

Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.

Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.

4. Political vices

Sadly, together with its virtues, politics also has its share of vices, whether due to personal incompetence or to flaws in the system and its institutions. Clearly, these vices detract

from the credibility of political life overall, as well as the authority, decisions and actions of those engaged in it. These vices, which undermine the ideal of an authentic democracy, bring disgrace to public life and threaten social harmony. We think of corruption in its varied forms: the misappropriation of public resources, the exploitation of individuals, the denial of rights, the flouting of community rules, dishonest gain, the justification of power by force or the arbitrary appeal to *raison d'état* and the refusal to relinquish power. To which we can add xenophobia, racism, lack of concern for the natural environment, the plundering of natural resources for the sake of quick profit and contempt for those forced into exile.

5. Good politics promotes the participation of the young and trust in others

When the exercise of political power aims only at protecting the interests of a few privileged individuals, the future is compromised and young people can be tempted to lose confidence, since they are relegated to the margins of society without the possibility of helping to build the future. But when politics concretely fosters the talents of young people and their aspirations, peace grows in their outlook and on their faces. It becomes a confident assurance that says, "I trust you and with you I believe" that we can all work together for the common good. Politics is at the service of peace if it finds expression in the recognition of the gifts and abilities of each individual. "What could be more beautiful than an outstretched hand? It was meant by God to offer and to receive. God did not want it to kill (cf. Gen 4:1ff) or to inflict suffering, but to offer care and help in life. Together with our heart and our intelligence, our hands too can become a means of dialogue".

Everyone can contribute his or her stone to help build the common home. Authentic political life, grounded in law and in frank and fair relations between individuals, experiences renewal whenever we are convinced that every woman, man and generation brings the promise of new relational, intellectual, cultural and spiritual energies. That kind of trust is never easy to achieve, because human relations are complex, especially in our own times, marked by a climate of mistrust rooted in the fear of others or of strangers, or anxiety about one's personal security. Sadly, it is also seen at the political level, in attitudes of rejection or forms of nationalism that call into question the fraternity of which our globalized world has such great need. Today more than ever, our societies need "artisans of peace" who can be messengers and authentic witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and the happiness of the human family.

6. No to war and to the strategy of fear

A hundred years after the end of the First World War, as we remember the young people killed in those battles and the civilian populations torn apart, we are more conscious than ever of the terrible lesson taught by fratricidal wars: peace can never be reduced solely to a balance between power and fear. To threaten others is to lower them to the status of objects and to deny their dignity. This is why we state once more that an escalation of intimidation, and the uncontrolled proliferation of arms, is contrary to morality and the search for true peace. Terror exerted over those who are most vulnerable contributes to the exile of entire populations who seek a place of peace. Political addresses

that tend to blame every evil on migrants and to deprive the poor of hope are unacceptable. Rather, there is a need to reaffirm that peace is based on respect for each person, whatever his or her background, on respect for the law and the common good, on respect for the environment entrusted to our care and for the richness of the moral tradition inherited from past generations.

Our thoughts turn in a particular way to all those children currently living in areas of conflict, and to all those who work to protect their lives and defend their rights. One out of every six children in our world is affected by the violence of war or its effects, even when they are not enrolled as child soldiers or held hostage by armed groups. The witness given by those who work to defend them and their dignity is most precious for the future of humanity.

7. A great project of peace

In these days, we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in the wake of the Second World War. In this context, let us also remember the observation of Pope John XXIII: "Man's awareness of his rights must inevitably lead him to the recognition of his duties. The possession of rights involves the duty of implementing those rights, for they are the expression of a man's personal dignity. And the possession of rights also involves their recognition and respect by others".

Peace, in effect, is the fruit of a great political project grounded in the mutual responsibility and interdependence of human beings. But it is also a challenge that demands to be taken up ever anew. It entails a conversion of heart and soul; it is both interior and communal; and it has three inseparable aspects:

- peace with oneself, rejecting inflexibility, anger and impatience; in the words of Saint Francis de Sales, showing "a bit of sweetness towards oneself" in order to offer "a bit of sweetness to others";
- peace with others: family members, friends, strangers, the poor and the suffering, being unafraid to encounter them and listen to what they have to say;
- peace with all creation, rediscovering the grandeur of God's gift and our individual and shared responsibility as inhabitants of this world, citizens and builders of the future.

The politics of peace, conscious of and deeply concerned for every situation of human vulnerability, can always draw inspiration from the Magnificat, the hymn that Mary, the Mother of Christ the Saviour and Queen of Peace, sang in the name of all mankind: "He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly; ...for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever" (Lk 1:50-55).

From the Vatican, 8 December 2018