



## ST. DENIS Parish

Box 58, 53 Saint Augustine Street  
Haywood, Manitoba, R0G 0W0

**Pastor: Father Peter Lê Văn Ngū**

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**Our mission statement: LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS TRAIN DISCIPLES**

### Eucharistic Celebrations:

**Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM** - livestreamed from St. Denis church  
– Roger Landriault (*Marie-Rose Antoine*)

Friday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – private mass – René Dedieu (*funeral collection*)

**Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM** - livestreamed from St. Claude church  
– Rose Vaillant (*funeral collection*)

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: **Our deceased priests.**

God's Share: Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - \$6,255.00 (12) + \$0.00 (loose) + \$35.00 (DD) = **\$6,290.00**

Taxes & Insurance Fundraising: Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - **\$100.00** - YTD = **\$5,825.00**

### **Tree Lighting:**

Lights may still be purchased until Christmas by calling Janice at 204 379 2558 or Judith at 204 379 2192. You may also pick up sheets at Linda's Country Store.

### **Readings for Sunday: December 20, 2020**

Samuel 7, 1-5.8b-12.14a.16;  
Romans 16, 25-27;

Ps 88 (89);  
Luke 1, 26-38



### **Prayer Intention for December, 2020**

For a Life of Prayer – We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer

Let us pray for Fr. Peter and the members of his family in the tragic accident of his sister-in law.

Let us pray for all the members of our parishes who are sick and for our deceased faithful.

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

**\*NEW\* Sacrament of Reconciliation during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Note: If you want to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please call Fr. Peter for an appointment. He is super happy to make himself available for your spiritual well-being.**

A short guiding document offering suggestions of what to do during these times of pandemic.

### ***I would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, what do I do?***

We invite the faithful to call their priest to see if and how they could participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. Please respect local public health information and directives

### ***Can my parish host a virtual penitential evening?***

The usual penitential evenings that we are familiar with cannot exactly be hosted virtually for many reasons. One of them is that individual confessions would usually take place, and it is not possible to hold these virtually. Instead parishes could host a virtual prayer evening. The faithful could be led through an examination of conscience, followed by an act of contrition. An explanation that this would be considered an act of perfect contrition should be offered. There could also be a time for adoration, or other prayers could be recited together.

### ***What to do when the sacrament of reconciliation is unavailable?***

If you are unable to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation, you can still seek God's mercy through an act of perfect contrition. Perfect contrition is when you express a sincere request for forgiveness and the promise not to sin again. This needs to be done because you love God above all things and not out of fear of Hell.

### **There are two steps for an act of perfect contrition.**

1. You must pray an act of contrition out of love for God. There is not one specific act of contrition, but here is a common one: "My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin."
2. You must then make a commitment to go to confession whenever it is available. Here is what Pope Francis said during his homily on March 20, 2020: "But many people today would tell me, 'Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because I can't leave the house? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want him to embrace me, I want the Father's embrace.'" The pope said his response would be, "Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church) says. It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now." And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God."

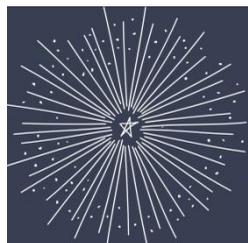
<https://www.catholicnews.com/if-you-cant-go-to-confession-take-your-sorrow-directly-to-god-pope-says/>

**Sunday Bulletins:** The bulletins will be sent via email and can also be picked up at André's, since the doors of the church remain locked at this time.

**St-Claude Parish Office Hours:**

The new hours for the parish office will now be on **Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.**

Please remember to wear a mask if you need to come to the office.



**Put a star in your window! – December 25, 2020 to January 10, 2021**

To celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, everyone is invited to place a star in their window for the entire liturgical season of Christmas, from December 25, 2020 to January 10, 2021. This is to symbolize that Christ is in our homes. You can paint a star, put an ornament, or create one out of paper. Visit [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca) for examples. To view Poster, [click here](#).

Here are some videos that show you how to make lovely stars:

Paper bag star - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIV8SEIerFc>

3D Christmas Star - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iraWBwcOfU8>



**Your Advent Visiting Calendar!**

Advent is the time for visiting. While pregnant with Jesus, Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist. And the Magi visit the new parents, Mary and Joseph. This Advent Season, consider sitting down on your own or with your family. Make a list as long as you can of anyone who might appreciate a phone call, an email or a Christmas letter. We all know someone special in a care home, someone in the hospital or a family member or friend we haven't contacted in a long time. List those people, put them on a weekly rotation, and call them, write them,

Zoom them, one by one. Drop cookies off at their door! Have fun with it! And Merry Christmas!

**Parish Finances:** In order to keep our parishes active, we need your financial support, so could you please put your donation in the basket in the sacristy, or mail in your cheque to the parish (Box 58). Thank you very much for your support.

**Donations to the parish:**

You can get a receipt for income tax purposes for your donations to the parish.

Please make sure to make your donations **prior to December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020** if you wish to have a receipt for the year 2020.

Please specify on your check or envelope if you are donating towards Taxes / Insurance, Shaws of Compassion, Cemetery, or other of your choice.

**Marriage Tips:**

Social media and screen time are useful for connecting and getting inspired, but they can also deprive you of valuable couple time. Set family rules for technology and stick to them.

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

# Witnesses to the Light

Our Christmas party is fast approaching. There's no shortage of activity on our city streets and in the malls. It's a feverish time for buying gifts of all kinds. Like everyone else, we are anticipating the series of pre-Christmas festivities.

As Christians, we should not miss out on what is most important: welcoming the One who comes. Jesus, our Savior, surprises us with his birth in a manger, even if the prophets had already foretold it in the Bible.



Quoting from the prophet Isaiah: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour* (Isaiah 61:1-2).

Speaking to the priests and Levites sent from Jerusalem, St. John the Baptist declared that he wanted to bear witness to the Light and that he did not feel *worthy to untie the thong of his sandal*. For St. John and his disciples, Jesus was the One who stood among them and who would fulfill all their expectations.

It's our time to step up. At Jesus' invitation, we must take definite steps that will bring us closer to the poorest people in society. During this time, several campaigns are soliciting us so that we come to the aid of the poor, the sick and prisoners. Christmas is truly a great time to start a longer term commitment to those who are suffering and disadvantaged.

Thus, by following St. John the Baptist, the voice crying in the desert, and Mother Mary, God's humble servant, we become true witnesses to the Light. Like them, we are joyful because the Lord who comes will do "*wonders*" for us and "*his love extends from age to age*".

**Gilles Leblanc**

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli