

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2011

Luke 1:26--38

- Christmas highlights the belief that God is in all of us. We can ignore that, or we can help God be found in all of us. God is active through each of us for each other.
- In the visit of Mary, God came close to Elizabeth in the ordinary and homely moments of every day. These Advent and Christmas days give us the space to allow the huge, eternal mystery become part of the everyday.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19TH

Tuesday	7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Susan Williams by Sarah & family
Friday	9:00 a.m. Mass
Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m. Greta Rutter by Bob
	9:30 p.m. Nick & Phyllis Lacelle & Jack & Mary McCormick by the family Deceased Parents by Theresa & Jim Shea
Christmas Day	9:00 a.m. Jean Vermette by the Burton Family
	11:00 a.m. Des Bolton by Elizabeth

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,223.55 Thank You!

4th Week of Advent

Promise

Promises make us dream and give us new strength.
Broken promises destroy the future and undermine trust.

When love is promised,
human beings become capable of absolute self-gift,
repeated through the passage of time.

When peace is promised,
human beings tear down the walls of hatred
and join together to build.

When freedom is promised,
tanks and missiles and tyrants lose their filthy control.

God promises to come as one with humanity.
God is a promise-keeper, whatever the price to be paid!

Clinging to this promise,
can humanity not make the leap
from the hollow of its very weakness,
toward the greatness and beauty
that it hopes for so much?

From Christmas Pathways

“Individual” Confessions or Reconciliation

In addition to last Tuesday's communal Advent Penitential Service, we have had a number of time slots set aside to accommodate those who choose to celebrate the saving mystery of God's Forgiveness in a more personal way in individual confession. There is one more such time slot left, this coming **Tuesday, December 20 from 7 to 8 p.m.** We are grateful to Father Paul Tennyson s.c.j. and to the Marianhill Fathers who are helping us out for this.

Mass Schedule for Christmas:

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.
Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Mass Schedule for New Year's:

New Year's Eve – Saturday, December 31 7:00 p.m.
New Year's Day – Sunday, January 1 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

For Christmas Masses, we are especially hospitable...

We try to be hospitable at all times. But there is a special need for that when, at Christmas, there are more people participating in our Masses than usual who may not be as familiar with our church and with the way we “do things” as our regular worshippers. And, naturally, there may also be a good number of visitors with us. So let us make sure to make them feel welcome and to give them a hand when there is a need for assistance.

That is especially called for this year now that we are “struggling” to get used to the new version of some of the responses at Mass. The new English translation of some texts presents a challenge to us all.

Poinsettias for our Church's Christmas Decorations:

The Christmas Season is a time when the deceased who have been part of our lives are on our minds and especially in our hearts. We may want to give tangible expression to that in the form of bringing a poinsettia to the church for Christmas, the Feast of God's love for all, the living and the dead. In that light, the poinsettia serves as a sign of our continued affection for those who have died and as an expression of faith that the dead are embraced by God's love.

You can start bringing the Poinsettias in on **Monday, December 19**. Thank you!

Do you have some time to spare after this Sunday's 11:00 a.m. Mass

It takes a bit of time to put up our Christmas decorations in the church. We can make the job easier, if we have some help. We'll do most of it right after the 11:00 a.m. Mass this Sunday. Thank you.

Christmas Holiday Dinner: Friday, December 30 from 4 to 7 p.m.

This is the **twelfth** time that the *Aylmer Ministerial Association* (which is the ecumenical association of ministers of the different Aylmer churches) has been sponsoring **A Christmas Holiday Dinner** which is held at the **Aylmer Food Centre 70 Eardley Road** for families and individuals in the community. If you are interested in participating in it, helping with it and contributing to it – please consult the flyer, the green insert of our Sunday bulletin.

Participation in the Advent Event of November 26, in the Guignolée of December 4, and in the Advent Penitential Service of December 13:

All part of the journey to Confirmation and First Communion

When Confirmation and First Communion and preparation for them stand on their own and sort of occur on the margin of parish life, not much good can be expected from them. In today's context, more than ever before, they need a home, they need a fertile setting, they need a parish community that is serious about and committed to the four poles of parish life: **liturgy, faith formation, fellowship, service/outreach**. That is why an attempt is being made to have the candidates for Confirmation and First Communion and their parents be exposed to and have them participate in some parish activities like the ones mentioned in the heading above. It has a lot to do with cultivating a taste for the many aspects of living a Christian life, of following Jesus Christ. It is so much more than “getting the sacraments done”. It is formative of the faith of the candidates, but it is also formative of the faith of the parents who, in today's context, have an increasingly more important role to play. In fact, for some of them, it is a welcome way of re-connecting with the church as well and having a “second shot” at a more mature life of faith that may have weakened over the years a bit.

Each of the above mentioned activities presents its own challenges. That is especially true of the last one, the Penitential Service. So much depends here on what kind of God we go through life with, who God is for us, how

God supposedly deals with us, also with our sinfulness. Naturally, this then also colours the way we look at ourselves in the presence of God. Is God the one whose specialty it is to set us free, or is God for us the “score-settler”? The sooner we can get rid of that “score-settler” notion of God the better it is. At the other extreme, we do not want to end up with a God who is not much more than a benevolent ‘Santa Claus’.

There is a fair bit of work but – above all – a healthy sense of faith and real competence required for the coordination, for the background input, for the necessary guidance to others who are part of the execution of it all. Many thanks to those who so diligently accompany our younger parishioners and their parents on this faith journey. A parish simply cannot do without them.

Our New Archbishop anxious to get to know his flock

It must be a real challenge for a bishop to be moved from one diocese to another, especially when he knows very little about the new flock that is entrusted to his pastoral care. On November 30 a few of us witnessed his being officially “installed” as the Archbishop of the Gatineau Diocese. It was quite an impressive ceremony with a good number of officials there at St. Joseph Cathedral. Of course, that is an important part, but it is only a tiny part of his getting to know us and of us getting to know him.

Bishop Paul-André Durocher has set the month of January aside for getting around a bit in his new Diocese. He will meet parishioners at a variety of places. His plan is to meet with the parishioners of the English speaking part of the Diocese on **Monday, January 23, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.** This first meeting will take place at **Our Lady of the Annunciation Church at 189 Archambault Street in the Hull sector.** It will take the form of a wine and cheese.

Church Envelopes 2012

They are available in the Marvevee Room (the room behind the folding doors). They are used for the Sunday collection which is really the main source of our income. If you do not find your box, please, let us know. It will be corrected.

The Two Versions of our Sunday Missal: Still many copies available

This refers to the **Living with Christ, Sunday Missal 2011-2012** (blue this year) and to the **2012 Sunday Missal for Young Catholics**. Most likely we do not have much religious reading material in our homes. It would be most appropriate if we had one or possibly both versions of the Sunday Missal in our homes. They may help us prepare for Sunday Mass, but they also contain a good number of prayers that may be quite helpful. Both versions are available at the entrances to the church.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Gabriel Filiou, Lucy Lafontaine, Don Daly and their families in your prayers.