



The Season of Advent is a time of waiting as we prepare ourselves to welcome God. In today's Gospel we meet John the Baptist whose role was to prepare the way for Jesus and to proclaim a Baptism of repentance. Our own role is not unlike that of John the Baptist. Like him each one of us has a mission to communicate the Spirit of Christ and His message of hope, love, freedom and peace.



Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of Antonio Carvalho
Tuesday	Souls of Julian Penoso, Evelyn Aldea, Dexter Sarmiento and Aline Russell
Wednesday	For the Intention of Anne Amore
Thursday	Departed Soul
Friday	Souls of Peter & Lina Soares

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250

Blessed Is She

This Saturday the children of the parish in grade 2 celebrated their first reconciliation. Prior to the celebration we reflected on what a blessing it is that God's Spirit dwells within each of us and desires union with us. In saying yes to the Spirit we accept God's will in our lives and our will conforms with God's. To describe this relationship I compared it to holding God's hand. God's hand is always reaching for ours and when we grasp his hand much like our parent's there is a feeling of peace and intimacy. When a threat occurs, fear creeps in loosening our grip and we react rather than respond. This we call sin. I explain to the children that reconciliation closes this gap and brings us back into full communion with Jesus. Sin is something that happens to us all and even St. Peter was guilty of it many times.

To close the interview I share with the children that there is one person who never lessened her grip of Jesus' hand from the moment of his conception to his death and she promises to do the same for us and that is Our Blessed Mother. She journeyed and comforted her son throughout his life with humility and compassion and loved him immensely. We then pray the Hail Mary in gratitude for Mary.

Throughout life if we are blessed we may be fortunate enough to encounter Marian people. They comfort and listen to us with understanding and love throughout our time together. They don't let the fears of life lessen their grip of Christ's or our hands and our faith in them and thus faith in ourselves and God grows over time as a result. For me this has been the case with our beloved secretary Anne. We started working at the parish only three months apart more than ten years ago and throughout this time Anne has always been there with support and compassion. When my wife and I purchased our first home we celebrated. When I was stressed as a new father with a big baby she encouraged. When I submitted countless columns just prior to the deadline she understood and affirmed. When things were hectic before an Appreciation Dinner she trusted. When I shared with her the loss of my father, she consoled. Anne accepted me and the variances of life not as a friend or a coworker but as a loving mother. She always conducted herself with dignity and grace. We officially said our goodbye this past Sunday at her retirement reception after the 12:15pm Mass and I imagine her words as we embraced were the same as Our Blessed Mother's when she last embraced her son. "I love you," she gently whispered, "I love you too," I whispered back. Thanks Anne for the last ten years, blessed are you among women and blessed is St. Luke's for having you.

John Humphries.



ST. LUKE'S DECEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
for the parish will be celebrated on:
Wednesday – December 12th at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve – December 24th
4:00 p.m. with pageant, 8:00 p.m., and 12 midnight
with carols starting ½ hour before each Mass

Christmas Day – December 25th
10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.

New Year's Eve – December 31st
5:00 p.m. Mass

New Year's Day – January 1st
10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM

Special envelopes marked Christmas Basket Program will be available in the pews and in the Narthex. Please place your donations in the envelope and drop it into the St. Vincent de Paul poor box. The funds will be used to purchase gift cards and will be distributed according to the size of the family. **Tax receipts will be issued by the Society of St. Vincent Paul. Please make cheques payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**

ADVENT PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Monday, December 10, 2018 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the Church Hall Potluck snacks and fellowship will follow the praise and worship. Everyone is welcome. Bring your family and friends as we celebrate Advent with prayers and songs in preparation for the Christmas Season.

Next Praise and Worship: Monday, January 14, 2019 and every 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, thereafter.

For more information please call Josie Vitolo: 905-764-6221 or Lydia Bustamante: 905-881-7363



NEW YEAR'S EVE
DINNER DANCE

Now is the time to start planning for your New Year's Eve celebration! We are continuing our tradition of having a high class served dinner and dance for a very affordable price. The evening begins with arrival at 7:00 and hors d'oeuvres served while you are settling in and socializing with your family and parish friends. Then at 8:00 you will be served at your table your choice of Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken with all the trimmings. Dancing follows to the music of the DJ Greg Benoit so bring your requests! Champagne and party favours are included in your ticket. There will be door prizes and a bar to purchase your drinks of choice. Tickets will be on sale this weekend so reserve your table early. The whole family is invited! Prices are: Adults \$45 Seniors \$30 Children 11 and under \$20. For further information contact Greg at greg.benoit@rogers.com or at 647-296-6851.



St. Vincent de Paul
TO OUR GENEROUS PARISHIONERS

As you know, your food donations go to the Georgina Community Food Pantry. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated and important to the work of the Pantry. Thank you for living out your Catholic faith by helping our neighbours in need.

God Bless You and Merry Christmas.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the beautiful farewell celebration and for all your good wishes. You will forever be in my heart and in my prayers.
Anne Amore