

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARCEL DAMPHOUSSE

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie:

“On this day was born to us a Saviour Who is Christ the Lord”

Christmas, as we know, is not just the anniversary of Jesus’ birth. It is not simply a commemoration of an historical event. The mystery of the Incarnation continues to be fulfilled today, here and now, at this precise moment.

The “on this day” proclaimed in the liturgy indicates that the birth of Jesus permeates and inhabits history. To celebrate Christmas is to highlight an event that has marked the history of humanity and continues to do so, even today. To celebrate Christmas is to mark an event that touches and transforms our personal and collective lives.

On this day, we experience the tenderness of God Who, with love and mercy, looks upon our limits, our weaknesses, our sin, our humanity. He goes even further: without ceasing to be God, He becomes one of us in order to take part in our lives. On this day, as at every Eucharist, God gives Himself to us so that we may fully participate in His own life.

On this day, God offers each and every one of us the opportunity to recognize and welcome Him as did the shepherds, so that Jesus may also be born into our life, bringing renewal, light and transformation through His grace and presence. The more we welcome Jesus at the heart of our lives, the more we will be able to be His witnesses and to make Him known within our life circles.

During each “today” of 2019, let us walk with Jesus and with each other so that, together, we may build a better world. Together let us pray and work so that through the Incarnation of Jesus:

- † our wounded and divided world may build peace and unity,
- † our shaken Church may rekindle its missionary spirit,
- † people in search of meaning and love may be comforted and fulfilled,
- † refugees and immigrants may find a land of welcome and freedom,
- † people on the margins of society may be supported and integrated,
- † people broken by violence may find healing in the love of others.

What if we all started together, on this day?

On this Christmas, I bless each and every one of you. Merry Christmas! Christmas of peace! At the beginning of 2019, I wish all of you a year of faith, hope, grace and fullness of life.



The Roman Catholic Parishes of
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - Garson
ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead

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December 30, 2018 CHRISTMAS OCTAVE
THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
~~~THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED THIS WEEK~~~

 **CHIT CHAT AND COFFEE:** Cancelled this week, as Fr. Michael will be celebrating Mass at Finlandia on Friday morning.

Mass Schedule December 31, 2018 — January 6, 2019		
St. John the Evangelist		
Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday, December 31		No Parish Mass Today
Tuesday, January 1	10:30 a.m.	For Peace in our Hearts and in the World
Wednesday, January 2	9:30 a.m.	For the Intentions of all Parishioners
Thursday, January 3	9:30 a.m.	For the Intentions of all Parishioners
Friday, January 4	10:00 a.m.	Mass is celebrated today at Finlandia
Saturday, January 5	4:30 p.m.	For the Intentions of all Parishioners
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD		
Sunday, January 6	10:30 a.m.	For Sister Rita Bowers by the Roach Family
St. Bernardine of Siena		
Sunday, January 6	9:00 a.m.	For Charlie Goudreau by May D'Amour Goudreau & Family

A Consecration, like the one we were invited to make today to the Holy Family, is an ancient tradition of freely giving ourselves more fully over to God, in response to His invitation to us to enter into a Covenant Relationship. Through this Consecration, we invite Mary, Jesus and Joseph to guide our family in all our words, actions and choices. In like manner, we dedicate ourselves more fully to imitating their example of love in their relationship with one another—to strive to live as they lived their family life together. The consecration prayer we used at Church today reflects this; families are encouraged pray this consecration prayer together on a regular basis.



FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS: On Friday, December 28th, the Fourth Day of the Christmas Octave, we celebrated the Mass of the Holy Innocents—those babies slaughtered by King Herod in his attempt to kill Jesus. Happily, our Parish collectively prayed for 21 babies not yet born in 2018, all of whom were in danger of abortion, with the conviction that God would save them from tragic death, by moving their mother's hearts in such a way as to bring their babies to term. We prayed for them on Friday. The names of those we adopted are:

George, Hanna, Richard, Kendra, Jacob, Anastasia Mary, Fulton, Gloria, Peter, Ariel, August Joseph, Anna, Robert Duncan, Antonia, Jesse, Abbeygayle, Chance, Marie, Samuel, Angela and Sara Grace.

Beginning soon, new adoption papers will be made available for those who wish to adopt and pray for an unborn child in 2019.

A MOVIE AFTERNOON: Everyone is invited to see the powerful movie "The Shack" in our Parish Hall on Sunday, December 30th, beginning at 3pm. It's just over 2 hours long, and there will be complimentary pizza available for dinner when the movie is over. There will also be popcorn to munch on during the show. If you have a favourite beverage, feel free to bring it.



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in making our Christmas celebrations beautiful and meaningful. All our Liturgical and Hospitality Ministers were at their best, and both the Environment and Music Ministries pulled it all together with beautiful displays, music and singing. Well done everyone! And we continue to enjoy the fruits of your efforts.

<u>YOUR OFFERINGS for December 23, 2018</u>	
St. John the Evangelist Envelopes: \$1,420.00	Loose: \$126.75
Pre-Authorized Deductions: \$787.00	Total: \$2,333.75
St. Bernardine of Siena Envelopes: \$325.00	Loose: \$40.00
	Total: \$365.00
<u>YOUR OFFERINGS for December 25, 2018</u>	
St. John the Evangelist Envelopes: \$3,188.00	Loose: \$732.60
Pre-Authorized Deductions: \$820.00	Total: \$4,740.60
St. Bernardine of Siena Envelopes: \$826.00	Total: \$826.00

