

St. Jerome's Parish

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jan Kolodynski, Pastor

Mrs. Rocelyn Esposito, Parish Secretary

Mr. Jorge Barbosa, Property Manager



A Blessed Christmas



Let Your goodness Lord appear to us, that we made in your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate Your majesty, power, and wonder nor is it fitting for us to try. But Your mercy reaches from the heavens through the clouds to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love caress us with Your tiny hands, embrace us with Your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries. Amen.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1155)

With prayerful good wishes for a Holy and Blessed Christmas,
Fr. Jan & St. Jerome's staff



December 25th – 31st

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.
Office Closed

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
† Romualdo Gregorio

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
† Daniel Panacci

Friday, 7:00 p.m.
† Pio Jose Gouveia

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
† Charles Schembri



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) December 31 st	5:00 p.m.
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) January 1, 2018	10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Daily Mass January 2, 2018	10:00 a.m.



2018 SUNDAY MISSALS NOW ON SALE!

The 2018 *Living with Christ* Sunday Missals are now available for purchase at the parish office. Cost \$5.



CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open on **Wednesday, December 27th**. Daily Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 26th. We will be closed again on Friday, December 29th at 12:00 p.m. Daily Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. The office will be open on **Wednesday, January 3, 2018.**

PROVIDE-A-MEAL PROGRAM

Good Shepherd Centre



The next pick-up date for the Good Shepherd Centre is **Friday, January 5, 2018**. Please remember to bring your casseroles to the church before

10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2018 offertory envelopes are ready for pick up in the gathering space. The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order by last name. Please ensure that you pick up the correct envelope number and confirm your name and address information is correct.



Please let the parish office know if there are any changes. The address on the offertory box will be used to mail out your 2017 tax donation receipt.

We encourage new parishioners and those who are currently not using parish offertory envelopes to pick up an *unassigned* box and register the envelope number with the parish office.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, THE ENVELOPE NUMBER MAY HAVE BEEN RE-ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER PARISHIONER.

Thank you to all our volunteers who arranged and prepared all the offertory envelopes!

I love my
Catholic Moms Group
LOVE. LAUGHTER. MOMENTS OF GRACE

ST. JEROME'S MOMS GROUP

Moms of all ages are invited to join our weekly **Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** Moms Group at St. Jerome's Parish.

The Moms Group will also meet on the **Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month**. The group meets once a week in fellowship to support each other, learn more about our faith and become instruments of love in our families and community. Babysitting is available.

For more information, please contact Jyotsna at 289-752-6743 or Brenda at 905-454-4081.



St. Jerome's Youth Group meets on **Tuesday evenings** in the Social Hall from **7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** All youth in grades 8-12 are welcome to join.

We hope to see you there!

CHARITY SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

December 30th & 31st

On the last Sunday of each month, we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items or cash donations which will be used to purchase food vouchers. This is a much needed service to assist families in need within our parish boundary and community.



THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE



An evergreen sprang from the centre of an oak cut down by St. Boniface. The oak symbolized paganism, and its death brought an end to the old ways. The new tree was "*the sign of endless life, for its leaves are evergreen.*" St. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith.

History:

11th Century – During Advent, religious plays were performed around Europe. There was always a tree on stage, decorated with red apples, to symbolize the Tree of Paradise.

15th Century – The faithful began displaying paradise trees in their homes on December 24th, the feast of Adam and Eve.

16th Century – Decorated standing trees became popular in Germany and France. Immigrants brought the tradition to America, but the custom was not popular until the 19th century.

18th Century 18th – The Christmas tree tradition started in Canada

The Christmas tree reminds us of:

- the tree planted in the centre of Eden
- the tree of the Cross

The decorating of the Christmas tree offers an opportunity for family prayer.

FAMILY PRAYER

We praise you for the beauty of this tree: may its evergreen branches remind us of your unending care for all people; may its lights illumine the darkness of the winter nights; may its presence bring cheer and hope for all people. Amen.

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