

**St. Rose of Lima Church  
First Sunday in Advent  
December 3, 2017**



**Pastor:**

**Father David Martin**

**Masses:**

**Thursday: 12:10 PM Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM**

**Confession:**

**Saturday at 3:00 PM**

**Baptisms:**

**Please call the Office 653-6850 for arrangements.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. MATTHEW</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FR. LEBLANC</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FR. DAVID</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. AUGUSTINE</b>	<b>5PM</b>	<b>FR. DAVID</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>5PM</b>	<b>FR. LEBLANC</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. MATTHEW</b>	<b>7PM – TAPERS</b>	<b>FR. DAVID</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>9PM</b>	<b>FR. LEBLANC</b>
<b>DEC 25, 2017</b>	<b>ST. AUGUSTINE</b>	<b>10AM</b>	<b>FR. DAVID</b>
<b>DEC 25, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>10AM</b>	<b>FR. LEBLANC</b>

**EVENING PRAYER – ST. AUGUSTINE – DEC. 6, 2017 - 7PM**  
**ST. MATTHEW – DEC. 13, 2017 - 7PM**  
**ST. ROSE – DEC. 14, 2017 - 7PM**

## Advent Blessings Everyone!!

Advent, which comes from the Latin word “arrival” or “coming,” is a period of preparation for the birth of our Lord. Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas and is the start of the Christmas season, which lasts through the Baptism of our Lord. The First Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the liturgical year, the Church’s “New Year’s Day,” at which time we change the cycle of readings (from Year A to Year C) we are using for Mass. It is a time of “New Beginnings!”

Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, but also of penance and preparation for the great Christmas feast. The liturgical colour of the season is purple, a sign of penance, which is also used during Lent. During this preparatory time, the Church discourages, excessive decorations, boisterous music, weddings and baptisms (only in emergencies) in order to foster a sense of quiet hope.

Advent is a time to reflect on our lives as Christians; to pray with Sacred Scripture, and to reach out to those in need. To help us during this time of waiting and preparing, we offer to you for your family a Daily Reflection Booklet, entitled, “**Living Faith Advent.**” Each day a new reflection with the theme of the daily readings offers us a chance to sit quietly for a few moments in prayer. As well, **Evening Prayer** will be offered at each parish (Dec 6 @ 7pm St. Augustine, Dec 13, @ 7pm, St. Matthew and Dec 14 @ 7pm St. Rose). If you have never attended one of these liturgical celebrations, I encourage you to do so...they are beautiful! Of course there is the **Mass** and there is the practice giving to those in need, a person on the streets, a family, contributions to the food bank, and so on or perhaps a need to be brought forth for the greater community.

Advent is about hope! It is my hope that all or some of these aids will help us prepare as we wait for the celebration of the coming of Jesus at Christmas and the end times. But again, Advent is a ‘New Beginning’ What new beginning are we asked to embrace? Please continue to pray for our parishes and our diocese as we await the announcement of mergers, realignment and closures that will be made in January by Bishop Harris. For the past 5 years we have been preparing for this announcement that will allow us to build a stronger and healthier faith community. As we journey through this season of “newness,” let us remember our sick and those suffering in anyway, our deceased, and those struggling to make sense of life. Know that you are in my daily prayers! Once again, Advent Blessings Everyone!!

Fr. David

**Please see the front of the bulletin for a list of Masses and services for Advent.  
We will be having a special Service of Lessons and Carols on December 14!**

# Revitalization: What's that?

By Fr. John Jennings  
(added February 24, 2017)

Over the past few months we've spoken a lot about the revitalization of our church in the Diocese of Saint John. What exactly do we mean by that? What would a revitalized church look like?

Revitalizing means bringing new life. In the case of our diocese, it means building communities that are filled with life. It means parishes that are more than service stations with a Mass on Sunday and little else. It means parishes where we welcome our senior and mature members. But it also means communities filled with active younger members, children, and young adults, all contributing their energy, time and talents.

The Disciple Maker Survey included a number of questions that asked us to think beyond our present reality. Several of those questions gave us a pretty clear idea of what revitalized communities might look like. For instance, we were asked how effectively our parish assisted us in our spiritual growth. As well, we were asked about how ready we are to share our faith with others. Both of these questions indicate what we're hoping for: parishes and communities that are full of life and ready to share this new life in the broader community.

If you completed the survey, you might recall that you were asked to respond with a number, indicating how much you agreed or disagreed with several statements: "My parish helps me to grow spiritually as a Catholic." "My parish helps me to grow spiritually...Forming me as a disciple of Jesus Christ."

These questions reveal that a revitalized parish and diocesan church would be able to nurture the broad spiritual needs of the community. They would be constantly growing in their spiritual life and promoting the growth of spirituality in each one of the members. A parish that is a community of disciples of Jesus.

It's one thing to see our Catholic faith as simply going to Mass on Sunday. It's something else again to see our Catholic faith as living and learning and working together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Sharing the Good News. Being witnesses of the Gospel to others.

A revitalized parish and diocese will be willing and able to offer liturgies where we share the gifts and energies of the whole community. It will provide opportunities for growing the faith of adults, young people and children. A revitalized parish will reach beyond the walls of the church and share its energies and resources in outreach. A revitalized church is the face of Jesus in our world.

In the charity of your prayers, please remember: Monsignor Joseph Woods, Philip McCann, J. Raymond Hooley, Leslie Mackie, George Northrup

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

*Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of Paul Ernst*

If you wish to place a sanctuary lamp in memory of a loved one, please call the Office at 653-6850.

**Mass Intentions**

Thursday, December 7	<b>12:10 PM</b>	Brian LeBlanc
Saturday, December 9	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Leo and Yvonne David
Sunday, December 10	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Kay Connolly

**Stewardship for the week ending November 26th, 2017**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>2642.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>356.15</b>
<b>Food Bank</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>Priests and Seminarians</b>	<b>1534.55</b>
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	<b>438.65</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5006.35</b>

**Announcements**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** If you would like to donate Christmas Flowers in memory of your loved ones, please put your donation in an envelope and place it in the collection basket. Please include your name, envelope # and the name of the individual(s) you are honouring – a lovely way to remember, and at the same time, beautify our Church.

**Mass for Life:** Wednesday December 6 at 7:00 PM at Divine Mercy Catholic School.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** The schedule for Masses at all three churches is on the front of our bulletin.

**LOOKING FOR HELP!**

- 1) If you would be willing to help **count the collection** on Saturday or Sunday, please call the Rectory at 653-6850.
- 2) If you are able to **sponsor a family in need for Christmas**, please call the Rectory. Amounts requested vary from \$25 to \$125, depending on the size of the family. All donations greatly appreciated.
- 3) **MITTEN TREE** – Once again this Christmas, the **CWL are collecting mittens** and other knitted items for the children of our community. There will be a basket at the back of the Church. Thank you!