

Christmas 2017



Keep Christ in
CHRISTMAS





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Catholic Church • Peterborough

A special

Welcome!

A special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, "it's complicated," filthy rich, dirt poor, or no hablo Ingles.

There is a place for you if you are over 60 but not grown up yet, or a teenager growing up too fast.

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, Toronto Maple Leaf fans, Montreal Canadiens fans, starving artists, tree-huggers, those in recovery, and those who are still addicted.

We welcome you if you sing like Pavarotti or can't carry a note in a bucket. You are welcome here if you're just browsing, just got bored at the bus stop, just woke up, or just got out of jail.

We welcome those who are wearing "church clothes" and those who are wearing their only clothes.

We don't care if it is your first Sunday at church or whether you've been to Church more times than the pope.

We welcome you if you are having problems or are feeling overwhelmed or if you don't like "organized religion." If you are looking for a fresh start, a fresh cup of coffee, or a hug from a new friend there is a place for you here.

We are so glad to see those who are inked, pierced, or both, those who could use a prayer right now, those who haven't been to church since Aunt Carol's funeral, and those who got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and jaded cynics, the lost, the found... and **YOU!**

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December 25, 2017
&
December 31, 2017



MASS TIMES

Saturday
5:00PM

Sunday
9:00AM
11:00AM

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:00AM

Tuesday and Thursday
7:00PM

PARISH INFO

www.stalphonsus.net
office@stalphonsus.net

705-745-8623
1066 Western Ave.
Peterborough, ON K9J 5W6

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30AM - 4:30PM

SACRAMENTS

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Anointing of the sick visit:
stalphonsus.net/sacraments
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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

To all our Guests:

I would like to wish all of you who are visiting our parish for the Feast of Christmas a very warm welcome. I pray that you and your family will be blessed by coming to a greater knowledge of Emmanuel, God With Us. If you are in Peterborough for the holidays we pray that you have a joy-filled and life-giving visit with your family and friends. If you are visiting us from another faith community, we welcome you and wish you every blessing as we celebrate our common faith in the Child of Bethlehem. I would like to extend a special welcome to anyone who has been away from Church. Please know that you are always welcome here. We are a community of followers of the Lord Jesus. We don't do it perfectly, but we strive to be the kind of community that Jesus calls us to be. We believe that our mission is to do more than simply satisfy our own particular spiritual needs. We believe that we are called to make a difference in the world, in our community together. If knowing Jesus makes a difference in your life and you are not connected with a church, we would love to have you join us.

If you have been away from the Church we would love to have you return. Perhaps consider joining us for several of the spiritual and social programs we offer here. This is your home; you belong here and we would love to have you come and be a part of what God is doing here at

St. Alphonse Liguori Parish.

God bless all of you and your families.

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Jerry Tavares

Pastor

Fr. Alarey Abella, C.P.P.S.

PRHC Chaplain

Fr. Craig Cruikshank

Assisting Priest

Nicolas DuBonnet

Youth Minister

Samantha Wigglesworth

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Hanna Dracup

Administrative Assistant

PARISH DIRECTORY

Adoration Chapel

Bernadette Beggs ▶ 742-3055

Altar Servers

Dominic Adesanya ▶ 748-0023

Catholic Women's League

Betty Sommers ▶ 748-2521

Choir Director (11am Mass)

Rod Crawford ▶ 741-8717

Communion (homebound)

Catherine Robertson ▶ 745-5760

Development & Peace

Amanda McInnes ▶ 749-9910

Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors

Anne-Marie Robertson ▶ 743-8185

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Jim Gibson ▶ 742-5578

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Wayne Carter ▶ 743-7275

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Cathy Dickson ▶ 874-5325

Vinnie's Store ▶ 742-2585

Food Pantry ▶ 874-3937

Volunteer Screening

Marilyn Gibson ▶ 742-5578

OFFER A MASS

You can request a Mass at the Welcome Desk at any weekend Mass.

To our Parishioners:

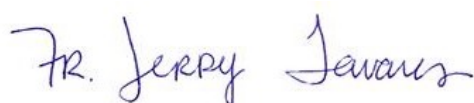
Thank you for a wonderful year!

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor and of being able to witness such wonderful growth and transformation in our parish. We are working very hard at developing a culture of discipleship and evangelization in our parish. Some time ago, you may remember that I preached on the need to go '*from Maintenance to Mission*': to build up our parish family and to reach out to those who are searching for light in an often darkened world. We have much work to do but we now have momentum behind us. I wish to thank, in a particular way, all who serve in ministries, groups, and committees, and those who serve as their leaders. Without you, our parish would come to a screeching halt. I am also incredibly overwhelmed by your generosity in support of relief efforts for all the disasters occurring around the world, as well as helping the needy in our own community.

In the coming year, I look forward to how we can more and more become a Church that goes out to the community, to be a true missionary Church. But more on that later. For now, let us rest and relax with family and friends. I ask for your prayers and please know that you are in mine.

God bless you.

Merry Christmas,



Fr. Jerry Tavares

TODAY'S READINGS

DECEMBER 25, 2017

1st Reading: Isaiah 62.1-5

2nd Reading: Acts 13.16-17,22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1.1-25

DECEMBER 31, 2017

1st Reading: Sirach 3.2-6,12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

MASS INTENTIONS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25, 10AM

Missa Pro Populo (for the people)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

Saturday, December 30, 5PM

Missa Pro Populo (for the people)

Sunday, December 31, 9AM

✠ Dale Healey

Sunday, December 31, 11AM

Special Intentions of
Suzanne Wigglesworth

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, December 31, 5PM

Missa Pro Populo (for the people)

Monday, January 1, 10AM

Missa Pro Populo (for the people)

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 6, 5PM

✠ George and Eileen Collins

Sunday, January 7, 9AM

Missa Pro Populo (for the people)

Sunday, January 7, 11AM

✠ Paul Castonguay



MESSAGE SERIES: ANGELS

We are not alone in this world. God uses angels regularly to intervene in the world and pave the way to work and announce what He is doing. These beings may be perceived as mythological, impish, or mysterious to some, but they are actually very alive and active in the world today. Angels serve a key role in the Biblical story (and our lives) as comforters, protectors, messengers, and worshippers. During this series, we will explore the gift of angels and why it matters to believe. Angels are around us all the time, nearer than we think, and much more useful than we can even imagine.

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

Octave of Christmas

Tuesday - Friday, December 26 - 29

No Daily Masses

Christmas Season

Tuesday - Friday, January 2 - 5

No Daily Masses

The Parish office is closed for the Christmas break, reopening January 8, 2018 at 8:30am

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Gaye Ayotte, Rosina Bianco, Doreen Bugutsky, Baby Emmaline, Baby Dylan, Albert Crowley, George Cull, Hugh Laviolette, Meaghan Lisle, Mike McManus, Jack McNamara, Tom Milko, Pauline Monahan, Don Morton, John Nicholson, Jessica Pluard, Helen Shaw, Carmel Shulist, Irene St. Rose, Owen Thompson, Carolyn Watt.

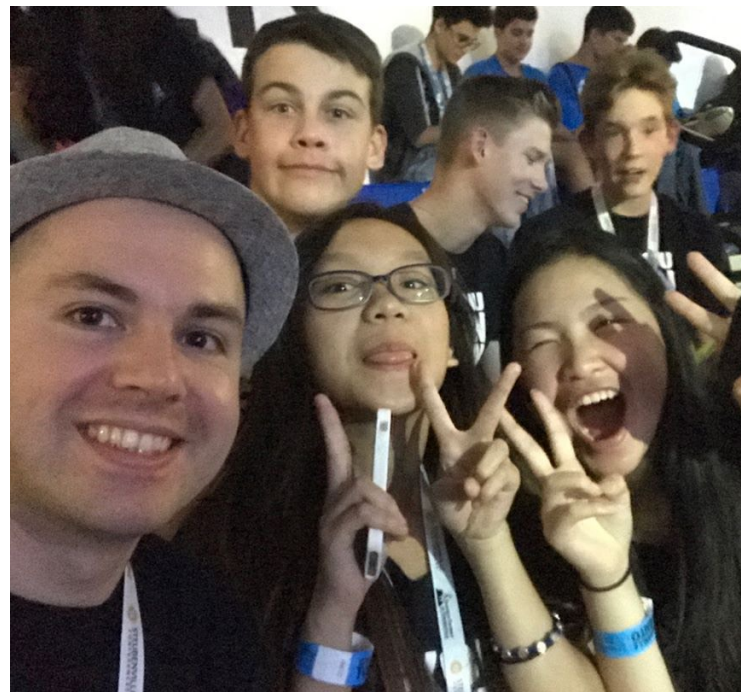
YOUTH MINISTRY

If anyone is going to change the world, it's the next generation. Our student ministry is for students in 5-12th grade. It's designed to give them a place where they can connect with God and other people and have fun.



High School

Life Teen is our program for high school students. At Life Teen, teens worship, learn, and grow as they get to know the Lord Jesus. Life Teen students go deeper with one another and adult mentors, and form life-long friendships. Life Teen meets Saturday Nights 6:30 – 8:30 pm.



Middle School

EDGE is our program for middle school students (grades 5-8). At EDGE, students grow through the relevant message of the Gospel and worship through music. And they have fun too! Students meet in small groups to ask questions and discuss the message as it applies to their life. It's here where life change begins. EDGE meets Wednesday nights 6:30 – 8:30 pm.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TINY DISCIPLES

St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish offers childcare so parents can fully participate in the 11AM Mass. Tiny Disciples is meant for children ages 2 - 5.

KID'S CHURCH

Kid's Church is offered at the Sunday morning 9AM and 11AM Masses. It is intended primarily for children between 4 and 8 years old. The gathering seeks to transmit elements of the week's readings through stories, discussions, activities, songs and prayer - at their level!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Looking for a quiet place to pray and spend some time with God any day of the week?

Stop by the Adoration Chapel located off the main parking lot of the church.

If you would like to schedule a regular time for adoration and personal prayer, please contact Bernadette at 742-3055.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

Join us for talk, prayers and refreshments the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 2:30-3:30PM in the Redemptorist Room (beside the office). All are welcome. Call Marnie for more info at 705-743-2080

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Join us as we 'break open the Word'. Every Friday morning, following the 8AM Mass, a group of parishioners meet to read over the weekend readings and reflect on them. This is an excellent opportunity to explore how the readings speak to us. Anyone is welcome to attend.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

During Advent the candles on the Advent Wreath were lit before Mass. This week they were lit by:
5:00pm - Mantifel Family
9:00am - D'Almeida Family
11:00am - Llacuna Family

Have an announcement for the Newsletter?

If you'd like to include an announcement in the Newsletter, please note the deadline is Tuesday at 12Noon. Thanks!

RING UNDER THE TREE?

We look forward to welcoming you to our Marriage Preparation Process here at St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Arrangements for the Sacrament of Matrimony must be made with a parish priest 12 months before the desired date. Stop by the Welcome Desk or call 705-745-8623 for more info.

FUTURE CATHOLIC TEACHER?

Students and teachers applying for a position with the Catholic School Board must have a pastoral reference from their parish priest. It is a pre-requisite. Please be aware that Fr. Jerry will only provide references for registered parishioners who are personally known to him. Attendance at Sunday Mass is expected and participation in parish ministries is a definite plus when applying for any teaching job.

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If you are new to the parish and haven't registered, we encourage you to join our family. Visit stalphonsus.net/join

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Summary of your Financial Stewardship
for December 17, 2017:

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
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| Electronic Giving: | \$3,027.01 |
| Loose: | \$ 638.00 |
| Total Offertory: | \$8,201.51 |

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When a death occurs, please call the Parish Office first to arrange for the funeral liturgy.

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Christmas Message 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Like you, I am looking forward eagerly to the celebration of Christmas, especially since this is my first one here in Peterborough, my new home. I give thanks to God for many blessings this Christmas, especially for the kind, encouraging and gracious welcome that you have shown to me. It is good to be at home in Peterborough!

The Catholic writer, G.K. Chesterton, often reflected on the theme of Christmas. He once wrote: "Christmas is built on a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home." Jesus was born into the bosom of family, but far from anything like a home: Mary and Joseph, faced with a "no vacancy" sign after a long journey, took refuge in a humble and untidy stable. Still, they experienced joy at the birth of Jesus, God's own Son, the long-awaited Messiah.

For those blessed to be at home surrounded by loved ones this Christmas, and for those who will be far from family and friends, the meaning of the Lord's Nativity is the same. In his lowly birth, we see the great love and compassion of God for humanity. Strengthened by this hope, we make our pilgrimage through this earthly life. Christians are always, to some extent, travellers in a foreign land, for we realize that our true homeland is with our heavenly Father.

Nonetheless, within the community of the Church, we already have some foretaste of our eternal destiny. At Christmas, we rejoice that God himself chose to make his home with us and revealed that we are His beloved children. May the joy of Christ's birth fill your family home at this time, and may all of us, in the bosom of the Church – our spiritual home – generously share the great gifts of love, mercy and peace this Christmas.

I pray that you may have a very blessed Christmas and I ask your prayers for me during this holy season.

Yours in Christ,

† Daniel Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough

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