



St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church ■ stalphonsus.net

Are you new here? Welcome! No matter who you are or where you're from, we're so glad you've joined us. Stop by the Welcome Desk, we'd love to meet you!

December 22, 2019

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS // Merry Christmas from the staff and volunteers of St. Alphonsus Liguori! We wish you and your family God's peace and blessings this Christmas and always.

GRACE AND TRUTH // Advent is a time when grace and truth enter the world in a special way: the arrival of Jesus. Many of us can struggle to balance grace and truth; we tend to be good at emphasizing one but not the other. Truth without grace isn't actually truth, it's about being right. Grace without truth isn't really grace, it's enabling or lawless. It's not "either/or", but "both/and"!

WEEKDAY MASSES // There will be no regular weekday Masses December 23rd, 2019 to January 3rd, 2020. They will resume Monday, January 6th at 8AM.

SERVE THIS CHRISTMAS // **Christmas is coming and we need your help!**

To help make our church welcoming to all our guests we need YOUR help with parking, greeting (before and after Masses), hospitality and more. Please sign up online by going to stalphonsus.net, scroll down and click on the box **Serve Christmas** or stop by the Welcome Desk to plug yourself in. Let's make this Christmas experience amazing!

SAVING SEATS AT CHRISTMAS // At our busier Christmas Masses, our dedicated team of ushers often run into the issue of people saving seats while the church fills beyond capacity. Our ushers will respect this to a point, but if the church has filled and your guests have not arrived, the ushers have been instructed to begin filling in the empty pews, particularly to accommodate our elderly parishioners and your children. We want to be as welcoming as possible, but we ask that if you are at the busier Masses to be sure that everyone in your group arrive early enough to claim their seats. Thank you.

TINY DISCIPLES

Tiny Disciples is a drop-off worship experience for Kids ages 2-5. Kids get the chance to have fun and learn that God loves them while their parents get some quiet time to participate in worship. Tiny Disciples runs every Sunday at the 9AM and 11AM Masses. Just follow the signs to the Tiny Disciples area or stop by the Welcome Desk to learn more.

SWITCH

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

KIDS CHURCH

For children in grades 1-5, we offer Kids Church, a worship experience for our younger members. How does it work? Children go to Mass with their families; after the opening prayer, they're invited to gather in a separate area for readings, a message, and a fun worship experience geared to their age. Kids Church runs every Sunday at the 9AM and 11AM Masses.

IMPACT

iMPACT is our program for high school students. At iMPACT, teens worship, learn, and grow as they get to know the Lord Jesus. iMPACT small groups are where students go deeper with one another and adult mentors, and form life-long friendships. iMPACT meets Saturday nights 6:30 - 8:30PM in the meeting space behind the parish office. Free Supper at 6PM!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION // To celebrate God's mercy and love, you are invited to come to our **12 Hours of Grace, All Day Reconciliation, this Monday, December 23rd, 9AM to 9PM.** This will be the last opportunity for confession before Christmas.

9AM - 11AM - Fr. Bill Moloney & Fr. Stan Witczak

11AM - 1PM - Bishop Miehm & Fr. Tom Lynch & Fr. Damian Smullen

1PM - 3PM - Fr. Peter Seabrooke, Fr. Paul Massel & Fr. Ray Rick

3PM - 5PM - Fr. Andrew Begin, Fr. Tony Barol & Fr. Innocent Umezika

5PM - 7PM - Fr. Craig Cruikshank & Fr. Israel Oruebi

7PM - 9PM - Fr. Jerry Tavares & Fr. John Perdue

CHRISTMAS MASSES // We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you! We have many guests join us on Christmas, particularly on Christmas Eve. If it is possible, we encourage you to attend Mass at 7 or 10PM on Christmas Eve or 10AM Christmas Day (instead of the 4PM Christmas Eve Mass, which is extremely crowded).

Christmas Eve 4PM (Children's dramatization at 3:40) **7PM, 10PM** (Solemn Mass with incense)

Christmas Day 10AM

The full Christmas week Mass schedule can be found in the December Ignite and on our website stalphonus.net - scroll down to Christmas Schedule.

4PM CHRISTMAS EVE SHUTTLE BUS // Continuous hassle free service to and from the front door of the church at the 4PM Christmas Eve Mass. Shuttle service from St. Alphonsus Elementary School, St. Mary's St., to the Church starts at 2PM. Let's welcome our guests and those with mobility issues by providing them parking at the church while we take the shuttle bus. People who used it last year loved it. They even sang carols and got a treat!

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL // The Chapel (Oratory) will be closed Sunday, December 22nd at 11PM and re-open Friday, December 27th at 7AM. It will also be closed for the day, Wednesday, January 1, 2020. The Blessed Sacrament will be in the church during our All Day Confessions, Monday, December 23rd from 9AM to 9PM for you to come and visit.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 23 NO MASS All Day Confessions 9AM-9PM

Tues., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve MASSES 4PM, 7PM, 10PM

Wed., Dec. 25 Christmas Day MASS 10AM

Thurs., Dec. 26 NO MASS

Fri., Dec. 27 NO MASS

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sat., Dec. 28 5PM - Missa Pro Populo (for the people)

Sun., Dec. 29 9AM - The Family of Wendy Baird

Sun., Dec. 29 11AM - Antonio Llacuna

WEEKEND WORSHIP

Saturday 5PM

Sunday 9AM*

11AM*

*Children's Ministry for ages 2 to Grade 5

RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays 6:15-6:45PM

Saturdays 3:30-4:30PM

OUR TEAM

Pastor ▸ Fr. Jerry Tavares

Youth Minister ▸ Nicolas DuBonnet

Lay Pastoral Assistant ▸ Samantha Miller

Administrative Assistant ▸ Hanna Dracup

Operations ▸ Peter Doyle

STAY CONNECTED

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email: office@stalphonus.net

Visit our website for a lot more information on what we have to offer: stalphonus.net



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Some of our most beloved Christmas carols emphasize the peace and stillness of that very first Christmas: “Silent Night,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “Away in a Manger:” they all convey a mood of serenity and calm. Since Bethlehem was filled with people who came for the census, one wonders if things weren’t a little noisier and more chaotic in that town than the popular images portray. Yet there is a deeper spiritual truth that the Gospel writers express – that our Lord came to us not with fanfare as a conquering king, but quietly and humbly, born in the most poor and ordinary of surroundings. Jesus is truly “Emmanuel,” God with us.

It is ironic that the build-up to Christmas in our society is anything but peaceful and serene. Many of us are busier than ever as we attend to the various demands of preparation, shopping and socializing. At their best, those things often become a part of the festive celebration of the season. Sometimes they can become onerous and distracting, as our Christmas to-do lists seem to grow ever longer. We may find ourselves yearning for the much-advertised silence and calm of that first Christmas.

There is surely much in our lives and the world around us that deprives us of peace: hectic schedules, family anxieties, political and economic uncertainty. Yet, during this holy season we recall that Jesus came into our often messy and chaotic world in order to bring the precious gift of peace. Our God came to be with us in our frail humanity, to save us and bring us new life. The assurance that God is with us invites us to set our hearts always on God. It is there that we will find peace even when we experience strife, anxiety and uncertainty. And, in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, it is by divine grace that we will become channels of God’s peace in our world.

I wish you all a very joyful Christmas day and season, and a New Year filled with hope and peace.

Yours in Christ,

+Daniel Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough



CHRISTMAS EVE 4PM Mass Shuttle Service

Park at St. Alphonus School
(Goodfellow & St. Mary's) and
HOP ON the shuttle for a
comfortable ride to the Church.

Continuous service starts at 2PM