

SAINT HEDWIG'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Pawel Ratajczak, O.M.I., Pastor

Br. Grzegorz Loska, O.M.I., Resident Pastoral Assistant

Fr. Jerry Gauvreau, C.C., Part-time Associate Pastor

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Office hours: This week only: Tuesday & Wednesday 9-noon & 1-2 p.m. Thursday 9-noon



Confessions: Confessions take place 15 minutes before Mass and at other scheduled times (see below) • **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Monday to Friday, from 12:00 noon • On Sundays, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. • **Recitation of the Rosary:** 30 minutes before each Mass, also on the radio at 88.5 FM (locally) • Attendance: 5 p.m.:108; 8 a.m.: 142; 11 a.m.: 223; Total: 473

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 3rd 2023

Monday December 4	St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor (Optional Memorial) 8:00 a.m. Michael Coulas by the Estate of Mary C. Coulas 4:30 p.m. Intentions of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College by SWC
Tuesday December 5	Ferial (<i>Roman Martyrology</i> : St. Sabas, Abbot) 8:00 a.m. Mary Luckasavitch by David & Ruth Lockhart 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass for Ambrose Luckovitch
Wednesday December 6	St. Nicholas, Bishop (Optional Memorial) 8:00 a.m. For the Repose of the Souls of Catherine & Bernard Prince by the Family 12:00 noon Intentions of the Vanderheyden Children by the Parents
First Thursday December 7	St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor (Memorial) 8:00 a.m. Repose of the Soul of Allen Shulist by Andrew & Lillian
Friday December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:00 a.m. Peggy & Joe Rumleskie & Souls in Purgatory by Tessie Stoppa [Other Masses: St. Lawrence, 9am; St. Mary's, Wilno, 7pm] [No confessions this Friday evening]
Saturday December 9	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (Optional Memorial) 6:30 a.m. Rorate Mass 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Confessions 10:30 a.m. Special Intentions 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Confessions

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 10th 2023

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Repose of the Soul of Keith Towns by Audrey & Family
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Repose of the Soul of Dan Hudder by John & Rita Hudder
	11:00 a.m.	Intentions of the People

Second Sunday of Advent (December 10 th , 2023)	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Readers of the Word	Brooke-Lyn Kluge	Theresa Chapeskie	Mark Westen
Holy Communion	Deacon Robert Probert	Deacon Jean-Nil Chabot	Br. Grzegorz Loska OMI
Ushers	Duncan Barber (crew captain) and ushers	Stanley Rumleskie (crew captain) and ushers	Daniel Shalla (crew captain) and usher

Offerings: Sunday: \$3,014.40; Building Maintenance: \$726.00;
Carpet Fund: \$30.00; Reno Fund: \$30.00; Heat & Fuel: \$30.00; Flower Fund: \$1,190.00

*Pray for the repose of the souls of: Ambrose Luckovitch, husband of Madeline; Mark Henley, brother-in law to Fr. Jerry Gauvreau, C.C.
Let us remember in prayer those who are sick, especially Jacob Fraser, Christine Oskirko, Anne Chabot, Albert Cybulski,
Karen Barber, Gerard O'Malley, Brandon Hammer.*

Gift From Sacred Heart League: The Sacred Heart League would like to show our appreciation to our parish households for our fundraising efforts. We will be giving **one free 2024 religious calendar to each registered household this weekend only** (Dec. 2nd and 3rd). Members of the SHL will have the calendars at the back of the church after each Mass. Any left over calendars will be sold for \$3.00 each, through the SHL religious store.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Cards: We are offering Religious Christmas cards once again. They will be available for a free-will donation after each Mass this weekend only (Dec. 2nd and 3rd). Quantities are limited.

Euchre: The next Euchre games will be Sunday, December 3rd & December 17th at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00.

December 8th Solemnity and Office Closure: On Friday, December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Fr. Pawel and Br. Grzegorz will be away for the Oblate patronal feast celebrations in Mississauga. Fr. Jerry will celebrate the morning Mass. **The parish office will be closed – in urgent cases, please leave a message.** There will be no evening confessions. Mass times at neighbouring parishes are listed above.

Rorate Masses: In Advent, the 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning Mass will be a *Rorate* Mass. These are liturgies dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which help us to prepare for the coming of Christ. They are well-known in Poland.

Poor Box: Please consider donating to the poor box in this season of Advent. Proceeds will go to support individuals and families in need in our area. Thank you!

2024 St. Joseph Missals: Missals are available for \$5.00 each at the back of the church.

Advent Celebration of Life for Youth: Inviting ages 9 to 17 at 12 noon, Sunday, December 10th at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College portables. Guest Speaker: Maria Rose Moyse from Action Life. Learn about the secret life of the child in the womb and about Our Lady of Guadalupe. Snacks provided along with songs and memento. Parents are welcome to attend. For more information, please see our poster. Hosted by the St. Hedwig ProLife Group.

Men's Rosary Group: Come for Rosary prayer open to men on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m., at St. Hedwig's hall (church basement). Men are invited, fathers bring your sons as well.

Advent Confessions: Advent Confessions with multiple priests will be held on Monday, December 18th, at 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Adoration: To sign up for weekday adoration times please contact Virginia at 613-650-7674.

Christmas and New Year's Schedule: This year, the Solemnities of Christmas (Dec. 25th), and Mary, the Mother of God (Jan. 1st), fall on a Monday. Both of these solemnities are holy days of obligation. Masses will be said with the following schedule. **Sunday, December 24th:** Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass of the Vigil of Christmas: 7:00 p.m. **Monday, December 25th:** Mass of Christmas Night: 12:00 a.m. (midnight). Mass of Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. **Sunday, December 31st:** Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass of the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God: 5:00 p.m. **Monday, January 1st:** Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God: 10:00 a.m.

2024 Mass offerings: We are almost fully booked for 2024 Mass requests. **We are currently not accepting** any further Masses to be said at St. Hedwig's. The last available dates will be reserved for funerals and emergencies. Please come and request Masses as Mass transfers, no restrictions to the numbers of these Masses apply.

Mass Transfers: The following Masses have been transferred to Fr. Jerry Gauvreau, C.C.: For the Holy Souls in Purgatory (6 Masses); Intentions of Zygmunt Fedorowicz by Maria Reilander; Living & Deceased members of the Perry family by the family; Ronnie Shalla by Diane; Intentions of Ted & Theresa on their 50th wedding anniversary by Deacon Bob & Mary Lois; Annie Yantha, Krystyna Suska (both by Zigmund & Jennifer Norlock); Repose of the soul of David Richard Johnston by Valens Wolfs; Mary & Anthony & Alphonse Stoppa, Joseph Dombroskie (both by the family); David & Andrew (two Masses), Victor & Rose Stoppa, Bruno & Victor Jr. Stoppa, Stanley & Martha Brenton; Brothers & Sisters, Melissa Stoppa & Nora Brotton, Constance Chippure, Edward Buraczewski (all by Peter & Clementine Brotton)

Sacred Heart Shop: Religious items are available from the Sacred Heart Shop. Please e-mail Katherine at sthedwigreligiousgoods@gmail.com or call the parish during office hours for an appointment to see the selection of scapulars, rosaries, and other religious goods for sale through the Sacred Heart League's store.

St. Nicholas Advent Fair: On December 6th, join the Queen of Angels homeschool co-op for an evening of festive spirit, homemade gifts, crafts, cookies, hot chocolate, music, ballet, a Christmas play and snatch up some unique gifts to support our young people. A special guest appearance of St. Nicholas! It's going to be a great night-and everyone is welcome to be a part of it! Please see poster in the back of the church for more information.

Seat of Wisdom College Choir at St. Alphonsus Parish: The Seat of Wisdom College Choir will be singing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau, QC, on Sunday, December 10th. Come and experience the 2nd Sunday of Advent in the beautiful St. Alphonsus Church with the exceptionally talented Seat of Wisdom Choir.

The Wilno Heritage Society's Community Choir: Come and listen to a collection of traditional Polish Christmas Carols at St. Mary's Church in Wilno on Wednesday, December 27th at 7 p.m. Anybody interested in participating can come to the rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's in Wilno. For information or questions call Bev at 613-756-2426. See the posters on the bulletin board at the back of our church.

Catholics and Euthanasia: Dear parishioners, due to the continued push to normalize and legitimize the practice of euthanasia in our society, I need to remind you of the Church's teaching on this subject. The practice of euthanasia is deeply immoral, and constitutes a grave sin against human life. To further explain this teaching, we will re-publish in the bulletin excerpts of Bishop Guy Desrochers' pastoral letter on this issue (Fr. Pawel): "We are now faced with the new pastoral reality of what happens in the Christian community when one has followed through with euthanasia/assisted suicide. The manner of death is often widely known and even celebrated. Perhaps in recent decades we have lost sight of the purpose of the Mass of Christian Burial: to pray for our deceased brother or sister, and to commend them to the mercy and tenderness of Almighty God by joining them to the one sacrifice of Christ made present in the Mass. Funerals are first and foremost for the dead, and we who are left to mourn find consolation in the great promise of Christ's victory over sin and death and great promise of the resurrection of the body. This is one of the great consolations of our living faith. While funerals are for all redeemed sinners, the Church also requires that the celebration of Christian funerals be a proclamation of faith and reflect the life and conscience of the one who has died. The Church offers Christian Burial for those who have tragically died by suicide, because we are unable to understand the darkness that person was experiencing and how such suffering impaired their own decision-making at the time of death. That is why there is great consolation in the offering of funeral rites in such situations. Yet the decision to die by euthanasia/assisted suicide is a very different pastoral situation, because by virtue of the laws of our country, a person choosing this method of death — while undoubtedly suffering — manifests his/her decision in a way that is deemed rational and wholehearted. The further pain of this situation is that this deliberate decision — assisted by professionals and affirmed by those who cooperate — causes a wound of scandal in the wider believing community. In such situations, it is not possible for the offering of a Christian funeral, since such a notorious decision would undoubtedly be the cause of great difficulty for the community of the Church. This does not exclude the urgent need to pray for the deceased, but with such a public manifestation of intention, it would be difficult for an official minister of the Church to lead a liturgy in a church, funeral home or cemetery. The pastor of souls would have to endeavour to ensure that Masses for the Dead and other prayers are offered for the benefit of the deceased and for the consolation of those who mourn" (Bishop Guy Desrochers, C.S.S.R., January 10, 2021).

Pastoral Care of the Dying: The Church desires that Her faithful know consolation, comfort, and forgiveness through the Sacraments of Confession and Anointing of the Sick, also when a Catholic is preparing for death. Be sure to let your family know to honour your desires when it is time to call a priest. Being reconciled to God through Confession, anointed with Holy Oils, and receiving Viaticum, are all important aspects of preparing for death that is not "sudden and unprovided".

From the Encyclical On the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Life of the Pilgrim Church: This blessing reaches its full meaning when Mary stands beneath the Cross of her Son (cf. Jn. 19:25). The Council says that this happened "not without a divine plan": by "suffering deeply with her only-begotten Son and joining herself with her maternal spirit to his sacrifice, lovingly consenting to the immolation of the victim to whom she had given birth," in this way Mary "faithfully preserved her union with her Son even to the Cross."38 It is a union through faith- the same faith with which she had received the angel's revelation at the Annunciation. At that moment she had also heard the words: "He will be great...and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk. 1:32-33).(St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*, 18).

"Tree of Lights": The St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation's Tree of Lights Campaign is raising money for local healthcare including the purchase of a new mammography machine for St. Francis Memorial Hospital. To make a gift to the Campaign this holiday season, call 613-756-3045 ext. 217 or visit www.sfvhfoundation.com.

From plague, famine, fire, and war – Save us, o Lord. *Od powietrza, głodu, ognia i wojny–Wybaw nas Panie.*
From sudden and unprovided death – Save us, o Lord. *Od nagłej i niespodziewanej śmierci – Wybaw nas Panie.*