



Canadian Martyrs Church

100 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2

Phone: 613-232-5347 Email: office@canadianmartyrs.org

www.canadianmartyrs.org

No in-person Masses during Lockdown

Christmas Day December 25 2020

Holy Family December 26/27 2020

Pastor

Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI

Parish Life Coordinator

Maureen Cerroni

Administrative Assistant

Heather Duggan

Pastoral Council

Angela Burton

Meetings: 1st Thurs., 7:00pm

Finance Committee

Joseph Duggan

Development and Peace

Anna Dorner

Christian Meditation

Dorothy Wood

Mondays, 3pm

Evening Prayer

Pierre LaViolette

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Diocesan Centre

1247 Kilborn Pl.

613-738-5025

Schools

Corpus Christi

798 Lyon St. S

613-232-9743

Immaculata HS

140 Main St.

613-237-2001

Cemeteries

Hope Cemetery

613-822-1212

Notre-Dame

613-746-4175



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Devin Burse, Sandy Cano, Fred Miller, Liam Elder, Sheila & Edward Gasnick, Raul Esteban, Chris Smith & family, Leonardo Miseferi, Fred Kapusta, Jane Hoey-Ray, Amy Gertz, Fr. Frank Kavanagh, Clare Dashney, Ping Cai, Judette Budden, Marie Christine Maisog, and Joan Beaton

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, protector of the wellbeing and unity of families, we pray to the Lord.

For national and world leaders, seeking to reunite families separated by war and political conflicts, we pray to the Lord.

For families burdened by poverty or under economic stress: that God will sustain them, help parents find work, and guide them to the resources that will relieve their burdens. We pray to the Lord.

For a deepening of prayer: that the Spirit will guide our families in praying together and help us to listen to God's response in the quiet of our hearts and in the experiences of each day. We pray to the Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

Wed., Dec. 23 Robert Remillard by Denise Remillard

Thurs., Dec. 24 Amelia Mendonca by Ilario Pellizzari

Fri., Dec. 25 Rollie Goulet by Margaret Denny

NOVEMBER COLLECTION

Envelopes/Loose change:	\$ 6,697.00
Direct Deposit (EFTs):	\$ 7,460.00
Canada Helps:	\$ 7,199.19
Total:	\$21,356.19

Average monthly expenses: \$20,614.18

Thank you!

ZOOM GATHERINGS

3pm Monday: Christian Meditation
8pm Tuesday: Lectio Divina and Meditation
6:30pm Thursday: Evening Prayer
11:15am Sunday: Liturgy of the Word
(4th Sunday, Children's Liturgy)

Please contact the office if you would like to join any of these sessions.

Parish News

OTTAWA LOCKDOWN

We will be having our Christmas Eve Masses at 5pm and 8pm and our Christmas morning Mass at 10am. Please contact the office if you would like the Zoom link for our Christmas morning Liturgy of the Word at 11:15am. You can also find the Zoom link in the Bulletin email.

All in-person Masses will be cancelled during the lockdown which starts on **Dec. 26th**. As done by his predecessor, Archbishop Damphousse grants the dispensation of your obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God throughout this pandemic.

507 SANDWICH CLUB

Thank you to all who have already donated to our 507 Sandwich Club. We are grateful to have the funds to make sandwiches on a weekly basis for a couple of months now. If you would like to donate towards this project, please make cheques payable to Canadian Martyrs Church. **Please contact Angie at angieb3000@gmail.com with any questions or if you wish to volunteer.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

If you have a child whom you would like to receive the sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation (Grade 2), or the sacrament of Confirmation (Grade 6), please call or email the office. Sessions will start the **week of Jan. 17th**. Because of COVID guidelines, the preparation sessions will take place virtually via Zoom.

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES WEEK 4 AND THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Week 4 Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas resources from the Archdiocese of Ottawa are available [here](#). Enjoy!

OTTAWA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY (OSTS)

On Monday evenings from **January 4 – March 15, 2021**, the OSTS invites you to join us for a wide range of courses via Zoom in the comfort of your own home. There are no required readings, no homework, no exams – just the joy of learning. Info: www.osts.ca; Ann Babin, 613-830-8826 or Pat Trites, 613-824-8780.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP

Come join Archbishop Damphousse as he celebrates the coming of the Light into the world, for a celebration of Christ's birth. The Mass will be celebrated **at 7pm on Christmas Eve** and will be televised on Rogers Cable. You can also view it at www.rogerstv.com/Ottawa and www.archoc.ca.

THE CALL HOME

A wonderful group of Catholics from our archdiocese have created a message that they hope will reach those who know that Christmas is important but aren't sure what it means for their lives. The Call Home uses local, personal testimonies to present the basic message of the Gospel. Read about the Call Home initiative and view the video at <https://www.thecallhome.com/>.

SUNDAY MISSALS

We still have copies of the 2021 Sunday Missal for sale for \$5. They are available at the parish office.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

With the Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Excerpt from a homily by Fr. Carl Kelly, OMI

I am happy to extend to you all my best wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas. In this, the Mass for Christmas Day, the Church gives us a different set of readings to mark the celebration. They are certainly less familiar and we might think less fitting than what we heard last night. But these little passages from the revealed word of God tell us something about our God and tells us more about what this great feast means.

In the Gospel, we have a totally different Christmas story. Nothing about angels and shepherds and peace on earth. John, as it were, steps back and after many years of reflecting on what he had experienced, gives his perspective on what it all means: it means that God has come among us and that changed everything. John uses a couple of expressions that we find difficult to understand or accept. He calls Jesus THE WORD, and THE LIGHT, and THE LIFE. The way John expresses it is: the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and what we all know from our knowledge of the story of Jesus among us, people did not accept Him. John utters very sad words: He came to His own and they would not accept Him. In fact, only those who believed in Him and accepted Him would know the word of truth, would know the light that would remove darkness, would know the life that would remove death. For those who did accept the Word of Truth, and the Light and Life, they would know truth, see light and experience true life.

As is usual with the readings at Mass, the first and second readings give us a way of listening to and interpreting the Gospel. The first reading from Isaiah almost shouts about those who bring good news to others, who announce salvation, who say to Zion: "Your God reigns". The images and the sentiments are a call to break into singing, because salvation has come to the world, and to each one of us. The second reading picks up the same theme and reminds us of the incredible thing that has happened to us. Hebrews very briefly recalls that God had spoken in the past to us. And almost as if they couldn't hear any more, God says "OK, I will do something so you will have to listen. I will send my Son to be born as part of your humanity." God never spoke to any other creature until this time, with these words: You are my son. You are my daughter. A whole new relationship is set up between God and us. It truly is a time to shout with joy. If we only realized it. That is why the angels are commanded to worship this child born in Bethlehem. We look and can see the promise of peace and love and joy. We look and see

peace in families where there used to be war. We look and see the miracle of reconciliation between parents and children, brothers and sisters, where there used to be wrangling and bitterness. We look and see the miracle of forgiveness for abusers. We look and see the miracle of addictions overcome. We see these miracles and know that we can rejoice. We look and see life where there shouldn't be life at all. Because of the birth of a child in a stable outside a small town.

*The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light.
On those who live in darkness a great light has shone.
Light in darkness is a sign of hope.
May that light shine in your darkness.
May the joy proclaimed by the miracle be yours.
May the excitement of the shepherds be yours.
May the peace and joy of Mary be yours.
May the relief and satisfaction of Joseph be yours.
Above all, may the peace and joy and love of the miracle of Jesus born again this Christmas be in your hearts and in your families.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

"Always on Christmas night there was music. An uncle played the fiddle, a cousin sang 'Cherry Ripe', and another uncle sang 'Drake's Drum.' It was very warm in the little house. Auntie Hannah, who had got on to the parsnip wine, sang a song about Bleeding Hearts and Death, and then another in which she said her heart was like a Bird's Nest; and then everybody laughed again; and then I went to bed. Looking through my bedroom window, out into the moonlight and the unending smoke-coloured snow, I could see the lights in the windows of all the other houses on our hill and hear the music rising from them up the long, steady falling night. I turned the gas down, I got into bed. I said some words to the close and holy darkness, and then I slept."

— Dylan Thomas, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*

"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."

- Dr. Seuss

HOLY FAMILY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

Excerpt from a homily by Fr. Carl Kelly, OMI

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. In our parish, most families are in the midst of celebrating Christmas as a family. So it is a good time to reflect on what the Word of God has to say to us on this occasion. The Gospel gives us a scene from the early childhood of Jesus. The occasion is the presentation of Jesus in the temple. What is remarkable about the scene, as given to us by Luke, is not what they did, which was that they made the offering as prescribed by the law, but that they met two remarkable older people in the temple, Simeon and Anna. The prophecy that Simeon made about Jesus and Mary must have been one that both consoled and disturbed Mary. "This child was destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." I am sure that many mothers must have also reflected many times while looking at the face of their new born child. What is this child destined for? Whose soul will be pierced because of this child? And they feel both consoled and terrified.

The first two readings tell us about Abraham. The original call that he received, and the promise that he and Sarah would be the ancestors of a long line of descendants. Abraham and Sarah were both old, a sure sign in the Old Testament that the child to be born would be a direct result of the intervention of God. A miracle that could not have happened unless through the power of God. So it is through the story of Abraham and Sarah that we ought to hear the encounter between Mary and Simeon and Anna. Neither of these two families we hear about in today's readings would fall into the category of what we would call "typical" families today, but maybe more than we would at first imagine. Abraham and Sarah are a couple having their children later in life and we are familiar with the problems that Mary and Joseph faced before Jesus was born. Though they are not typical families, they both did form families, maybe not typical, or average families. They are given to us today for our reflection and prayers. The first and second readings both point to the faith of Abraham and Sarah. Both Sarah and Abraham had name changes, which always meant a new life and a new role for the people involved. They trusted their God even when things looked most hopeless.

What about families today? There are certainly very few typical parents, or typical families. Each family is unique and special. Each family, whether a single mother and child or children, two parents with children, two parents

without children, each family represents a unique reflection of the face of God. There are no typical or average families. Each one is a unique reflection of "the Word of God made flesh." The problems faced by families in our age and time are certainly not new, nor are they unusual, but we do not have to remind ourselves that all parents and all children in our world deserve our prayers. And we do ask God to look after and bless parents: *Both those who are too young and those who are too old. Those with children and those without children, those who have infants, those who have teenagers, those who have young men and young women in their families who should be out on their own and aren't. Those who have children lost to drugs or alcohol or both. Those who have children who should call home and don't. Those who don't know how to love their children as they ought and so abuse them.*

Families who have their special circumstances, and so deserve our prayers.

Our prayers that they may have assurance of Abraham and Sarah, and Simeon and Anna, and Mary and Joseph and especially Jesus.

We pray for them today, and we thank God for them.

HEART-WARMING COMMERCIAL

Watch this beautiful Christmas ad that demonstrates the love of a grandparent. This heart-warming commercial sums up how family is a wonderful source of inspiration. The Doc Morris ad encouraging people to take care of themselves couldn't come at a better time in this COVID period. While many have been struggling to keep fit in the lockdown, the emotional commercial encourages us to look to our health as a way of caring for others.

Watch the commercial [here](#).

"There is no place or time so lowly and earthbound, but that holiness can be present there, too."

- Frederick Buechner



Heron Home Hardware

1740 Bank St.
613-733-3492
Yes, we cut keys, sharpen garden tools, scissors and we repair screens, patio doors and windows



Immaculata High School
140 Main St.
Proud Sponsors of the Community
613-237-2001



COLONEL BY
RETIREMENT LIVING BY revera

We are a Full Care Community

Please call Evelyn for a Complimentary Lunch & Tour:
613-864-6026



Whelan Funeral Home
Sean P. Copeland
515 Cooper St.
613-233-1488



Eterna Health Care Inc. is a small home health care organization offering Nursing Health Assessments, Health Education, Clinical/Spiritual Psychotherapy, Footcare, and Home Support Services to those in the Ottawa and Kemptville area. Let us help you!

Contact Trina by phone at 613-875-1645, or book an appointment online at www.eternahealthcare.ca

Find us on Facebook:

Canadian Martyrs Parish, Ottawa



Because family matters.

Our specialists are ready to assist.

Kelly Funeral Homes • kellyfh.ca

Somerset • 613-235-6712

Walkley • 613-731-1255

Arbor Memorial Inc.



If you would like to advertise in our bulletin, please call or email the office.

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Our parish still needs funds to cover recurrent expenses such as heat, electricity and salaries of essential staff, and new expenses such as hand sanitizer, masks and cleaning supplies. If you wish to donate to the church, you can through Canada Helps using a credit card on the secure link at <https://canadianmartyrs.org/donate/> or drop your donation cheque in our mailbox or mail it to us at 100 Main St., Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2. If you are able to come to

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact the office a minimum of 3 months before the baptism. Baptismal instructions are required.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Contact the office to set up the initial interview. It is recommended that the first contact be a minimum of 6 months before the wedding.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call or email the office to inform us of shut-ins or people in hospital so that we can arrange a visit, bring Holy Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Sick if desired.

PARISH REGISTRATION: The registration form is available at the back of the church or can be filled out online at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/register/>.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES: For your information, the minutes are available in a binder at the back of the church and at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/pastoral-council-minutes/>

DIRECT DEPOSIT DONATIONS: The forms are available on the Welcome table if you wish to make donations to the church through direct deposit. Envelopes for special collections will still be provided.

FOOD CUPBOARD: Non-perishable food items for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre are collected on an on-going basis.

MILK BAGS: Milk bags are collected for making into sleeping mats. Please bring in your milk bags and put them in the baskets under the table in the hall near the breezeway.