

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 1, 2019

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 3rd, *St. Francis Xavier (Obl Mem)*

9:00 a.m. A.I.D.

Weds, December 4th, *St. John Damascene (Opt Mem)*

9:00 a.m. +Mario di Gravio
(Kerry Kropf & Family)

Thursday, December 5th

6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration

7:00 p.m. A.I.D.

Friday, December 6th, *St. Nicholas (Opt Mem)*

8:00 a.m. Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration

9:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Orval
Crawford on his 80th Birthday
(Lynn & Eugene Kraemer)

Saturday, December 7th

5:00 p.m. +Josie Vandepas
(Frances Mantler & Family)

Sunday, December 8th *Second Sunday of Advent*

St. Martin's For the Living & Deceased

9:00 a.m. Members of the Parish

St. Mary's For the Living & Deceased

11:00 a.m. Members of the Parish

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR OFFERINGS:

St. Mary's, November 23rd & 24th:

60 Weekly Offerings	\$ 1,404.00
Loose	104.80
16 Building Maintenance	320.00
1 Cemetery Purposes	25.00
1 Flower Offering	100.00
Altar Supplies & Devotional Materials	<u>60.00</u>
Total:	\$ 2,013.80

St. Martin's November 24th:

19 Weekly Offerings	\$ 710.00
Loose	4.00
1 Building Maintenance	<u>20.00</u>
Total:	\$ 734.00

Your continual support and generosity are much appreciated!

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS: in order to receive a tax receipt for 2019 for any donations you wish to make, all money must be received and deposited by December 29th, 2019 after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Once again this weekend, we begin the holy season of Advent, a four-week period when we prepare and wait in anticipation and joyful hope for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour at Christmas. It's a special and important season of the year and during the first weeks of Advent (up to December 16), the readings invite us to reflect on Jesus Christ as our coming King and our Judge; as we continue to wait in joyful hope for the return in glory (the Parousia). The last week of Advent, beginning on December 17th, we reflect with the prophets and the people of God who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. We express our longing for God's mercy and grow more aware of our daily need for his saving help.

Allowing Christ to be central at our preparations and celebrations despite the crowded nature of activities at this time of year will always be a wonderful way to prepare and celebrate another Christmas in the coming weeks and beyond.

To help us in our preparations please note there will be an Advent Penitential Service scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. with some visiting priests to help us with confessions. It will be a good way of celebrating the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Finally, please note that preparations are ongoing for the Capital Campaign kicking off in the New Year, as meetings are ongoing at different levels to solicit for ideas and suggestions towards making the campaign in our parish a huge success. All parishioners are encouraged to be a part of this event, which has the potential to transform parishes around the diocese, and we pray and hope we have a very good and successful Campaign in our parish. Wishing everyone a blessed Advent season and God's choicest blessings always, Amen.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

As part of our preparations for Christmas, once again this year there is an Advent Penitential Service at St. Mary's Elora on **Wednesday December 11th at 7:00 p.m.** Some visiting priests will help us out with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It will be one of the best ways to prepare for

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Christmas as we all wait in joyful hope and anticipation to celebrate once again, the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ.

2020 OFFERTORY COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

Preparation of 2020 envelope packets will begin shortly. If you receive one now, you will continue to do so unless you have not been actively using it for the past six months. If you are new to the parish or wish to begin donating, please write your full name, address and phone number on a piece of paper marked 'For Offertory Envelopes' and drop it into the collection basket by December 15th, 2019

CWL 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR-LONG DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE WELLINGTON FOOD BANK:

The CWL humbly asks that **December's contributions** go towards the Food Bank's **Christmas Hamper Program** to enable food bank users to have special items over the Christmas holidays. These items include, but are not limited to:

- Jam, syrup, marshmallows, cookies
- Cake mix, pancake mix, muffin mix
- Canned nuts, sweets
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate
- Table decorations, napkins
- Any other non-perishable item/foodstuff to help create a special Christmas meal

Donations can be left in the bin in the vestibule to be delivered to the CW Sportsplex on December 11th by our volunteers, in time for the Food Bank Christmas Market. Thank you for your generosity!

WARMTH & COMFORT COLLECTION:

St. Vincent de Paul Society with the help of the Knights of Columbus, will once again this year be collecting **hats, mittens and socks** to be handed out to needy families at Christmastime.

If you would like to contribute warm winter gear in any size, please leave donations in the marked box in the front vestibule. Your generosity at this time of year is greatly appreciated.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH:

At Christmas we gather with loved ones to share gifts, eat great food and build joyful memories. Sometimes we get caught up in the glitter and glam of the season and forget to take time as a couple to decide how much money, time and energy we can expend during the season. This year why not sit down in advance and decide how much you can do as a couple/family. Weave into your plans time for the two of you to take a quiet moment with each other. During Advent and Christmas, take time to pray and share important faith moments with each other. Trying these initiatives could make this Christmas your best yet!

(From Theresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office)

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES FOR SALE:

Religious articles will be for sale at the back of the church after Masses December 7th/8th and 14th/15th. If there is something you are looking for that is not on display, please let Anne Crawford know. All proceeds to St. Mary's church.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Dec 1	Advent Parish Social – In the rectory meeting room immediately following 11am Mass. All welcome.
Dec 1	K of C December Breakfast – St. Joseph's parish hall with a special visitor for the children.
Dec 2	Scripture Study Group each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Mary's rectory meeting room. All welcome.
Dec 2	CWL Christmas get-together for all members of St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and St. Martin's CWL. Elora Legion. 6:00 p.m. social, dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Dec 11	Advent Penitential Service – 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Elora followed by individual confessions
Dec 11	Last day to contribute to Wellington Food Bank's Christmas Hamper Program. Collection bin in vestibule.