



# Saint Monica Parish

Worship of God, Fellowship with Each Other, Service to All

2080 Merivale Road, Nepean, ON K2C 3H1 Phone: (613) 727-1067

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.  
Closed Saturday and Sunday.

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30 am, 11am, 7pm

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday: 7pm (9am on holiday)

Tuesday: 9am

Wednesday: 7pm

Thursday: 9am

Friday: 9am

1st Saturday of the month - 9am

## CONFESIONS

Sat. Evening: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Sun. Evening: 6:15 pm - 6:45 pm

Weekdays:

One hour before Mass  
or by appointment

## ADORATION

Monday & Wednesday

6pm - 6:45pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:

8am - 8:45am

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First Friday of the month

9:30am - 4pm

First Saturday of month

8am - 8:45am

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Wednesdays after Mass

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Divine Mercy Cenacle

Every 4th Monday of the month

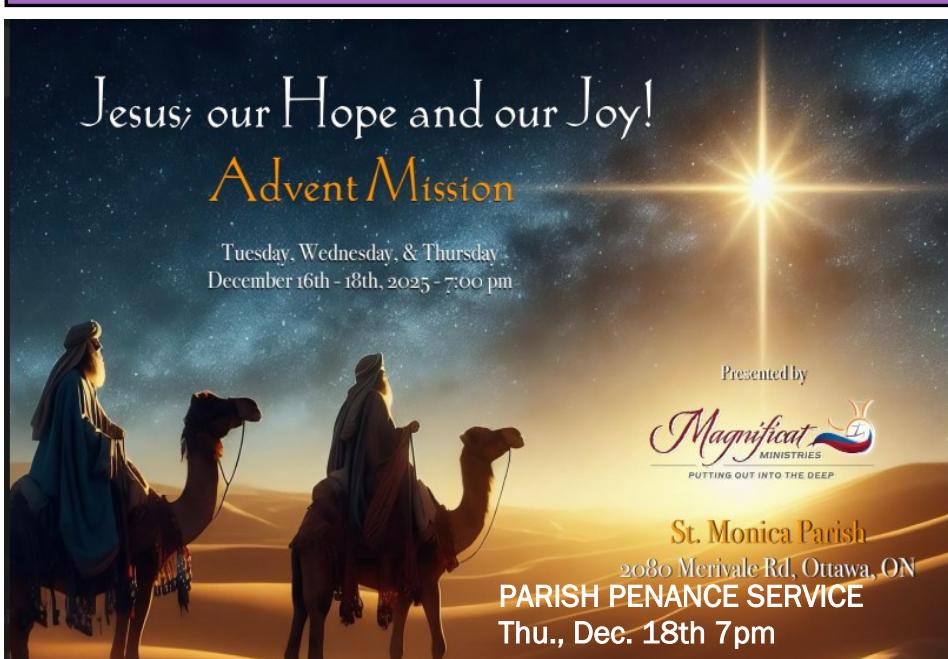
after the 7 pm Mass

## WEBCAST SUNDAY MASS



The celebration of 11am Sunday Mass on the internet (YouTube) via <https://saintmonicaparish.ca/>.

## December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent



## Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Wed., Dec 24 Nativity of the Lord -

5pm (Christmas Pageant) 7pm, 9pm

& Midnight Mass (12am) (in French)

Thu., Dec 25 Nativity of the Lord -

8am, 9:30am, & 11am (Live Streamed)

Sat., Dec. 27 Holy Family - 5pm

Sun., Dec. 28 Holy Family - 8am, 9:30am, 11am (Live Streamed) & 7pm

Wed., Dec. 31 Mary Mother of God - 5:00 pm

Thu., Jan. 1 Mary Mother of God - 9:00 am



## Reflection—Christmas Flowers

This upcoming week, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is an important feast day not only for the people of Mexico, but for all of North America, as the Virgin of Guadalupe is the Patron of the Americas. The origins of this feast day stem from apparitions made to a Mexican peasant, Juan Diego, in 1531. Our Lady requested that a shrine be built in her name. His bishop asked him to prove it, and so Our Lady instructed him to collect roses and place them in his tilma, or cloak, to then reveal them to the bishop as proof. This was quite an impossible task as in the winter months, roses are not in season. However, Juan Diego miraculously found Castilian roses, native only to Spain, in full bloom at the top of Tepeyac hill. Upon meeting the bishop, Diego opened his tilma. Out fell the roses to unveil the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that we know so well.

Another flower, the poinsettia, also finds its origins in Central America and Mexico. They are quite common and have become synonymous with the Christmas season all over the world. They are all over stores, shopping malls, restaurants, and adorn our churches and nativity scenes at this time of the year. One place you will not find them, at least real ones, is at Fr. Pierre and Fr. Kevin's rectory as they are extremely toxic to cats... Nonetheless, their use at Christmas finds their origins in Central American folklore. A poor little girl from Mexico had a deep desire to offer baby Jesus something for Christmas at the nativity scene of her local church. She found green weeds on the side of the road and placed them in front of the Christ child. Immediately, red flowers, we know today as poinsettias, started to bloom. Their star-shaped flower has come to represent the star of David, which guided the Magi to the infant Jesus in the manger. The red color has come to symbolize the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus offered for all of humanity: his own life by the shedding of his blood on the cross.

What both of these stories tell us is that God works through what always seems the most insignificant in our eyes. A 16<sup>th</sup> century peasant named Juan Diego and a poor little girl are great examples. The best example of all is God Himself, who reveals Himself as a small, defenseless, vulnerable, infant child in the crib at Bethlehem. This is the spirituality that is sometimes named after the Little Flower herself: St. Thérèse of Lisieux. One of the greatest spiritual insights she left us was to show us how small acts of love mean great things in the eyes of our Heavenly Father. And so if this holiday season you are feeling a bit stressed because you think you have to impress either with gifts or entertaining guests, etc..., remember these two stories about Castilian roses and poinsettias. God can work wonders with even the smallest of acts. But when done with great love, miracles can happen.

**Fr. Kevin Burgess**

## Upcoming at the Parish

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Our first practice with our children for the Christmas Nativity was amazing! Thank you to all who came. We look forward to seeing you for our second practice, this Sunday after the 11 am mass. We also welcome any children who missed the first practice to join us. We will meet at the front of the church. For all children between the ages of 4-12 years. The Christmas Pageant will take place at the 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

**GIVING TREE, Deadline: Dec. 7th** : Again this year we are asking for cash donations instead of food for our "Giving Tree" program. For every contribution received, a paper ornament will be added to our Giving Tree that will be displayed at the front of the church beginning the First Sunday of Advent. Let's fill this tree! Please mail in your contribution or place it in a separate envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Donations can also be made by E-Transfer at [donations@saintmonicaparish.ca](mailto:donations@saintmonicaparish.ca); indicate that your donation is for the Giving Tree (so that we have sufficient time to fulfill our requests for assistance). **To register to receive help this Christmas, call the parish office at 613-727-1067 x 221.**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS, Deadline: Dec. 7th:** To remember a deceased friend or family member in a special way this Christmas, please consider donating \$10 - \$20 for a poinsettia which would be used to decorate the church at Christmas. You may use the special 'Flowers for Christmas' envelope in the vestibule. Please include your phone number and print the name(s) of the deceased clearly.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY, Fri. Dec. 12th,** Our event begins with a documentary of Our Lady of Guadalupe (in the parish hall) and ends at 9pm. There will be time for venerations of a 2nd Class relic and social.

**COFFEE SOCIAL, Sun., Dec. 14 after the 11am Mass** (Parish Hall). Please join us after Mass to enjoy some fellowship. If you can contribute some treats for the event, please bring them to the parish hall before the 11am Mass. If you can help, call Val(613-301-4689).

**St. Monica Four Seasons Book Club, held on the second Thursdays of the month, 7pm Upper Meeting Room at St. Monica Church:** There will be no meeting in December. Do you read? Would you like to discuss what you read with others? If the answer is yes, join us! We would love to hear your thoughts and insights on our next selection *"Theology of the Body for Every Body"* by Leah Perrault. Next



## Jokes of the Week

Three clergymen sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one. "No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." "You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted, "the best prayin' I ever did was hanging' upside down from a telephone pole."

## Pope's Prayer Intentions Dec. 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict;

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of was or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



Laudato Si' Encyclical

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