## St. Paul the Apostle and Immaculate Conception Churches



Graced by the constant, loving presence of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in our lives, energized by the intercession of Mary and the great Communion of Saints, and grounded in the Sacred Scripture, Tradition, Catholic Teaching, Sacrament and Prayer, we, parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, reach out to embrace all of God's children, encouraging them to receive the gift of eternal salvation, accept Jesus Christ as their Lord, and follow in his footsteps. We declare our solidarity with the poor of the world, and pledge to help them by sharing our love and bounty.

Sunday Liturgies
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Saturday: 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Sunday: 9:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Marian Cenacle: Tuesday - 5:30 p.m.

#### Weekday Liturgies

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Friday: 12:10 noon at Immaculate Conception Saturday: 9:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** following the noon Mass at Immaculate Conception Church on the First Friday of each month until 9:00 a.m. Mass Saturday morning. Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. Holy Hour before 7:00 p.m. Mass

#### YOUTH MINISTRY:

Edge Night (Gr. 6-8) every 2nd Monday 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Life Teen (Gr. 9-12) every 2nd Saturday 6-9 p.m.

#### Reconciliation(Confessions):

Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. or by appointment Tuesday 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

#### Marriage:

Couples planning to be married must contact the parish priest one year in advance. No wedding date is to be set before consulting the parish priest. At least one of the parties should be a registered parishioner and both parties must attend a mandatory Marriage Preparation Course.

#### Baptism:

Parents/Guardians are to be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation. (Registration Package on table in foyer of church)

Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion: If anybody is sick (at the Hospital, Home, Nursing Home, etc.) & needs to be anointed or would like to receive Holy Communion or Confession, please call office.

#### Schools:

Holy Family Elementary School	705-435-3989
St. Paul's Elementary School	705-435-7211
St. Thomas Aquinas High School	905-936-4743

#### Pastoral Ministries:

Life Teen and The Edge Youth Ministry for students in grade six through to high school; Altar Servers; Lectors; Ushers; Eucharistic Ministers; Music Ministry; Pastoral Care Ministers to the sick and shut-ins; Children's Liturgy; Pastoral Council; R.C.I.A.; and Sacramental Preparation

#### Organizations:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada; Knights of Columbus; Columbian Squires (boys 10 - 18 yrs) St. Vincent de Paul Society

#### Stewardship:

Welcome to new parishioners! To be a member of our parish is to have a sense of belonging to a Community of Faith. Registration forms and envelopes are available in the foyer of the church.

### NOTE: PICTURES & VIDEOS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING OUR LITURGIES.

**St. Paul the Apostle** P.O. Box 789, 190 King St. S., Alliston, ON L9R 1V9 **OFFICE HRS: Tues-Fri 9-4:30 p.m.** Office: 705-435-6325 Fax: 705-435-6859

#### Immaculate Conception

4791 Conc Rd 5, Adjala Alliston, ON L9R 1V1 www.stpaulsalliston.com *Secretary:* Deborah Donnelly, Ext. 21 **Pastoral Team:** *Pastor:* Fr. Alan Glass father.glass@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Dave McKendrick, EXT. 24 or email Dave: allistonlifeteen@gmail.com Text Dave @ 647-237-1347



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ 9 December 2018

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' Luke 3:4

#### First Reading +Baruch 5:1-9 Second Reading + Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11 Gospel + Luke 3:1-6



**Monday, December 10** NO MASS SCHEDULED **Tuesday, December 11** 5:30pm+Marian Cenacle 6:00pm+HOLY HOUR \*\*6:15pm - 6:45pm + CONFESSIONS 7:00pm+Jean GALLANT, RIP – Knights of Columbus Wednesday, December 12 8:00am+Joseph MORRISON, RIP – M/A Crowley 6:30pm+Lessons & Carols – Holy Family School **Thursday, December 13** 8:00am+Karen BURNSIDE, RIP J/M Scanlon 6:30pm+Lessons & Carols – St. Paul's School Friday, December 14 12:10pm+Rita CRUMP, RIP - Family Saturday, December 15 (Morning Mass at Immaculate Conception) 9:00am+Prayers for Intentions of England – S Hands 5:00pm+Lawrence SKELTON, - M/L Joyce Sunday, December 16 9:00am+FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH 10:30am+Gerald MEGRAW, RIP – J Megraw

#### Saint of the Week:

Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul. Cast your care upon God for you are His and He will not forget you. Do not think that He is leaving you alone, for that would be to wrong Him. - Saint John of the Cross (1542-1591), Patron of Contemplatives, Feast Day December 14

#### FROM THE DESK OF FR. GLASS:

Evidence and Reason and Faith.

Faith is belief without evidence and reason; coincidentally that's also the definition of delusion. — Richard Dawkins

Dawkins is a modern-day version of the village atheist. He is perhaps best known for his book on evolution, *The Selfish Gene*, published in 1976. The basic idea is that just as we can say that a chicken is the egg's way of making a new egg, so the human being is the human genome's means for reproducing itself. In the evolutionist's bleak view of humanity, we are just "survival machines for our genes."

Dawkins' musings on evolution are fairly harmless, but he has since matured into a Professional Atheist with a remarkable incapacity to comprehend basic philosophical or theological concepts. As one commenter said: "Dawkins is not able to formulate a theological argument accurately enough to succeed in denying it." Where, one wonders, did he ever get the idea that faith is without evidence or reason?

Faith indeed is a supernatural virtue, but it has a foundation on what are traditionally called the *praeambulae fidei*, the "preambles of the faith" — rational conclusions, based on *evidence* and *reason*, that establish the articles of faith. St. Thomas Aquinas, for example, gives philosophical proofs for the existence of God. One of these proofs relies on the principle that the universe as a whole must have a cause which is itself not caused, "and this we call God." The atheists' alternative is to assert, like Stephen Hawking, that, "Because there is a law of gravity, the Universe can and will create itself from nothing. *Spontaneous creation* is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the Universe exists, why we exist." (Oy vey! This is *reason*?)

This is not to denigrate the real difficulties that people face with regard to religious faith. St. Thomas Aquinas, at the beginning of his *Summa Theologiae*, explains that the existence of God is not self-evident, but rather needs to be demonstrated: "The existence of God, like other truths about God, *which can be known by natural reason*, are not articles of faith, but are preambles to the articles; for faith presupposes natural knowledge, even as grace presupposes nature. Hence the existence of God, in so far as it is not selfevident to us, can be demonstrated by those of his effects which *are* known to us." That is, we can come to a true knowledge of God by means of evidence and reason.

In addition, many cultures have produced a wealth of "wisdom literature" — e.g., the Buddhist and Hindu sutras — human wisdom itself being a reflection of God. But a fuller understanding of God requires God's own self-revelation which we have been given in the Sacred Scriptures. In the Scriptures, God reveals himself to us as Creator, as *Logos* (Reason) and, pre-eminently, as Love.

Man is made in God's own image and likeness. As St. Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Evidence and reason can take us so far. The final step is taken by Faith.

## HELPING THE HOMELESS

Our youth will once again be collecting 'Clean Winter Clothing in Good Condition' for ADULTS ONLY to distribute to the homeless & shelters.

We are asking for your support to bring the following items to either Confirmation Sessions, St. Paul's Church Masses, Edge Nights and Life Teen Nights.

- Adult Winter Clothing Only, especially socks, coats, shoes, boots, mitts, hats, scarves, shirts, pants, sweaters, blankets, sleeping bags, belts, new underwear and hygiene products, food gift cards such as Tim Horton's or McDonalds.

(Please no summer wear, light weight material pants or men's suits, these are not practical on the street in winter)

Our Life Teen (high School teens) will be sorting, bagging, and then delivering these items to homeless on Toronto streets on December 28th.



## **CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**

The Catholic Women's League will be selling beautifully packaged cookies in the church lobby

after the 5:00 pm Mass on December 15th and the 10:30 am Mass on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Just in time for Christmas.

1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> dozen cookies - \$8.00 **CWL cookbook for sale - \$15** 

Proceeds are going to families in need.

We are looking for help. If you can bake and want to donate cookies, or help with the packaging, or sell after the Masses, we need you. Please sign up on the sheet in the lobby.

#### **UPDATING OUR PARISH LIST...**

Before we issue the 2018 tax receipts, we need to update our Parish List. 90% of envelope users do not record their name on the envelope. I cannot issue a tax receipt if I don't know who the donor is. We understand not recording the amount, but



please put your name and address on the envelope for the coming New Year.

Would the donors of Envelopes #3 and #391 call the Office with your name and address if you wish a tax receipt. Thank you all for your continued support?

#### **Lions Club Christmas Hampers:**

Unwrapped toys for children up to 9yrs old and food items can be dropped off at the Church. The hampers will be picked up by the needy families in Alliston and surrounding area. Donation deadline is December 16, 2018.



## PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



### **Confessions:**

Every Tuesday: 6:00 – 6:45p.m. (before 7:00p.m. Mass) Every Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45p.m. (before 5:00p.m. Mass) There will be NO confessions on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Sunday Mass Times**

(At St. Paul the Apostle Church) Sat. December 22nd at 5:00p.m. Sun. December 23rd at 10:30am (At Immaculate Conception) Sun. December 23rd at 9:00am

## **Christmas Mass Times:**

(At Saint Paul the Apostle Church) Mon. December 24<sup>th</sup>: at 5:00p.m. 7:30p.m. & 12midnight Tues. December 25<sup>th</sup>: at 10:30a.m.

(At Immaculate Conception Church) **Tues. December 25<sup>th</sup>:** at 9:00a.m.

## **New Year's Eve Mass Times:**

(At Saint Paul the Apostle Church) Monday, December 31: at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 1 at 10:30 a.m.

(At Immaculate Conception Church) \*\*\*Monday, December 31: at 12:00midnight Tuesday, January 1st: at 9:00am

# 3 EDGE

Next Edge Night (Youth Gr. 6-8) Monday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:00p.m. **Christmas Social Night** 

## LIFE TEEN

Next Life Night (Youth Gr. 9-12) Saturday, December 15, 6:00 – 9:00pm **Christmas Social Night** 

