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*We are a Eucharistic faith community, inspired by the Gospel,
committed to engaging each person in the joy of living in the service of Christ.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT;

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY;

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS;

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY;

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD

Christmas Season Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

(Christmas Eve/Christmas Day):

Monday, December 24

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 12:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 25

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Friday, December 28:

7:30 p.m. *(Feast of the Holy Innocents)*

Feast of the Holy Family:

Saturday, December 29 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Monday, December 31 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 2

12:05 p.m. *(Memorial of St. Basil & St. Gregory)*

Thursday, January 3 7:30 a.m.

Friday, January 4 12:05 p.m.

Epiphany of the Lord:

Saturday, January 5 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 6

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Week of January 7-11:

Mon/Wed/Fri: 12:05 p.m.; Tues/Thurs: 7:30 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord:

Saturday, January 12 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 13

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

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The Celebration of the Christmas Season, 2018

Merry Christmas!

Welcome to St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica. I am very happy that you are able to join us at this wonderful time. You may be a parishioner, a visitor from within the city, someone who has travelled far to be here, or you may be someone from another faith tradition. Your presence among us is a gift, and we are all grateful for each other being in this sacred space for such a wonderful event.

To celebrate Christmas is to express gratitude for the birth of Jesus and to grow in thanksgiving that our God, the creator of all, chose to come among us. We appreciate the gift of life, and the ability to use our talents to make a difference in the lives of others. Our hearts seem to grow softer at this time of year. We are more tolerant than usual. We give from our hearts more readily. Through our prayer, thoughts and activity, we are wonderful signs of the compassion, joy and hope that Jesus wishes everyone to experience.

As well, we always celebrate this time of peace and promise, trying our best to carry the spirit of Christmas beyond Boxing Day. The people in need we discover at this time of year to assist also need our help and presence the other eleven months of the year. Those who benefit from our sharing and compassion need to experience our healing touch every day. The people who benefit from our suspended judgement about them need to experience this wonderful gesture each time we encounter them. The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of Jesus. Each Sunday we encounter him in the Gospel and in the Eucharist, calling us to be his presence in all the areas we influence. It is a privilege to receive this gift. It is also a privileged responsibility to make that gift a living reality in all our encounters. In other words, those who experience us in all our relationships should experience the presence of Jesus. To work at this is the definitive way to make the hope we experience at this time of year a daily blessing for us and those placed on our path by God.

As always, many people will pass through the doors of the Cathedral at this time of year. We all come as we are - in joy or sorrow, filled with confidence or searching. We come here so God can find us and bring us the peace and direction for which we long.

My wish is that our celebrations of Christmas and the Eucharist will lead us through the next year as people of prayer. Along with Bishop Fabbro and our parish staff, I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas.

Thank you for being here.

Fr. Jim Mockler

Mobile Giving at St. Peter's Cathedral

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3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.
4. Follow the prompts to donate.



Bishop Fabbro's Christmas Greetings

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Advent, I offer you my warmest greetings in the Lord. In this busy season, we take time to mark the beginning of a new liturgical year and prepare spiritually for Christmas. The light shining from our Advent candles reminds us that God's Son was made flesh in order to bring light into a world darkened by sin. We recall our own baptismal mission to spread his light and illuminate every corner of the world. In the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

My hope for you at Christmas is that you will have the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends, as well as with your parish community, to pray, reflect and celebrate together.

When we take a moment to reflect on the families and parishes of our diocese this past year, we thank God for the many blessings we have received. One particular focus has been on our common mission as intentional disciples of Jesus. Earlier this year, I instituted a commission that will serve the parishes, pastoral teams and parishioners who, together, make up the Diocese of London. We are calling the commission "Equipping the Saints for Ministry: The Diocesan Commission for the Families of Parishes."

At the beginning of the year, two pioneer Families of Parishes were activated: the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes and the Catholic Family of Parishes in Norfolk. They have made a number of changes from which all of us will benefit, as we seek to take up our Gospel mission with new energy and enthusiasm. I thank them for their hard work. In the new year, I plan to announce the next Families that will be activated.

Over the summer, the Church was rocked by the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and the news of terrible scandals of clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by bishops. Our diocese too has been hit hard by these scandals. As your bishop, I have pledged to do all that I can to create a safe environment for our children. Recently, we strengthened the policy which governs how our diocesan personnel and volunteers are to be safely recruited, screened, trained and monitored. This fall, all of our priests, deacons and lay ministers participated in a training workshop on "Called, Gifted &

Sent", the comprehensive manual which explains our policy.

In September, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted an updated and expanded national guideline for the protection of minors in Canada. This important document is called "Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation." My fellow Bishops asked me to write the Forward for this document. It is available publicly on our diocesan website at www.dol.ca/news/protecting-minors.



In October, the Diocese transferred 18 acres of land to King's University College, at the intersection of Huron and Waterloo Streets, in North London, as well as 15 acres to St. Peter's Seminary, including the seminary building. This transfer of lands will enable us to renew the vision of my predecessors, especially Bishop Michael Fallon, who aimed to create a hub of Catholic learning and formation in Southwestern Ontario. Details of

the land sale appear on page three of our diocesan newspaper, *Missio* (Winter 2018 edition).

This year, we said farewell to several priests who ministered in our diocese, including Fr. Richard Dales, Fr. John J. Devine, Fr. Ron Trojczak, Fr. Lawrence J. Mousseau, Rev. Canon Peter Sanczenko and Fr. Albert Williams. We mourned the passing of a significant number of Religious Sisters who served faithfully in many different apostolates. Please keep them and all of the departed in your prayers.

Advent is a time of hope, a time of prayer and of longing and expectation for Christ's coming in glory at the end of time. I invite you to celebrate his birth by joining us in our parishes. On Christmas Day, there will be many people who do not normally attend our weekend Masses. Let us welcome them warmly. Do not be afraid to let Christ's light shine brightly through your acts of kindness and hospitality.

May you have a blessed Christmas, filled with peace and love!

+ Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London





Christmas Flower Donations - Thank you!

Thank you to all who made donations towards the purchase of our Christmas Flowers. Your generosity is so much appreciated.

We remember those who have died:

All the deceased who now share in the resurrection of the Lord; Dr. John Ayerst; Karen Babington; Jacob Barandowski; Mary & Anthony Belter; Boher & Stewart Families; Deceased Members of the Bot Family; Reg & Connie Bouchard; Kathleen Brunton; Deceased Members of the Buglia & Forbes Families; Deceased Members of the Cox & Walczak & Atkinson Families; Gildo & Giovanna Di Cola; Dimitar; Nick Di Santo; Madeline Dobbryn; Ray Dobbryn; Drago; Jacqueline Dyck; Linda Forte; Charles & Beatrice Glaab; Gabriella; Fred & Patty Gingras; Clarence & Emily Gnabkowski; Joseph Griffin; Howard & Zula Hall; D. Harris Family; Sam Hilmer; James & Kathleen Ingrey; Deceased Members of the Jardine & Hennebury Families; John; Mary Catherine King; Julianna; Tatjana & Vincent Krasna; Frank J. Lally; Pete & Alberta Laraway; Mr & Mrs. Jacob Leugner; Wanda Lewis; Rosierie Lucier; Mr. & Mrs. John Macht & Son John; Marta; Beatrice Vincenza Martinelli; Pauline Jane Martinelli; Anna Martinez; Lucia Mazzotta; Dr. David McCann; Steven Medeiros; Jordan Melo; Macario Millares; Vinko & Verona Miser; Flora Nalauolza; Rodney Ness; Benson O'Connell; Samuel O'Connor; Robert O'Dowda; Valerie Pumputis; Patrick O'Reilly; Deceased Members of the Pensa Family; Anthony & Mary Pinto and their deceased children; Wendel & Dori Pflanzner; Gabriel & Emma Raba & Deceased Family Members; Michael Roberts; Mama Rosa; Steve, Barbara & Drago Sever; Arthur Percy Sherwood; Teo Simoés; David Smith; Stephen; Deceased Members of the Tacak & Poluchowicz Families; Jack Vitali & his daughter Susan Vitali-Lovell; Father M.F. White; Winifred Wojtak

We remember and pray for the intentions of those living:

Alice & Joe Augustine & Family; All God's People; Intentions of the Bot Family; Gray & McLeod Families; In Thanksgiving; Living Members of the Tacak & Poluchowicz Families; Peace in the world



Advent/Christmas Reflection

At this time of the year
when night so early falls,
listen and hear dawn break,
the sun slowly rising, finally piercing
December's morning sky...

Rise like the dawn, Lord:
let your sun's rays
warm the frost off my heart
to heal what sadness my soul bears...

Disperse the gloomy clouds
of all my anxious fears
and sweep from my heart's depths
what keeps me from your peace...

Draw me out of my own darkness
to the grace your presence brings:
let me know the peace you offer,
the light in which I'm bathed...

In these dark December days
in all the seasons my soul knows,
draw near, O Jesus, come
and shine your light upon my path...

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Austin Fleming

The Transforming Light of Christmas

"Christmas transforms our gaze and allows us to discern the light that shines throughout creation. The beauty and order of the universe draw us into contemplation in silent wonder and deep reverence, stirring us to the depths of our souls. But even more moving is the perception of God's light that shines a thousand-fold on the face of every human being. We are enhanced when we look attentively at our neighbours and those whom the Lord places on our paths, when we contemplate the light from the faces of men, women, and children, faces filled with emotion and feeling, at times with hope, at times with fear, but always with life!

As we become more aware of the vital importance of the spiritual dimension of Christmas, let us prepare our hearts and help those we love to welcome the grace of Light so that the Messiah can transform us as only He can. This Christmas, let us take the time to contemplate the light of Christ in creation and especially on the faces of our brothers and sisters in our parishes and among all humanity. The "Good News" of Christmas is the light offered to all who seek it and who predispose their lives to welcome it. This Light opens the path to self-sacrifice and commitment, to solidarity and generosity, and ultimately to authentic communion even in this world.

Dear friends, this year let us live Christmas as a mystery of light! May Jesus the Light visit us in the tender compassion of the Father, and may He guide our feet into the way of peace (cf. Luke 1:78-79). Enlightened by Him, the "bright morning star" (Revelation 22:16), together let us become the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)!"

Excerpt from the CCCB Christmas Letter, 2018

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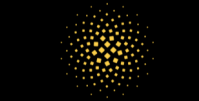
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