

ST. DENIS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

230 LAKE STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2R 5Z3

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WWW.STDENISCHURCH.CA

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Denis Parish is to create a warm and welcoming, Christ-centred, Catholic community that answers the call to know, love, and serve God by spreading the Gospel through words and actions.

PASTORAL TEAM

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Stephen Joseph Bruzzese
pastor@stdenischurch.ca

PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

Rev. Fr. Aji Varghese
ajivargheseoic@gmail.com

SECRETARY & BOOKKEEPER

Mrs. Nancy Chmay
secretary@stdenischurch.ca

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

Mr. Ryan Hermack
evangelization@stdenischurch.ca

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed everyday for lunch: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PARISH SCHOOLS

ST. DENIS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mrs. Victoria Wegelin
175 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 1S1
905-682-4156

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mr. Ken Lococo
615 Geneva Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 2J3
905-934-3112

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SECONDARY

Principal: Mr. Tony Della Ventura
541 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4H7
905-646-2002

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES

MASSES OF THE LORD'S DAY

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

(IN CHURCH)

Tuesday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
Saturday: 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

(IN MEETING ROOM)

Monday to Friday: 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.
Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest!

WEDDINGS

Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

(IN MEETING ROOM)

Sunday to Saturday: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR

(1ST THURSDAY & 1ST FRIDAY)

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

DEVOTION TO MARY

(DAILY RECITATION OF THE ROSARY)

30 minutes before all Masses

Would you like to become a parishioner?

Please call or email the parish office.

Thank you for your continued generosity towards our parish!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

MASS INTENTIONS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, November 21 – Private Mass

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, November 22 – 8:00 a.m.

St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr
Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, November 23 – 8:00 a.m.

St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr
Elsie Jordan

Thursday, November 24 – 8:00 a.m.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, Martyrs
Holy Souls in Purgatory

****Friday, November 25 – 11:00 a.m.****

St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr
Alistair Phillips

N.B. This Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral

MASSES OF THE LORD'S DAY

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, November 26 – 4:00 p.m.

Holy Souls in Purgatory | Wayne Hadley
Soad Gabrie Handal

Sp. Int. Jonathan Allen | Sp. Int. Frank Cipriano

Sunday, November 27 – 8:00 a.m.

Holy Souls in Purgatory | Nick Monteleone
Thomas DeMontbrun

Sp. Int. Jonathan Allen | Sp. Int. Braian Pelikan

Sunday, November 27 – 10:00 a.m.

Pro Populo – For the People



COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 13

Offertory	\$ 2,333.00
E-Transfers	\$ 145.00
Total Collection	\$ 2,478.00

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

~ Please remember the parish in your will ~

THE PASTOR'S PORTICO

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, formerly referred to as "*Christ the King*". It was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living and organizes his life as if God did not exist.

The need for such a feast continues to exist in our world today, as the problems observed by Pope Pius XI have not vanished but appear instead to have worsened. The embrace of individualism in today's society moves Jesus from the central role He is meant to occupy in the lives of Christians. This feast allows us to reaffirm and refocus our faith and respect in the kingship of Jesus just as it did when it was first established.

It is fitting to celebrate Christ's kingship right before Advent, when we liturgically prepare for the arrival of the promised Messiah. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the infant, we also meditate on the second and final coming of Christ the King. Let us be prepared to say, "*Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus*".

Additionally, this week, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Catherine of Alexandria (*to learn more about her life, please read the next column*). As such, there will be no morning Mass here on Friday, November 25th. However, there will be a Solemn Mass at the Cathedral Church at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Bergie and all the priests of the diocese. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Please do celebrate St. Catherine's feast day with great joy and solemnity since she is the patroness of our diocese.

Please be sure to pick up your 2023 parish envelopes either this weekend or next weekend; otherwise please pick them up from the parish office. If you know someone who is unable to pick up their envelopes and you would like to deliver them, that would be of great help us. Thank you in advance for helping with this task and thank you for your commitment to parish life here at St. Denis.

Also, the new Living with Christ Sunday Missals will be available after Masses at a cost of \$5.00. There are only 75 copies, so be sure to get your copy before they are all gone!

Fr. Stephen Joseph Bruzzese

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

This week, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Catherine of Alexandria, who was martyred around 305 A.D., she was approximately 18 years old. Christian tradition states she was of noble birth, possibly a princess. As a member of the nobility, she was also educated and was an avid scholar. Around the age of fourteen, she experienced a moving vision of Mary and the infant Jesus, and she decided to become a Christian. Although she was a teenager, she was very intelligent and gifted.

When the emperor Maxentius began persecuting Christians, Catherine visited him to denounce his cruelty. Rather than order her execution, Maxentius summoned fifty orators and philosophers to debate her. However, Catherine was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke eloquently in defense of her faith. Her words were so moving that several of the pagans converted to Christianity and were immediately executed.

Unable to defeat her rhetorically or to intimidate her into giving up her belief, the emperor ordered her to be tortured and imprisoned. Catherine was arrested and scourged. Despite the torture, she did not abandon her faith.

Following her imprisonment, Maxentius made a final attempt to persuade the beautiful Catherine to abandon her faith by proposing marriage to her. This would have made her a powerful empress. Catherine refused, saying she was married to Jesus Christ and that her virginity was dedicated to him.

The emperor angrily ordered her to be executed on a breaking wheel. The breaking wheel is an ancient form of torture where a person's limbs are threaded among the spokes and their bones are shattered by an executioner with a heavy rod. It is a brutal punishment that results in a slow and painful death, normally reserved for the worst criminals.

When Catherine was presented before the wheel, she touched it and a miracle occurred that caused the wheel to shatter. Unable to torture her to death, the emperor simply ordered her beheaded.

In the sixth century, the Emperor Justinian ordered a monastery established in her name. The monastery, Saint Catherine's, remains to this day and is one of the oldest in the world.

During the medieval period, St. Catherine was one of the most famous saints of the Church. She has been a popular subject in renaissance art and many paintings from the period are dedicated to her.

St. Catherine of Alexandria, pray for us!

PRAYER OF REPARATION

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

LIFETEEN BLESSING BAGS

Our LIFETEEN students are putting together blessing bags for the homeless of St. Catharines. Please, if you or someone you know have items to donate, bring them to the church after Mass and place them in one of the provided bins, or drop them off at the office with Nancy during the week. The deadline drop off items is Sunday, November 27th. This will give us enough time to have the teens sort and bag the items before the following weekend. Here are a few examples of some of the items we are looking for: thick socks, chapstick, hygienic products, granola bars, hand/feet warmers. If you have any questions regarding potential donations, please reach out to Ryan at evangelization@stdenischurch.ca.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Are you interested in using our new monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Program? Our deadline for the December withdrawal is Monday, November 28th. As of today, we have 25 parishioners/families registered, which generates \$3,295.00 per month. *This truly is easiest way to give; you set it up once and you never have to worry about your weekly offering again! Thank you for your faithful stewardship.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Our next available single Mass intention is: Friday, February 3rd. Our next available multiple Mass intention is: Saturday, December 3rd. Remember, you are welcome to book up to 1 year in advance, please get your dates soon, as to not be disappointed.

QUEEN OF CLERGY CENACLE

This is a group of laity and clergy dedicated to praying for an increase in vocations to priesthood and for the clergy. To be added to the group please email cenacle@stdenischurch.ca. The next meeting is Monday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Heaven's Most Wanted
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"In Him all things hold together."

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 5:1-3

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:12-20

GOSPEL

Luke 23:35-43

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are my King. You lead me into salvation, you free me from the slavery of sin. You are a Good King, dying in my place so I could share eternity with you. Thank you for this gift of life. Provide me with abundant grace daily so that I can be obedient to you and grant me the gift to join you one day in paradise. Amen.

Beyond Words

What makes a king? In the first reading, the tribes of Israel approach David to anoint him as king. It made sense: David proved himself as a leader in directing the tribes of Israel, despite not being king. Yet, something critical is ignored – David already was anointed and appointed as the leader of Israel when he was young. This election as an adult is human, whereas David has already been given a divine appointment by God. David would struggle as king – sometimes serving well in his divine appointment and other times appearing more as a human politician.

Fast forward to the Gospel. Jesus hangs on a cross, broken and appearing helpless. Above Him, a sign that mocked the claim that He was King of the Jews. Unlike David, who was declared king by the people, Jesus was mocked as “king” by an angry mob. It is on the cross where Jesus reveals His true authority and kingship. One of the criminals crucified next to Him cries out to Jesus, only to be remembered when Jesus comes into His Kingdom. David led the Israelites in a time of battle, but Jesus wins the battle over sin and death and demonstrates His true authority by welcoming the criminal into paradise. Saint Paul celebrates this in his letter to the Colossians. Kings of old liberated people from earthly slavery but could never ransom their people from sin. Jesus liberates, redeems, and calls us home.

Random Fact

Jesus is given wine mixed with gall, a narcotic drug meant to alleviate pain. Sometimes this was meant to be an act of mercy, but it also prolonged Crucifixion as the executed were able to endure pain longer before expiring. In this case, the sour wine Jesus is offered is likely done out of mockery to prolong suffering, rather than relieve it.

Behind the Scenes

Today's second reading states clearly something that countless seem to be confused by, namely: Jesus Christ is God. Many people over the centuries have promoted heresies stating that Jesus was a "lesser God," fully human but only partly divine, holy but not perfect or, even, a philosopher with no divine life. Here, St. Paul clearly reminds the Christians in Colossae that Jesus is "the fullness" of God: one in power, sovereignty and authority. Christ is no mere prince or demi-God, He is nothing short of the King of Kings. Christ is fully human *and* fully divine.

Word Play

Jesus invites the "good criminal" into paradise. The word, "paradise" evokes in us images of a beach in Cancun but was used by Greek speaking Jews to refer to the Garden of Eden – the place of paradise that still existed after the Fall. This place of communion with God, free of suffering and death, was where the souls of the righteous went after death. The "good thief" would've immediately understood where Jesus was calling him and went peacefully into his death.

Journal

1. Who or what has authority in your life? How do you respond to authority?
2. Is it easy or difficult for you to be obedient to others? How does this impact your relationship with Jesus?
3. When you imagine Jesus Christ, what comes to mind? Do you see Jesus as a king, teacher, criminal?
4. Put yourself into the Gospel scene as a person in the crowd. How do you react to what you see?
5. Imagine yourself as one of the two thieves that were crucified with Jesus. Which one do you identify with more? The one that is angry at Jesus for not saving him from the cross, or the one that is asking for mercy? Reflect on why you identify with the criminal you do.

Challenge for the Week

Jesus is our King, and when we enter into Mass we walk into the throne room of heaven. Too often, we just walk out after the closing hymn (or even during the closing hymn) without recognizing this reality. This week, stay for 15 minutes after Mass is finished to continue to pray and worship. Use this time to prepare your heart for Advent and to celebrate the end of the liturgical year in prayer.

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