

Holy Guardian Angels

December 17, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$	830.00
Candles		23.00
Missals		5.00
Flowers		50.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>908.00</u>

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 25, 2023

(Christmas Day)

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Harry A. Sampson*

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

SP

Mass of Christian Burial for Sarah Burke 11:00 AM

*** There will be no weekday Mass on Dec. 26th and Dec. 28 & 29th**

The parish office will be closed from Dec. 26th to Dec. 29th inclusive

Saturday, December 30, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

SJB 4:00 PM

For the Sick, *Mary Hammond

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Sarah Burke*

Sunday, December 31, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 PM

+ *Sissy Sampson*

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. (New Year's Eve)

SP & SJB at SJB 8:00 PM

For the Sick, *Eric Burke

Monday, January 1, 2024

(New Year's Day)

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Gavin Sampson*

❖ **There will be no weekday Masses from Jan. 2nd to Jan. 5th inclusive**

❖ **The parish office will be closed from Jan. 2nd to Jan. 5th inclusive**

❖ The next parish bulletin will be for the week of January 7, 2023

Saturday, January 6, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

****Special Intentions***

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Eva Landry*

Sunday, January 7, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Deceased members of Martell, Logan & Peters families*

Bishop Kirkpatrick's Christmas 2023 Message

Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards All



The beginning of the new year is entrusted to Mary Most Holy whom we celebrate as the Mother of God. As we contemplate Mary in the stable where Jesus was born, we are reminded that Mary did not speak. She welcomed the mystery with awe, she cherished everything in her heart, and, above all, she lovingly took care of the Child who lay in the manger. As we see Mary taking care of her Child, let us learn to take care of others and ourselves, caring for our physical and mental health, our spiritual life, and also our environment and common home. Even more so let us learn to care for our brothers and sisters in need who call for our attention and compassion.

In November, Pope Francis said, “Every human being, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that the sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart.” We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to promote poverty and death. In addition to praying for an end to all wars, we also need to join together in caring for our common home by implementing effective measures to combat climate change. There can be no peace on Earth with ongoing wars and conflicts and there can be no peace on Earth with devastating droughts, wildfires and floods that clearly demonstrate a need to change for the better.

We can and must do better if we are to live in a world of peace and prosperity for all people. In the words of an old song, “let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” May Mary Immaculate, Mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace, intercede for us and for the whole world. May you and your families have a peaceful and joyous Christmas Season.

Fraternally,

+ *Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick*

From Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick: A Reminder About December 24

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) has decreed that the Holy Days of obligation to be observed in Canada are: all Sundays of the year, Christmas Day and the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. This year, there are two holy days of obligation that intersect. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is also the same day as Christmas Eve. This means we are obligated to attend two Masses, one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. To fulfill your obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, you may attend Mass on Saturday evening, December 23, or Sunday morning, December 24. To fulfill the requirement for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), you may attend Mass on Sunday evening, December 24, or Monday morning, December 25. Wishing you a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

Clarifying Confusion over Pope Francis' authorizing of the blessing of persons in irregular situations

Through the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith Pope Francis authorized the blessing of persons in irregular situations on December 18, 2023. Below is Rev. Mike O'Connor's explanation of *Fiducia Supplicans* to his congregation. Rev. Mike is also a regular presenter on Radio Maria.

Note that my rendering of his sermon meant formulating a written text from an oral presentation that necessitated deleting some parts, so this is not a direct quote but a faithful rendering of his presentation.

The document, *Fiducia Supplicans*, may be found on our website.

The document, *Fiducia Supplicans* is not focused on marriage but rather on the pastoral meaning of blessings and it clearly states that there is no change in the liturgy of the Church or doctrine to condone marriages or relationships that are not in accord with Christian teaching. It is precisely and only in this context of understanding that there is no change in the Church's understanding of sin and marriage and relationship that one could even possibly speak of blessing couples that would be male and female couples in irregular situations or even same-sex people. The document reminds us that Jesus came to us while we were sinners and died for us while we were sinners. The document isn't explicitly a call to repentance, but it is implicitly one. It is important to make clear, and this is right out of the document, that marriage remains an exclusive, stable, indissoluble union between one man and one woman naturally open to the generation of children. The sexual embrace is only blessed by the Church in the context of a valid sacramental or natural marriage.

Pope Francis reminds us that blessings are sacramentals not sacraments and as such a blessing is supposed to stir up a desire in us for holiness by giving actual graces by which those who receive a blessing are moved to holy deeds or conversion. Someone receives a blessing for the purpose of helping them on their journey. John the Baptist's message is repent and in the context of this document the blessing is not an approval of any kind of same-sex relationship at all, but it is supposed to be an aid to conversion. This is not going to be reported to you by the New York Times.

To seek a blessing in the Church is to acknowledge that the life of the Church springs from the womb of God's mercy to help one move forward to live better and respond to the Lord's Will. For priests to offer a blessing outside of the liturgy to a person in such a context is not to weaken the doctrine or the practice of God's blessing on people very much in need as when people spontaneously ask for a blessing. I don't know how often we think about this, but I'm asked very often to bless things and to bless people. A priest is given the power to bless things and the

power of the blessing is supposed to call people to a place of repentance or renewal or to receive God's grace. Quoting the document, 'The grace of God works in the lives of those who do not claim to be righteous but who acknowledge themselves humbly as sinners. Like everyone else there is no need for official formulations from Episcopal conferences or anything like that only that people constantly seek God's face and rely on his grace. This saying is worthy of full acceptance that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. (St. Paul)

The purpose of the Church's blessing is that persons would convert, that they would have the grace to live according to God's Will. It is a sad reality that we have a level of confusion and mistrust and that's not what we're used to from the teachings of the Church. I've been a priest for 20 years and Pope Francis has been the Pope for 10 years and it's been a series of things where people are confused about the fundamental nature of the teachings of the Church. But the fundamental nature of the teaching of the Church don't change. They don't change but our pastoral approach to people can change, and this comes right out of an article from CNN, 'The Pope has not changed the Church's opposition to gay marriage, nor has he changed the Church's teaching on sex. He sought to emphasize a pastoral and sensitive approach.' I would ask that you all hear me when I say to you that we don't bless homosexual unions we bless people in homosexual unions that they would repent and live according to the will of God.

Synthesis Report of the Synod

Now Available

The Synthesis Report at the conclusion of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality is available online. Looking ahead to the second session in 2024, the text offers reflections and proposals on topics such as the role of women and the laity, the ministry of bishops, priesthood and the diaconate, the importance of the poor and migrants, digital mission, ecumenism, and abuse. As a Diocese, we have been asked to discuss this report and provide our feedback. More on the diocesan process will be available in early 2024. Meanwhile, the synthesis report is available here and on the Listening Church page of the diocesan website:

<https://ww.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report.pdf>