

ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG

December 18, 2016

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE SOUTH INTERLAKE

Christ the King, Stonewall & St. Joseph, Stony Mountain St. John Vianney, Teulon





Now all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: Look! the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

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Knights of Columbus: John Hueging, Grand Knight
WEBSITE: www.christthekingchurch.ca

Baptisms - Please contact Fr. James regarding any upcoming baptism and arrange a time to meet for preparation.
Confessions - Available upon request, time permitting, or call/email to schedule
Marriages - 6 months notice is required prior to the wedding. A weekend retreat or 6 week preparation course is required prior to the marriage. Please contact Fr. James regarding preparation.
Communion to the Sick and Shut-Ins-This is done upon request.

Sunday Dec 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00am, Stonewall <i>For the Intentions of all parishioners</i> 11:30am, Stony Mountain <i>+Gordon Podaima</i>	1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14 2nd reading: Romans 1.1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24
Tuesday Dec 20	Mass 10am, Teulon <i>Penance Service, Sekirk 7pm</i>	1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d Gospel: Luke 1.26-38
Wed Dec 21	Mass 9am, Stonewall <i>Penance Service, Middlechurch 7pm</i>	1st Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-18a or Song of Songs 2.8-14 Gospel: Luke 1.39-45
Thur Dec 22	No Mass	1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1.24-28 Gospel: Luke 1.46-56
Friday Dec 23	No Mass	1st Reading: Malachi 3.1-4; 4.5-6 Gospel: Luke 1.57-66
Saturday Dec 24 Christmas Eve	5pm, Stonewall <i>For the Intentions of all parishioners</i> 7pm, Stony Mountain <i>For the Intentions of all parishioners</i> 9pm, Stony Mountain <i>For the Intentions of all parishioners</i>	
Sunday Dec 25 Christmas Day	10:00am, Stonewall <i>For the Intentions of all parishioners</i>	

H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R	BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
E	L	E	T	C	E	N	R	U	D	HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
H	F	W	H	O	H		O	I	I	DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
M	E	I	M	P	T	N	V	S	V	SON	PROPHET	HOME
O	L	F	W	S	O	O	T	O	O			
D	D	I	T	H	R	R	O	E	R			
E	E	R	S	C	T	O	P	M	E			
N	A	G	E	E	E	O	L	O	C			
A	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I			
L	E	G	N	A	M	O	H	E	S			

Christian tradition has always emphasized that Jesus was born of a virgin. The Messiah could only come forth from a virgin's womb. The main reason for this emphasis of course is to highlight that Jesus did not have a human father and that his conception was from the Holy Spirit.

But there is often a secondary emphasis as well, less-founded in scripture. Too common within that notion is the idea that Jesus was born from a virgin because somehow sexuality is impure, that it is too base and earthy to have a connection to such a sacred event. The holy must be kept separate from what is base. Jesus wasn't just born of a virgin because he did not have a human father; he was also born of a virgin because his birth demanded a purity that, by definition, rules out sex. Our concept of the virgin birth has been infiltrated by a piety which, for all kinds of reasons, cannot accord sexuality to the holy.

What's wrong with this? Beyond denigrating the God-given goodness of sexuality, it misses one of the major aspects of revelation within the virgin birth. There is a moral challenge within the virgin birth, something which invites imitation rather than admiration.

A virgin gives birth, not to sterility, but to a Messiah. What has virginity to do with giving birth? Christian tradition emphasizes a virgin birth (just as it emphasizes a virgin burial, a virgin tomb to parallel the virgin womb) not because it judges that sexuality is too impure and earthy to produce something holy. Rather, beyond wanting to emphasize that Jesus had no human father, the Christian tradition wants to emphasize what kind of heart and soul is needed to create the space wherein something divine can be born. What is at issue is not celibacy rather than sex, but patience rather than impatience, reverence rather than irreverence, respect rather than disrespect, and accepting to live in tension rather than capitulating and compensating in the face of unrequited desire. A virgin's heart lets love unfold according to its own dictates rather than manipulating it. A virgin's heart lets gift be gift rather than somehow, however subtly, raping it. A virgin's heart accepts the pain of inconsummation rather than sleeping with the bride before the wedding. That, in the end, is what constitutes virginal space, the space within which God can be born.

Virgin Birth

The perennial paradox, peculiar to this Father and Son Specialists in confounding human wisdom withdrawn from wonder. A virgin gives birth, not to sterility, but to a Messiah. What has virginity to do with giving birth? Nothing! When wisdom wastes words wandering towards a truth that will not set us free.

Virginity and inconsummation: Incomplete heart and flesh, wrestle with a God who has no flesh who won't let flesh meet flesh ache, awaiting completeness to stave off sterility, truly the unforgivable sin against the spirit of life. But sterility becomes pregnant with yearning for the spirit that sleeps with God at night and impregnates with messianic spirit those patient enough to yearn and sweat lonely tears rather than ruin gift with impatience.

Only virgins' wombs bring forth messiahs because they alone live in advent waiting a delaying bridegroom late, hopelessly beyond the eleventh hour. Still the virgin's womb waits Refusing all counterfeit lovers and impatience which demand flesh on flesh and a divine Kingdom on human terms. Messiahs are only born in virginity's space within virginity's patience which let God be God and love be gift.

Why a virgin's womb for a Messiah's birth? Why an obsession with purity within the Christian tradition? Because, as we all know only too well, our lives are full of most everything that is not virginal or pure: impatience, disrespect, irreverence, manipulation, cynicism, grandiosity; and, as we all know too, within this matrix no messiah can be gestated. Ron Rolheiser

Interlake Deanery Catechesis Sessions: Priest, Prophet and King.

All are invited to participate in Catechesis sessions reflecting on Christ as Priest, Prophet and King and our baptism into these ministries. All sessions will be held Saturdays at Christ the King in Stonewall at 10am: Jan 14, Feb 11, and March 18

The University of Manitoba Pro-Life Group is collecting much needed baby supplies for new mothers in difficult situations for the Winnipeg Crisis Pregnancy Centre. The students would like to encourage all parishioners to donate baby items such as bottles, formula, diapers and so on in the 'Tree of Life' donation drive. If you are able to donate during November/December please contact Kristi Nugent (204) 513-5136. Thank you!

Separated, Widowed, Divorced: Beginning Experience (BE) is a non-profit, peer support grief resolution program helping persons dealing with the natural grief process. It offers an opportunity for turning pain from loss into an experience of positive growth. The program runs 10 week sessions, three times a year as well as two retreat weekends that can be taken in the fall or spring. Next weekly sessions start Jan. 11, 2017 - Coping with Life Alone. Adult retreat weekend to be held March 17 to 19, 2017. For more information call (204) 275-3090 or visit our website www.beginningexperience.ca

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25, 2017, Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us, cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-20: All are welcome to participate with church leaders in the City-Wide Ecumenical Worship Service, Sun., Jan. 22, 2017, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 211 Kimberly Ave., Winnipeg. An ecumenical choir is being formed to lead music at the celebration on Jan. 22. No audition is required. Anyone who can carry a tune and wishes to sing in the choir is welcome.

A virgin would conceive and bear a son who would be called Emmanuel.

There in the beginning and with us now. And ever will be with us.

Emmanuel.

Lord, guide us to the signs that tell us you are with us now.

**Christmas Schedule: Christmas Eve: 5pm, Stonewall 7pm Stony Mountain 9pm, Teulon
Christmas Day: 10am, Stonewall**