

St. John Bosco Parish

Community of Spirit and Faith

3rd Sunday of Advent: December 16th, 2018



We Do Not Like Prophets

We do not like prophets. We do not like judgment. We do not like our morally relative consciences' to be pricked. We do not want to be told by some nut job in camel skin that our salvation may be in jeopardy or that we might have to change.

But that is exactly John the Baptist's message. He stands as a dichotomy to secular society, which minimises natural law and Christian values. He is uncompromising in his moral integrity and eventually it costs him his life at the hands of Herod. That is why our Lord calls him the greatest of prophets.

John's message was that of preparation. He exhorts us to cast aside that which prevents God's advent from coming in our lives. Those who fail to do so will be burnt like chaff in unquenchable fire. These words make us uneasy. They should. They are a prophetic warning, and immediately we want to reject them. Somehow our modern society has been inundated with the false notion that if we are simply "good people" our eternal salvation is guaranteed. We do not like to hear that more is required of us than simply believing in a higher power.

Conversion, which is the only path to salvation, requires change. John is very clear about that. Scripture is very clear about that. Not only must we accept Jesus, we must start acting like his disciples by embodying love and charity. We must begin to conform our moral actions according to the gospel and the teachings of the Church. We cannot sit by and allow ourselves to become our own judge and jury, making up our own moral laws to suit our personal preferences. Our actions, as John indicates, must conform to the will of Christ.

John is "the prophet of tough love". He gives us a stern warning. He administers the necessary bitter medicine. His words strike a chord. Which is why we do not like prophets.

Sunday Mass: 10:00 A.M.

Mass Intention December 9th: The Needs of the Church

Adoration: Thursday, December 20th, 7:30am – 7pm

Readings December 16th

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Our Mission: Love God, Love Our Neighbour, Make Disciples

Our Purpose: As a community, we seek to help people **Worship** God, **Connect** with others, **Grow** in faith, **Give** with joy, and **Share** the gospel, so that all may come to know Jesus and recognize that it's good to be Catholic.

Parish Office

Location: 1202 Avenue O South, S7M 2T6

Hours: Monday – Thursday: 10am to 1pm

Phone: 306-652-1045 **Fax:** 306-934-2824

Website: www.stjohnboscosk.ca

E-mail: saintjohnboscosk@gmail.com

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Parish Staff

Priest Moderator: Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky

Parish Life Director: Matthew Courchene
stjohnboscoministry@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Gaitane Giasson

Parish Nurse: Deb Bauche
debbauche@shaw.ca

Caretaker: Caleb Fisher

Evangelization: Amanda Chan
achan@rcdos.ca

Prayer Intentions

Frances Byblow, Irene Dricos, Cliff Elliott, Carol Kohnke, Heather Feist, Scott Fryer, Lionel Kuppenbender, Gilliosa Loftus, Jeanette McNulty, Brenda Nixey, Shirley Parpat, and all who are sick or suffering. If you know someone who needs to be added to or taken off of the list, please contact the parish.

Dates to Remember

December 21st Hamper Delivery 3pm

December 24th 7pm Mass

December 25th 10am Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

	December 23 rd	December 30 th
Facilitator	Maureen P.	Lauren F.
Readers	Rob B. Mary J.	Tim D. Doreen S.
Eucharist	Team 4	Team 1
Altar Servers	Caleb F. Eric B.	Crystal C. Halle B. Xander B.
Gift Bearers	Wayne B. Marcella B.	Loretta C. & Family
Welcomers	Shelton L. Bernice L.	Marie P. Liz K.
Ushers December:	Shelton L., Levi M., Duane W., Steve E.	

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Mass: 7pm, Monday, December 24th
Christmas Morning Mass: 10am, Tuesday, December 25th
New Year's Day Mass: 10am, Tuesday, January 1st
Penitential Service: 7pm, Wednesday, December 12th
Hamper Delivery Date: 3pm, Friday, December 21st

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Our parish Christmas Hamper day is set for Friday, December 21. Please bring your donation on Sunday or to the office during working hours. Please consider signing up to help that day on the sheet at the front entrance. We will begin packing hampers at 1:30pm and delivery will begin at 3:00pm. Many hands make light work!

Thank you for your support!

2019 ENVELOPES

The 2019 Donation Envelopes can be picked up at the back of the Church. There are also special collection envelopes for those who are on PAG. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the financial health of our parish.

BOOKS FOR CROOKS

We have been asked to participate in a program called "Books for Crooks" which repurposes old books for individuals who have been incarcerated. The purpose of the program is to provide reading material for inmates, as they seek to reform their lives.

If you have any old books that you would like to donate, please bring them to the parish. There is a collection box in the entrance of the Church. Thank you.

EMAIL UPDATE

For a variety of reasons, the parish has had to change its email address. The office email is now:

saintjohnboscosk@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open on Monday December 24th during regular office hours. We will be closed from December 25th to January 1st to accommodate the holidays.

K of C NATIVITY SET SALE

The K of C are selling outdoor Nativity Sets. The proceeds will go towards the K of C charitable works in our community. The cost is \$125 per set. A sample is displayed at the back of the church. If you are interested contact, Steve (306-384-9357) or Shelton (306-242-6033).

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

We are looking for people to help with the ministries on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. If you are around and can help, please sign up on the *Signup Sheet* located on the bulletin board in the church entrance. Thank you for your help!

MARY HAD A LITTLE DOGMA

On December 8th the Church celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and on December 12th it celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. But why does the Catholic Church make such a fuss about Mary?

The beliefs that the Catholic Church holds about Mary are called dogmas. A dogma is a truth revealed by God and contained in sacred scripture. Dogmas can either be explicit (such as God created the world) or implicit (such as the Trinity). The Marian dogmas fall into both categories. There are four of them: (1) Mary is the Mother of God; (2) Mary was ever virgin; (3) Mary was immaculately conceived without sin; (4) Mary was assumed into heaven.

The first two dogmas are explicit in scripture, while the last two are implicit. The last two necessitate from who Jesus is and how that affects Mary. In other words, Mary carried the divine messiah in her womb, gave flesh to him and nurtured him. His presence, much like God's presence to the people of Israel, sanctified her and gave her special graces and privileges: such as her assumption into heaven.

Marian dogmas are important because each one points toward Christ and his redemptive and saving works. Like any mother, Mary protects the identity of her son. For example, the dogma that Mary is the Mother of God safeguards the Church's teachings that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, because Mary gave human flesh to her divine son. This is why the Catechism of the Church states that, "What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ" (487).

When we venerate Mary, what we are really doing is looking beyond her to the source of all grace: Jesus Christ. Each Marian dogma draws us into the mystery of Jesus, his redemptive acts and his saving love. Mary's role in the Church is simply to point us towards her son. She is like the moon, reflecting the radiance of her son's glory. When we celebrate Marian feasts we are reminded of Jesus. Because of him, all generations will call Mary blessed.

FOOD HAMPER

Our Good Food Box has run low over the summer. We are in need of: Soup, cereal, tuna, and canned fruit. Any donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!