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12 Centre Str., N. Huntsville, ON / P1H 2K8
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday / 9:30AM - 2:30PM
Parish Office: 705-789-2348

Email: office@stmaryshuntsville.ca /
website: maryassumptionparish.com

St. Vincent de Paul Help Hotline / 705-789-0008
St Mary's Elementary School / 705-789-6841



Deep Within /

There are no short cuts to peace. Anyone who sets out to bring peace to others has set out on a fool's journey because peace is not something that can be given any more than it can be received. It is the undiscovered country within each and everyone of us, whose destination is necessarily hidden from us from the onset, so that we are not tempted to break from the heavy yoke that one must bear for this grievous journey. Peace is what remains when all else has been exhausted and spent.

We begin at the surface of our lives that we continually labour to construct as a way to convince as much ourselves as those around us, that all is well. But it is here where a genuine spirit of resignation plants the slightest glimmer of insight that not all is right and good with one's soul. Recalling the countless attempts to re-establish my dominance over this inner perturbation, here, reason and grace urge me to stop on this path and die. I then begin a new path.

Not even wisdom and insight from what I have gleaned in my previous lives, am I to take with me, for they are echoes from a life that was my prison. The dissent down and within the self begins with bright, colourful and luring images that call me back for the sake of friendship, family, safety and security. These dead bones and harbingers of death are not comforts but the first chains that I must will to be free of if I am to taste peace.

Then there is the rattling of duty and responsibility, obligation, shame and guilt that sounds all around me as like a chorus that is more than familiar but had become the narrative of who I was. It bids me to join in and to unite myself with it once again. It wants me to stop this foolish quest, for fear that I may lose my whits and truly fall into a pit that has no escape. Attempting to shut out their voices, only causes them to increase with vibrato until I feel it radiating through me. But in the midst of this, there is a hush that stands next to all of this and says do not resist; listen to what you are hearing. Slowly, the many voices no longer are a cacophony,

but become one, and this one voice has become a reasonable tone. I recognize this voice as my own. I have been my jailer along, If I have kept myself in check, then the key is to continue to descend.

What is love? What is forgiveness? What is beauty? Ideas and concepts flow over me and I see my past self wearing these labels so as to identify with the world. They shine brilliantly, both with light and warmth. They feel more than familiar but as if they are truth and have been the foundation of my life. Something begins to rise up within me, panic, like I cannot possibly let these go. Then, like a pulse of light within, grace reminds me not to cling to these any longer. They are not what they seem and yet they are. They are definitions and like all definitions, they tell you very little about what something essentially is. This grace is not forcing or compelling me in any way to believe this, but it is more like a reminder as to where we are and what we are about. This will be the last of any light I will see for sometime as I continue to descend.

Truth is not light, but deafening darkness. If we have allowed ourselves to rest in this place, becoming our home, we are dwelling within the place where pure being exists. This becomes the conduit through which God reveals God's self to us unhindered. There are no images or concepts but direct inference and knowing. It is like a cup being filled with water, but there is no cup and no water. Yet, we sense we are being filled up, not with knowledge that can be communicated in the form of doctrines, dogmas, rule and laws, but with an awareness that sees the underlying oneness everywhere. This becomes the state of being that Christ revealed to us as to who he was and who he encouraged us all to become.

We embody peace itself. We do not speak of peace, or attempt to enforce it or impose it upon anyone. We simply radiate it through the manner in which we speak and listen to those around us. A person who is peace, is like a sword that has been forged in the darkness of one's inner being. Know this, peace is harsh and cuts through any and all hypocrisy. It does not hurt or harm the other, but reveals the inner self to the self, and helps to help and create the new person.

pah

Parish Pastoral Team

Alison Coort / Office Administrator - /office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Marguerite Goodfellow / Parish Nurse - office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Judith Gottschalk / Ministry Rep (contact the parish office)
Jan Sirek / Deacon - office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Fr. Paul Hogan / Pastor - Frpaulhogan@peterboroughdiocese.org

Truth and Reconciliation /

It is essential to make our place of worship better partners with Indigenous communities and organizations. For more information, please contact: Dallas Boudreau at Justicefor-Indigenous@gmail.com. As we remember ...

Margaret Williams and Pauline Johnson

Mass Schedule

Week of December 5th - 11th

Monday, December 5th, 9:00AM
Deceased and Living Members of the CWL

Tuesday, December 6th / 12noon
+Noah Corainger Gwynne & +Savannah Bethany Gwynne

Wednesday, December 7th
12Noon - SI Yoo Eun Justina Lee

Thursday, December 8th
+Agata Palermo

Saturday, December 10th / 4:00 PM
+Rennie Melnyk

Sunday, December 11th / 9:00AM
+George McDonald

Sunday, December 11th / 11:00AM
SI William Brennan

Let us pray for those who have died especially, Verna Simioni and Margaret Lacroix and for those who have asked for our prayers ...

Jaymie Ward, Peter & Phillip Tomkin, Joe Hanrath, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Ron & Margaret Smith, Angela & Stephanie Braithwaite, Robert Foley, Ruth Anne Foley, John Dunbar, Doris Lane, Sharon & Ben Boivin, Sam Muzzi, Terry Jordan, Irene Downey, Diane Haywood, Timothy Pelyk, Pat Morra, Kirsten MacDonald, Marion Majkot, Peter Poustie, Esther Phillips, Merle Jordan, Carole Ruttan, Kevin Phillips, Stephanie Jarvis, Mabelle Clear, Jake Van Bilsen, Ian Bruce, Tony Vuksan, William Brennan, Evan Maroney, Dr. Bob, Kristen Hackett, and Jane Taylor

Last Weekend Offertory
November 26th / 27th
\$4,354.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Second Week in Advent

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen

Prepare The Way Of The Lord / Housekeeping 101

pub

The whole of John the Baptist's message was the necessity for each person to avail themselves to receiving God. This is crucial for us to grasp, that it is only about receiving God. But this is not on our terms as to how and when this will take place. If that were the case, we will entirely and totally miss God's presence before us because our expectations will always get in the way. By creating the signs by which God must reveal God's self to us, when it does not happen, then we assume God is not revealing God's self to us. This is simply not the case.

On the contrary, there are no external signs or warnings alerting us to the fact that it is now happening; that God is revealing God's self to us! Rather, when John encourages us to prepare the way of the Lord, it is a matter of interior preparation first and foremost. This entails honest and sincere interior questioning first and foremost, of what I say I value. It is never about questioning our beliefs first, but our values, since all that I believe and my behaviours, flow out of what I value. It is incumbent upon us then to clearly consider what I value. But it is here, in the process of determining what it is I value, that much time, effort and discipline is required. Through this interior discernment I first ask myself what I value, what they mean, and how these values all speak to one another? Then, I turn to what Jesus taught, through word and example, and see for myself, what he valued and how he lived them out. Then I see how they compare. Not all values are what they seem and so they must be arduously tested. When what I value does not align with who God actually is, then I must be prepared for the way of the Lord to remove that which I have created to be an obstacle from me seeing God as God is and in turn, living as one with God in the world.

It is what we carry within that will either prepare the way of the Lord, or not. It is within us all the ability to learn and to unlearn, to change or to dig in, to hold onto or to freely let go of, all of which is the process of preparing God's way. As we do the "interior housekeeping" this is the working of God within. It is God who has and is preparing us for God's coming which has happened, is happening and is further to happen. This is a partnership of communion and fellowship. Together we prepare.

Parish Group Meetings

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| Monday's | 9:30AM | Gospel Reflection Group / Sacristy / All Welcome |
| Tuesday's | 6:30PM | Discipleship 101 / Sacristy / Resume January 2023 |
| Wednesday's | 9:30AM - 1PM | SVDP Food Bank Open |
| Sunday | December 4th | CWL Cookie Sale after 9:00 AM mass at St. Mary's |
| Tuesday | December 6th | SVDP Meeting / Parish Hall / 5:15PM |
| Sat./Sunday | December 10/11 | Art Show / Parish Hall |
| Thursday | December 15th | St. Mary's Christmas Concert / Church / 6:30PM |

First Annual St. Mary's Autumn Art Show / This will be held on the weekend of **December 10th/11th in the Parish Hall**. Come out to view some of the hidden talents in our parish. Schmooze with the artists and enjoy some light refreshments. This takes place following the masses that weekend. See you then.

Ecumenical Service of Healing and Anointing / This will be held Tuesday, December 20th, at 6:30PM at St. Mary's Church. It will be a time of reflection and prayer, surrounded by God's love for us all.

Knights of Columbus / The Knights of Columbus will once again be doing Food Hampers in conjunction with the SVDP Society. The demand has increased again over last year's record number so your help is really needed to make the program a success. Please drop off nonperishable food at the entrance of the church. If you wish to donate money, please put an envelope in the collection labelled Christmas Hampers. Thank you.

2023 Offertory Envelopes /

They are now available at the entrance of the church. Please be sure to take your box, unless you are fine with someone else receiving your charitable donations receipt. If you do not see a box there with your name on it, please contact the office. It is purely an oversight on our part. Some envelope numbers have changed so do not use previous years' envelopes.

Also, if you wish to forego using envelopes and would prefer Pre-Authorized Giving, you may also contact Alison in the office and she can help set you up. Thank you.

Christmas Concert / On Thursday, December 15th at 6:30PM, the Huntsville Community Band and the St. Mary's Choir will be joining up to provide an evening of Christmas Carols and Hymns. Admission will be by monetary donation collected at the door with 50% of the receipts going to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank in our Parish. This will be a wonderful evening to help place our hearts and minds that much closer to Christmas.

Christian Family Life Card Ministry - CWL Initiative / Please pick up card ministry lists for delivery to shut ins.

Next Weekend Ministry Schedule - December 10th / 11th, 2022

| | 4:00PM MASS | 9:00AM MASS | 11:00AM MASS |
|----------|--|---|--|
| Readers | Victoria Baumgart | Doug McKnight | Theresa Dean |
| EMC | Diana Snowden | Jo Ann Giesler | Jillian Febbo |
| Ushers | Ben Boivin Tracy Shisko Diana Snowden Marguerite Goodfellow | Walter Gryz Lou Luvison Linda Latour Doug Neigel | Hugh Knox Bob Lacroix, Linda Lacroix |
| Counters | Tuesday, Dec. 13th | Bob Moore | & Mary Kudryk |

May the month of December be a time of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love; all God's Grace freely given but to be shared.

CWL News/ The CWL is having a **Christmas Assorted Cookie Sale** on Sunday, **December 4th** after mass at St. Mary's. Money raised will go towards the Knight of Columbus Christmas Hamper drive. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The First Friday Fun card game will continue in the New Year at 9:45. Pay for your own Fish and Chips from the Algonquin Café will be ordered for lunch at 12:00PM.

St. Vincent de Paul / With Christmas fast approaching, St. Vincent de Paul is preparing to help struggling families make the holiday special. **CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD PROGRAM:** Each year through your generous donations we have been able to provide gift cards for the children of each of the families that come to St. Vincent de Paul for help. We want to ensure each child has a special and joyous Christmas. Envelopes marked SVDP Christmas campaign can be placed in the offertory basket Please see flyer on bulletin board for more details. Thank you for your generous support.

St. Mary's Lending Library / It has been carefully organized with good spiritual reading. You can take the book(s) home with you. When you are finished, please return them to the library. Thank you and enjoy.

Parish Nurse News / The Parish Nurse Thursday Clinic is available on Thursdays starting at 9:30AM until everyone is seen. Please drop by to chat about your health issues or anything else that may be on your mind.

Hot Lunch Tuesdays / The doors open at 11:30AM and the meal will be served from 12:00PM to 1:00PM. If you know of someone who would appreciate a meal and good company, please let them know about our Hot Lunch Tuesday. Also, any monetary donations are greatly appreciated. You may use the Poor Box at the entrance of the church, or any envelope designated as Hot Lunch. Again, thank you for making this possible!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in our parish thank you for your continued and gracious donations to the Food Bank. Nothing is ever too small or too little.

The money we collect from you, helps us to buy some perishable food items that we are able to add to their food hampers. Those coming to our food bank receive not only food, but kindness and the encouragement to remain hopeful. *Shalom*

SVDP SOCIETY

Hotline: 705-789-0008