



# ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG

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*“To transform the world by choosing unconditional love and sacrifice”*

- Parish Mission Statement

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

### PARISH TEAM

**Reverend Darrin J. G. Gurr**

Pastor

**John Eisma**

Pastoral Associate responsible for Liturgical Music Ministry

**Rachel Suarez-Banmann**

Pastoral Associate responsible for Children's Faith Formation

**Ernest Lacuna**

Administrative Coordinator

**Romeo Suban**

Operational Business Manager

**Monique Gauthier**

Living Waters Columbarium - Director of Sales, Marketing & Promotions

**Reg & Jane Todd**

Custodial

### Masses Intentions of the Week

**TUESDAY, December 26, 2017**

**7:00 p.m. Liturgy – Novena Mass in Honour of St. Gianna**

Intention: *Fr. Darrin / Eve & Dot del Rosario*

**WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2017**

**7:00 p.m. Liturgy - The Holy Innocents Vigil Liturgy**

Intention: + *Deacon Gary McCallum / Irene Kirouac*

**THURSDAY, December 28, 2017**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, December 29, 2017**

**9:30 a.m. Liturgy - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity**

Intention: + *Tommaso D'Amico & Gabriel D'Amico / Domenico D'Amico*

**SATURDAY, December 30, 2017**

**4:30 p.m. Liturgy - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Intention: + *Donatila Ortiz / Villeda-Antonio Family*

**SUNDAY, December 31, 2017 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**9:00 a.m. Liturgy - Intention: For All Parishioners**

**11:00 a.m. Liturgy - Intention: For All Parishioners**

**MONDAY, January 1, 2017 - New Year's Day**

**10:00 a.m. Liturgy - Solemnity - Mary, The Holy Mother of God**



### Remembering Those Entombed or Memorialized in Living Waters Columbarium:

December 30 - Baby Mary Blain

December 31 - Florent Gauthier

January 2 - Luz S. Sarmiento



*"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."* Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the

feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Saviour. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.

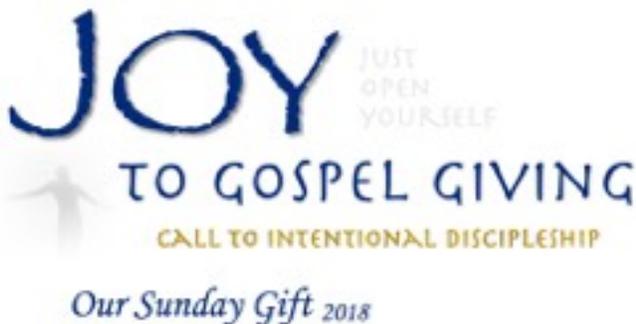
**KIDS' CORNER**

The angel of God, Gabriel, appeared to Mary and asked her to be the mother of Jesus. She said 'Yes' to God's invitation. Mary believed that God could do impossible things. Through her 'Yes', she brought Jesus into the world. Each of us can also bring Jesus into the world with our actions of love, care and respect to each other. God wants us all to be his messengers in the world.

**What can you do to be a messenger for God?**



- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies



Please remember to return your 2018 Stewardship of Treasure Commitment Card via the Sunday offertory basket, the parish office or mail.

**Sunday's Offertory - December 17, 2017**

Pre-Authorized Giving:	\$ 13,600.00
<small>(318 households on PAR)</small>	
Noah's Buddies / Youth:	\$ 5.70
Loose:	\$ 2,231.70
Votives:	\$ 206.35
<u>Novena Mass</u>	<u>\$ 326.10</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 16,369.85</b>

Our minimum weekly offertory income requirement is \$ 20,000.00

**Parish Office Christmas Holiday  
Hours of Operation:**

December 23 - December 27 - **CLOSED**  
December 28 - **OPEN** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
December 29 - **OPEN** 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM  
December 30 - January 1, 2018 - **CLOSED**  
January 2 - **OPEN** regular office hours

**NEW Photo Session Date Added - January 14, 2018**



As you know, members of our parish community have had their photos taken as part of the creation of our first parish photo directory. Participation in this endeavour is free of charge and all participants will receive a copy of the completed parish directory. Several portrait sessions have been completed, but many families have yet to participate. We have added another session for **January 14, 2018**. Call the parish office to book your photo session: 204-488-3977.



**THE SECRET MEANING OF THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the fruit of the Spirit that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend, but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The **partridge** in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators. The **two** turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments, The **three** French hens stood for faith, hope, and love. The **four** calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The **five** golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Saviour. The **six** geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. **Seven** swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The **eight** maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. **Nine** ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Chastity. The **ten** lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The **eleven** pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles. The **twelve** drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

**Christmas Meal Time Blessings**

Lord Our God, the coming of your Son brings joy to the whole world.  
Fill us with your love, and the hungry with good things.  
Bless our table and home, and grant that the food we share  
increases our eagerness to serve you in each other.  
Glory to you, Lord, in the wonder of your presence around us  
forever and ever. Amen



Visit our new websites, watch our videos and keep up-to-date on parish activities:  
Go to [www.stgianna.ca](http://www.stgianna.ca) and [www.livingwaterswpg.ca](http://www.livingwaterswpg.ca)



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