



# Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League



**December  
2019**

**Currently  
collecting:**

*Tin for the Bin  
Pill Bottles  
Feminine Hygiene  
Products & Toiletries  
Tabs for Wheelchairs  
Used Eyeglasses  
Children's Sacramental  
Clothing*

That is the  
best of Christmas,  
that it is a  
startling and  
disturbing  
happiness;  
it is an  
uncomfortable  
comfort.



*E.K. Chesterton?*  
@americanchestertonsociety

**Welcome to our newest members: Monique Jeanson, Catherine Larson & Luana Hebert!**

**Our Spiritual Advisor**

Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londoño

**Our Members**

Lacey Bernardin, *President*

Lynne Bernier

Susan Bernier

Irene Bialek

Valerie Bonnefoy

Jacqueline Bouchard, *Vice Pres, Chair*

Lindsay Bouchard

Jolene Capina, *Treasurer*

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Janine Durand-Rondeau

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Constance Haas

Luana Hebert

Monique Jeanson

Sue Johannesson

Monique Johnson

Delaney Kolowca

Heather Kolowca

Nettie Lambert

Catherine Larson

Micki Maxwell

Marie McCall

Madelyn McConnell

Kathleen Messner

Suzanne Moore, *Chair, Secretary*

Carol Mravinec

Mary-Ann Novak

Agatha Olayiwola

Marcia Poirier

Jennifer Poitra

Marie-Ange Prevost

Mae Ross, *Chair*

Iris Swiderski

Joanne Touchette

Marilyn Toutant

# December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 </p> <p>CWL Advent Gathering 12:30 </p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Janet McD</p>	2	3	<p>4 </p>	5	<p>6 </p> <p>Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londono (22)</p> <p>Adoration 6-7 pm Gisele</p>	7
<p>8 </p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Rolande</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Honour Guard at Cathedral; 7:30 pm <i>Feast of The Immaculate Conception</i></p>	10	<p>11 </p> <p>Iris Swiderski </p> <p>Mass to CWL Intentions <i>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> </p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Adoration 6-7 pm Gisele</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Deadline for Tache Christmas Hamper Donations</i></p>
<p>15 </p> <p>Deadline Tache Christmas Hamper Donations</p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass MaryAnn</p>	16	17	<p>18 </p>	19	<p>20 </p> <p>Jolene &amp; Ryan Capina</p> <p>Adoration 6-7 pm NO ADORATION</p>	21
<p>22 </p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Kathleen</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Charity</p>	 <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Suzanne</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Adoration 6-7 pm NO ADORATION</p>	28
<p>29 </p> <p>Mass to CWL Intentions <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i></p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Mae</p>	<p>30 </p> <p>Lindsay &amp; Dan Bouchard</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Lacey</p>	<p>Jan 1 </p> <p>Mass to CWL Intentions <i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i></p> <p>Prayers &lt; Mass Charity</p>			





# Lacey's Address

Merry Christmas ladies and Father Jorge Mario!

For those who had missed the good news last month, Agatha Olayiwola had officially joined our council. Welcome Agatha! Following that, more great news. After our CWL Sunday this past month, with an amazing turnout, we now have another three new members. Please welcome to our ranks Monique Jeanson, her daughter Catherine Larson and Luana Hebert. Welcome ladies!

A few thank you's go out to some of our members: Suzanne M. & Suzanne D. who represented our council at the Remembrance Day Ceremony and laid our wreath. A big thank you as well to all the ladies who helped/attended with Morley Holloway's funeral. Morley was the husband of Colleen Holloway who used to be one of our members.

We were lucky enough to celebrate the installation of Father Jorge Mario as our council's newest Spiritual Advisor. Father was presented with the Spiritual Advisor stole as well as his pin. Thank you Father for making us one of your priorities! Pictures of the installation from our last general meeting are found in this newsletter.

I'd like to thank Val, my husband Joe and my future member daughters, Megan and Vanessa for all the help with the Archbishop's visit. We were able to prepare and serve pizza's, salads and desserts for approximately 70 people. We had a great turnout and just enough food. It was a fun and interesting evening. Unfortunately none of us thought to take pictures; if any of you attended or know of someone who attended and may have taken pictures, please let me know!

This coming Sunday, we will be celebrating our Annual Advent

Gathering. Come for the fun, games, carolling and gathering. Everyone always has a good time and it's a great way to get to know your fellow members. Hope to see you there.

On December 6th, we will be celebrating with Father and the Parish his ordination anniversary after mass at 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Lastly, if you know you will be at the English Christmas Eve Mass, we are still looking for volunteers from our council to be greeters as well as collectors. We should wear our scarves and/or pins to represent the League. If you can volunteer your time, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

See you in the New Year,

*Lacey*

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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## Pope's Prayer Intentions for December 2019

### The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.





# CWL SUNDAY, November 3, 2019



Very often in prayer we do not have a deep sense of the presence of God. ... Really, we are very much like children that are carried in mother's arms. If we are carried in Our Lord's arms, we rarely see His face. But we know it is there. —[Ven. Fulton Sheen from Prayer is a Dialogue](#)

Just as Eve brought death into the world through her fall and through her succumbing to Satan, so too Mary becomes the new Eve who brings life into the world through her 'yes' to God. This imagery of Mary as the new Eve goes all the way back to the Old Testament: she is the new woman, who will overcome the serpent through her 'yes' to God and through the coming of her Son, the Messiah. —[DR. SCOTT HAHN from What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Mary](#)









Welcome / Bienvenue  
Centre Flavie-Laurent



Sr. Flavie-Laurent

## Centre Flavie Laurent by the numbers

1979 (1st year) # of clients	1,400
1985 clients	14,893
Families served in 2018	6,940
Families served since 2015	19,560
Deliveries to clients	1,782
Donation Drop-offs	14,394
Donation Pick ups	3,427
Boxes of Dishes received	3,138
Bags of Clothes	9,511
Sofas & Arm Chairs	2,543
Mattresses & Box Springs	3,138
Clothes Recycled lbs	300,548
Assorted Articles Recycled lbs	320,451
Revenue from Recycling	\$100,000



Centre Flavie-Laurent is relocating to increase its facility capacity and is fundraising \$1.2m. They have a matching grant from Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba, so that for every donation dollar received by Centre Flavie-Laurent, the CHCM will match that amount \$ for \$, to a maximum of \$250,000! For a tax donation that keeps on giving, contact CFL!

## 11/10/2014 - a day that's tough —By Delaney Kolowca

Five years ago, my family and I decided that I would go in for surgery to try and correct some scoliosis that I have. We were told ahead of time that there would be a 5% chance that the surgery could result in paralysis, 20% chance that surgery would do nothing & 75% chance that it would help and correct it. We all thought that the 5% wouldn't happen, but it did.

I spent nine months in the hospital, learning a new way of life. Everything started from the basics and had to work my way up to where I am. Missed most of freshman year in high school.

I'm not going say that it was for the worse or the better. It allowed me to make some new friends recovering, brought me closer with people. I even had the chance to meet new people and make great connections with them. I had a great high school that supported and sent me get well messages all throughout the process even though I was only a student for two months.

I am forever grateful for the people that supported and encouraged me throughout the whole thing, cause I can definitely say, at certain times it wasn't easy.





# Greetings from Maryse



Hola!

EEK! Almost two months since my last missive! It's reflective of my very full schedule since the beginning of October. In Peru, both the school year and sacramental preparation end in December, which explains the busier schedule.

That doesn't prevent one from feasting! At the start of October, I participated in the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, it's a Franciscan parish, so there are lavish celebrations! Among other things, I partook in a banquet for parish leaders (how and why I got invited, I really couldn't tell you) and watched the blessing of mascotas (pets) and plants after Sunday mass. And yes, some animals even attended mass!

A week later, I participated with Sr. Marisol in the pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Jachapataza. We prayed the Way of the Cross with a miraculous cross that travels from one pilgrimage to another. Prayers in Spanish melded with Aymara hymns. Many came dressed in traditional clothes (see picture). The view was also amazing: the deep blue of the lake shone as far as the eye can see under an azure sky dotted with clouds. On the way back, we stopped at Charcas Beach. Apparently, I had my feet buried in sand while most Manitobans had theirs in wet snow.

Other memorable moments of the last months were all the celebrations surrounding All Saints' and All Souls' Day, both holidays in many parts of Peru. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the sisters organize a mass for the neighbourhood in their yard in Mocachi. People came with flowers, food and other



items which they would later place on the tomb of their departed ones, it made quite a display. In the evening, I accompanied the catechism team to pray in the homes of various families who have lost someone in the past three years. These families arrange beautiful altars where they place pictures of the departed and their favourite dishes. It's a deeply moving experience to enter in the intimacy of a grieving family. I didn't dare take pictures in the homes, but you will find attached one of my bounty from that night because when visitors depart, the family offers to each of them a small bag of food.

On a brighter note, I finally discovered why people ask me often if I am German: it's because of my height and of my complexion!

Finally, I wanted to thank in a special way those who have made a financial donation to support my missionary work. You will find attached pictures of benches and shelving units your donation helped to build. Now, thanks to you, all Mocachi biblioteca's

children have somewhere to stow away their mochilas (backpacks) and benched suited to their size, which makes the small room better suited to doing homework. In the pictures, you will see Sunyoun, Yemar, Jhon, Luz Marina and Anali.

That's it for now! Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and in your prayers. You are in mine as well.

Un grande abrazo,  
Maryse





# Blessing of Food Bank and Thrifty Treasures



## Sacramental Clothing Drive Results



14 boys' shirts (13 white, 1 black)  
10 boys' dress pants  
5 boys' ties  
1 blazer & vest  
1 knitted pink sweater  
1 knitted yellow baby sweater set  
2 knitted pairs of baby socks  
7 baby hats/bonnets

4 baptismal baby outfits  
9 girls' white dresses—6mos—2 yrs  
23 white dresses  
1 white skirt  
3 white blouses  
1 pair white gloves  
1 white crocheted vest  
1 pair white lacy socks

"There was room for the rich; there was room for those who were clothed in soft garments...But when finally the scrolls of history are completed down to the last word of time, the saddest lines of all will be: 'There was no room in the inn.' The inn was the gathering place of public opinion, the focal point of the world's moods, the rendezvous of the worldly, the rallying place of the popular and the successful. But there's no room in the place where the world gathers. The stable is the place for outcasts, the ignored, and the forgotten. The world might have expected the Son of God to be born in an inn; a stable would certainly be the last place in the world where one would look for Him. The lesson is: divinity is always where you least expect to find it. So the Son of God-Made-Man is invited to enter into His own world through a back door." *Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen (Bishop Sheen Catechism)*





Dear Lacey and CWL members:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all CWL members who helped with making cabbage rolls and coleslaw as well as cooking the cabbage rolls for our October 13, 2019 fall supper.

I was so impressed with all of you working diligently on Saturday afternoon to complete all the tasks that traditionally are been done Friday evening.

The cabbage rolls and the coleslaw were delicious. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in Christ,

*Yvonne Romaniuk*

Yvonne Romaniuk,  
Fall Committee.

Dear Lorette Sisters  
Words cannot express my thanks  
for your help & generous baking for  
Marilyn's funeral lunch.  
Thank you for  
your expression of kindness  
You have touched my heart deeply at  
a difficult time.  
Love Colleen & family



**St Bernadette CWL  
Christmas Dinner**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Ave**

**Doors open at 5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**\$25.00**

Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office  
during business hours 204-255-1951  
or by calling Karen at 204-599-1224  
or Yvonne at 204-237-0978

**Deadline to purchase tickets is December 3rd at 12:00 noon**



## Picture this!

The Centenary Committee invites you to look into your archives for pictures of memorable CWL events that happened in your parish, diocese or province over the past 100 years.

Bring your pictures to the national convention in 2020 and they will be put on display for the duration of the convention.

The Centenary Committee will be choosing pictures to be included in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Table Book.

We can't wait to see your pictures that capture and celebrate the past 100 years!





# Haven't Been to Confession in Years? This Priest Provides 3 Great Ways to Prepare Your Heart This Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," St. John the Baptist said as he repeated Isaiah's words. (Luke 3:4)

John the Baptist calls us to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord and to be ready for Christ's arrival, not only in a general way into the world, but also in a particular way into each one of our hearts.

This voice crying out in the wilderness is telling us to be alert, ready, and prepared—to make straight our paths, for the Lord is coming, the Lamb of God is coming, Christ is coming!

The best way prepare for Jesus' coming is take advantage of the sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent season. This is something we are all called to do.

If you feel that calling and desire to go to Confession during this Advent season, it's important to prepare for receiving this wonderful sacrament.

Here are three ways in which we can do that:

## 1) Be prepared before going into the confessional

**Central to our preparation before going to confession is an examination of conscience.**

In other words, we reflect on how long it's been since our last Confession and what kind of sins we have committed during that time.

**Don't worry, you are not the only sinner out there! Every one of us struggles with temptation and sin.**

As a newly ordained priest and confessor, I have learned that many people struggle with the same kinds of sins.

**One of the devil's tactics in keeping us in our sinful ways is making us think that we are alone. But this is a lie. We are not alone in our fight against temptation and sin.**



All of us are called to examine ourselves and see where we have failed to do the Lord's will in our lives.

## 2) Be prepared during confession

As we enter the confessional and begin the sacrament, we can prepare ourselves by opening our hearts to God's love, mercy, and grace that He pours upon us through His priest.

**In his book *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales wrote about the importance of listening to the priest in the confessional:**

"Go to your confessor; open your heart to him; reveal to him all the recesses of your soul, and accept the advice he [the priest] gives you with the utmost humility and simplicity.

"God has infinite love for obedience. He often makes profitable the counsels we take from others, especially [from] those who guide our souls [our priests]."

In this way, we can be ready to be formed by the priest's advice and by the Holy Spirit working in our hearts in that sacramental moment.

## 3) Be prepared after Confession

How can we be prepared after our Confession?

We can prepare to do penance and understand that we are strengthened to turn away from sin.

It is important to do the penance the priest gives us (like praying so many Our Fathers or Hail Marys), but we shouldn't

think that penance is a condition for God's mercy.

**God's forgiveness is limitless and doesn't depend on our doing penance.**

However, penances help us to make satisfaction for our sin and help us to re-establish good, holy habits. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, [1494](#))

**In addition to penance, God gives us the grace in this sacrament not to sin again.**

While this sacrament is about confessing our sins and offering our failings to God, it's also about receiving the strength and the grace to be better Christians, to be better followers of Christ.

And of course, we are imperfect human beings, who will eventually fail again and again. **But we have God's constant love, mercy, and forgiveness to help us along our spiritual journeys.**

**Preparing for confession can help us prepare for Christ's coming this Christmas season.**

We can prepare **before** going to Confession by examining our conscience, **during** Confession by being open to the Holy Spirit's work through the priest, and **after** Confession in our resolve not to sin again and to cooperate with God's wonderful grace.

**Let us ask for the grace to run forth to be reconciled with God through the sacrament of Reconciliation so our hearts may be truly prepared for Christ's coming at Christmas.**

<https://churchpop.com/2018/12/15/havent-been-to-confession-in-years-this-priest-provides-three-great-ways-to-prepare-your-heart-this-advent/>

**Parish Confession:**

**December 15, 2019**

**7:00 pm**



# The Healing Gift of Confession

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28



**+ DON'T BE AFRAID +**

Are all of our sins—past, present, and future—forgiven once and for all when we become Christians? Not according to the Bible or the early Church Fathers. Scripture nowhere states that our future sins are forgiven; instead, it teaches us to pray, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matt. 6:12).

The means by which God forgives sins after baptism is confession: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Minor or venial sins can be confessed directly to God, but for grave or mortal sins, which crush the spiritual life out of the soul, God has instituted a different means for obtaining forgiveness—the sacrament known popularly as confession, penance, or reconciliation.

This sacrament is rooted in the mission God gave to Christ in his capacity as the Son of man on earth to go and forgive sins (see Matt. 9:6). Thus, the crowds who witnessed this new power “glorified God, who had given such authority to men” (Matt. 9:8; note the plural “men”). After his resurrection, Jesus passed on his mission to forgive sins to his ministers, telling them, “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. . . . Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:21–23).

Since it is not possible to confess all of our many daily faults, we know that sacramental reconciliation is required only for grave or mortal sins—but it is required, or Christ would not have commanded it.

Over time, the forms in which the sacrament has been administered have changed. In the early Church, publicly known sins (such as apostasy) were often confessed openly in church, though private confession to a priest was always an option for privately committed sins. Still, confession was not just something done in silence to God alone, but something done “in church,” as the *Didache* (A.D. 70) indicates.

Penances also tended to be performed before rather than after absolution, and they were much stricter than those of today (ten years’ penance for abortion, for example, was common in the early Church).

But the basics of the sacrament have always been there, as the following quotations reveal.

Of special significance is their recognition that confession and absolution must be received by a sinner before receiving Holy Communion, for “[w]hoever . . . eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Cor. 11:27).

**The Didache** - “Confess your sins in church, and do not go up to your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of life. . . . On the Lord’s Day gather together, break bread, and give thanks, after confessing your transgressions so that your sacrifice may be pure” (*Didache* 4:14, 14:1 [A.D. 70]).

**The Letter of Barnabas** - “You shall confess your sins. You shall not go to prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of light” (*Letter of Barnabas* 19 [A.D. 74]).

**Ignatius of Antioch** - “For as many as are of God and of Jesus Christ are also with the bishop. And as many as shall, in the exercise of penance, return into the unity of the Church, these, too, shall belong to God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ” (*Letter to the Philadelphians* 3 [A.D. 110]).

“For where there is division and wrath, God does not dwell. To all them that repent, the Lord grants forgiveness, if they turn in penitence to the unity of God, and to communion with the bishop” (*ibid.*, 8).

**Irenaeus** - “[The Gnostic disciples of Marcus] have deluded many women. . . . Some of these women make a public confession, but others are ashamed to do this, and in silence, as if withdrawing from themselves the hope of the life of God, they either apostatize entirely or hesitate between the two courses” (*Against Heresies* 1:22 [A.D. 189]).

**Tertullian** - “[Regarding confession, some] flee from this work as being an exposure of themselves, or they put it off from day to day. I presume they are more mindful of modesty than of salvation, like those who contract a disease in the more shameful parts of the body and shun making themselves known to the physicians; and thus they perish along with their own bashfulness” (*Repentance* 10:1 [A.D. 203]).

**Hippolytus** - “[The bishop conducting the ordination of the new bishop shall pray:] God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . Pour forth now that power which comes from you, from your royal Spirit, which you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and which he bestowed upon his holy apostles . . . and grant this your servant, whom you have chosen for the episcopate, [the power] to feed your holy flock and to serve without blame as your high priest, ministering night and day to propitiate unceasingly before your face and to offer to you the gifts of your holy Church, and by the Spirit of the high priesthood to have the authority to forgive sins, in accord with your command” (*Apostolic Tradition* 3 [A.D. 215]).

**Origen** - “[A final method of forgiveness], albeit hard and laborious [is] the remission of sins through penance, when the sinner . . . does not shrink from declaring his sin to a priest of the Lord and from seeking medicine, after the manner of him who say, ‘I said, “To the Lord I will accuse myself of my iniquity”’” (*Homilies on Leviticus* 2:4 [A.D. 248]).

**Cyprian of Carthage** - “The apostle [Paul] likewise bears witness and says: ‘. . . Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord’ [1 Cor. 11:27]. But [the impenitent] spurn and despise all these warnings; before their sins are expiated, before they have made a confession of their crime, before their conscience has been purged in the ceremony and at the hand of the priest . . . they do violence to [the Lord’s] body and blood, and with their hands and mouth they sin against the Lord more than when they denied him” (*The Lapsed* 15:1–3 [A.D. 251]).

(Continued on page 12)



## THE SEAL OF CONFESSION



The Seal of Confession is the bond of secrecy that forbids the priest to reveal for any reason whatsoever what has been told to him in confession. The penitent himself is the only one who can release the priest from that bond.

A priest cannot reveal what has been told to him in sacramental Confession even to save the whole world from destruction. Rather than violate the seal of confession, a priest must be prepared to suffer false accusations, disgrace, and what is worse, death. If a priest were ever guilty of having deliberately broken the seal of confession, he would be penalized with the strictest type of excommunication the Church can inflict.

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"Of how much greater faith and salutary fear are they who . . . confess their sins to the priests of God in a straightforward manner and in sorrow, making an open declaration of conscience. . . . I beseech you, brethren, let everyone who has sinned confess his sin while he is still in this world, while his confession is still admissible, while the satisfaction and remission made through the priests are still pleasing before the Lord" (ibid., 28).

"[S]inners may do penance for a set time, and according to the rules of discipline come to public confession, and by imposition of the hand of the bishop and clergy receive the right of Communion. [But now some] with their time [of penance] still unfulfilled . . . they are admitted to Communion, and their name is presented; and while the penitence is not yet performed, confession is not yet made, the hands of the bishop and clergy are not yet laid upon them, the Eucharist is given to them; although it is written, 'Whosoever shall eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord' [1 Cor. 11:27]" (Letters 9:2 [A.D. 253]).

"And do not think, dearest brother, that either the courage of the brethren will be lessened, or that martyrdoms will fail for this cause, that penance is relaxed to the lapsed, and that the hope of peace [i.e., absolution] is offered to the penitent. . . . For to adulterers even a time of repentance is granted by us, and peace is given" (ibid., 51[55]:20).

"But I wonder that some are so obstinate as to think that repentance is not to be granted to the lapsed, or to suppose that pardon is to be denied to the penitent, when it is written, 'Remember whence thou art fallen, and

repent, and do the first works' [Rev. 2:5], which certainly is said to him who evidently has fallen, and whom the Lord exhorts to rise up again by his deeds [of penance], because it is written, 'Alms deliver from death' [Tob. 12:9]" (ibid., 51[55]:22).

**Aphraahat the Persian Sage** - "You [priests], then, who are disciples of our illustrious physician [Christ], you ought not deny a curative to those in need of healing. And if anyone uncovers his wound before you, give him the remedy of repentance. And he that is ashamed to make known his weakness, encourage him so that he will not hide it from you. And when he has revealed it to you, do not make it public, lest because of it the innocent might be reckoned as guilty by our enemies and by those who hate us" (Treatises 7:3 [A.D. 340]).

**Basil the Great** - "It is necessary to confess our sins to those to whom the dispensation of God's mysteries is entrusted. Those doing penance of old are found to have done it before the saints. It is written in the Gospel that they confessed their sins to John the Baptist [Matt. 3:6], but in Acts [19:18] they confessed to the apostles" (Rules Briefly Treated 288 [A.D. 374]).

**John Chrysostom** - "Priests have received a power which God has given neither to angels nor to archangels. It was said to them: 'Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed.' Temporal rulers have indeed the power of binding; but they can only bind the body. Priests, in contrast, can bind with a bond which pertains to the soul itself and transcends the very heavens. Did [God] not give them all the powers of heaven? 'Whose sins you shall forgive,' he says, 'they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.' What greater power is

there than this? The Father has given all judgment to the Son. And now I see the Son placing all this power in the hands of men [Matt. 10:40; John 20:21-23]" (The Priesthood 3:5 [A.D. 387]).

**Ambrose of Milan** - "For those to whom [the right of binding and loosing] has been given, it is plain that either both are allowed, or it is clear that neither is allowed. Both are allowed to the Church, neither is allowed to heresy. For this right has been granted to priests only" (Penance 1:1 [A.D. 388]).

**Jerome** - "If the serpent, the devil, bites someone secretly, he infects that person with the venom of sin. And if the one who has been bitten keeps silence and does not do penance, and does not want to confess his wound . . . then his brother and his master, who have the word [of absolution] that will cure him, cannot very well assist him" (Commentary on Ecclesiastes 10:11 [A.D. 388]).

NIHIL OBSTAT: I have concluded that the materials presented in this work are free of doctrinal or moral errors. Bernadeane Carr, STL, Censor Librorum, August 10, 2004

IMPRIMATUR: In accord with 1983 CIC 827 permission to publish this work is hereby granted.

+Robert H. Brom, Bishop of San Diego, August 10, 2004

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/confession>



### 1. Confess

CONFESS YOUR SINS ALOUD TO THE PRIEST, WHO LISTENS LOVINGLY ON BEHALF OF CHRIST & THE CHURCH.

THE PRAYERS OR GOOD DEEDS THE PRIEST GIVES YOU, TO BEGIN HEALING RELATIONSHIPS HURT BY YOUR SINS.

### 2. Receive Penance



### 3. Act of Contrition

A SIMPLE EXPRESSION TO GOD THAT YOU ARE SORRY FOR YOUR SINS & THAT YOU RESOLVE TO LEAVE SIN BEHIND.

THE WORDS THE PRIEST SPEAKS WHICH RECONCILE YOU TO GOD AND THE CHURCH.

### 4. Receive Absolution



### AN ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.  
In his name, my God, have mercy.

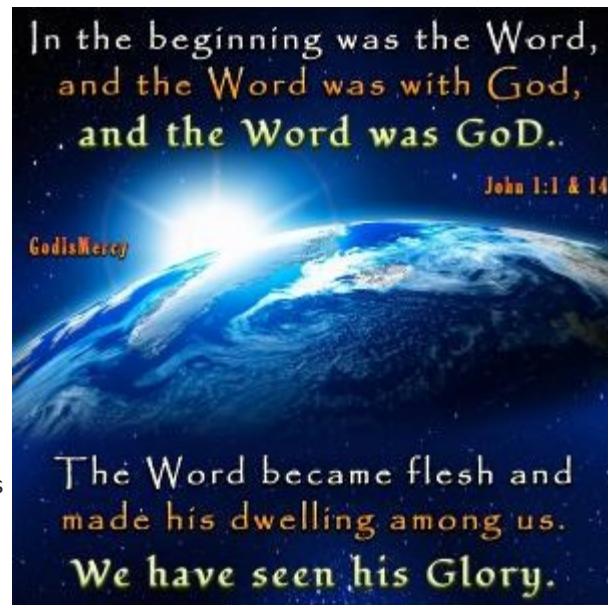


Suppose that on the next Fourth of July everyone began sending to friends postcards on which were engraved images of Chinese temples, Bali dancers, minarets, Italian wine feasts, and Hindu holy men; one would suspect that our nation had forgotten the great historical event behind the Fourth of July.

In like manner, when at Christmas one sees an exchange of cards on which are burning logs, rabbits, reindeer, dinner scenes, snow scenes and sleighs, one wonders if we are not having the feast without the festival and merriment without a reason for being merry. In such case, we would be like one awakened from a sleep who orders a drink to toast a dream which he cannot remember.

Christmas is a historical event. Its solemnity has been told in the most pregnant words ever written by the pen of man: "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us."

As I write this column I have a word or a thought in my mind -- but no one knows what it is until I declare it or write it. When I write the word Mary, who was the Mother of the Babe of Christmas, you can say that the word became ink and dwelt upon the page. Now God has a Thought or a Word. We have many thoughts because our knowledge is so imperfect. God has only one Thought or one Word, which reaches to the abyss of all things that are known or can be known. Go back, pile century on century, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God." *Archbishop Fulton Sheen (Bishop Sheen Writes)*



## When I Didn't Know How to Help: A Hard Day in the Life of a Parish Priest

He wants to know that something out there ahead can be better for him than it is now.

Me? I feel inept to the task. I am okay with that. It isn't me he needs. It is God he needs. He needs to see someone give

talk to. I don't know if he keeps the number or uses it. I hope he does.

You all? Pray for this young man. My heart aches at all of the trauma he has gone through. He can use all of the prayer he can get as he tries to improve and stabilize his ship.

Since it was the feast of St Anthony of Padua when it happened, let's just call this young man 'Anthony.' God will know who you are praying for.

<https://churchpop.com/2018/06/23/when-i-didnt-know-how-to-help-a-hard-day-in-the-life-of-a-parish-priest/?fbclid=IwAR1Fpzl23xC8JiLDvNnhR1uVullbdd3nzAkeAncUAoSUBOjUvCDQj8RFVVo>

There are times in ministry when you come across a moment out of the blue that just becomes hard to shake off.

Once in a while, you come across a person you don't know and might well never see again who has been bruised, beaten, and defeated by life and he ends up in your office. He doesn't want a hand-out, he wants a way out.

witness to God that no matter how bad the wreckage he finds himself in, there is hope. He needed someone to see beyond the broken man and see the child of God.

A couple hours of talking and making arrangements to get him to a place where he could be helped, I prayed my rosary for him as I left him at the bus station. I give him my number and tell him to call me when he needs someone to

## Before you see that relative you don't like during the holidays, say this prayer



Loving our own family members can sometimes be the hardest calling. The holiday season is often a time for family reunions, which can be a mixed bag. If you enter into a situation imagining that it will certainly end up like last time, however, you're setting yourself up for a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead, put yourself in the right mindset to face that difficult relationship calmly by turning to God and asking for His help and peace ...

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of my family. Thank you for every good and peaceful moment I've had with them. I choose to surrender the painful and infuriating moments into Your hands, for Your judgment is far more just and wise than my own. As I approach this [day, visit, reunion, gathering, party, etc.], I ask for the graces of humility, kindness, charity, self-control, and self-confidence. I ask that I be rooted in You, Father, that I will remember that I am seen, known, and loved by You. You provide for all I need. Trusting in this, I surrender the outcome to Your will and loving providence. I pray that, even if we cannot heal our relationships completely, that we can move forward with mutual respect and compassion. But even if I do not receive the respect and compassion I desire, I will never stop seeking to love others as well as I am able, trusting that my own need for love is filled to overflowing by You, my God. In the Name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

# G. K. CHESTERTON and Christmas

*The House of Christmas*, arguably Chesterton's most beloved Christmas poem:

There fared a mother driven forth  
Out of an inn to roam;  
In the place where she was homeless  
All men are at home.

The crazy stable close at hand,  
With shaking timber and shifting sand,  
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand  
Than the square stones of Rome.

For men are homesick in their homes,  
And strangers under the sun,  
And they lay on their heads in a foreign land  
Whenever the day is done.  
Here we have battle and blazing eyes,  
And chance and honour and high surprise,  
But our homes are under miraculous skies  
Where the yule tale was begun.

A Child in a foul stable,  
Where the beasts feed and foam;  
Only where He was homeless  
Are you and I at home;  
We have hands that fashion and heads that know,  
But our hearts we lost – how long ago!  
In a place no chart nor ship can show  
Under the sky's dome.

This world is wild as an old wives' tale,  
And strange the plain things are,  
The earth is enough and the air is enough  
For our wonder and our war;  
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings  
And our peace is put in impossible things  
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings  
Round an incredible star.

To an open house in the evening  
Home shall men come,  
To an older place than Eden  
And a taller town than Rome.  
To the end of the way of the wandering star,  
To the things that cannot be and that are,  
To the place where God was homeless  
And all men are at home.

Bethlehem is emphatically a place where extremes meet. Here begins, it is needless to say, another mighty influence for the humanization of Christendom. If the world wanted what is called a non-controversial aspect of Christianity, it would probably select Christmas. Yet it is obviously bound up with what is supposed to be a controversial aspect (I could never at any stage of my opinions imagine why); the respect paid to the Blessed Virgin.

When I was a boy, a more Puritan generation objected to a statue upon my parish church representing the Virgin and Child. After much controversy, they compromised by taking away the Child. One would think that this was even more corrupted with Mariolatry, unless the mother was counted less dangerous when deprived of a sort of weapon.

But the practical difficulty is also a parable. "You cannot chip away the statue of a mother from all round that of a newborn child. You cannot suspend the new-born child in mid-air; indeed, you cannot really have a statue of a newborn child at all.

Similarly, you cannot suspend the idea of a newborn child in the void or think of him without thinking of his mother. You cannot visit the child without visiting the mother; you cannot in common human life approach the child except through the mother. If we are to think of Christ in this aspect at all, the other idea follows it as it is followed in history. We must either leave Christ out of Christmas, or Christmas out of Christ, or we must admit, if only as we admit it in an old picture, that those holy heads are too near together for the haloes not to mingle and cross. —G. K. CHESTERTON  
from *The Everlasting Man*



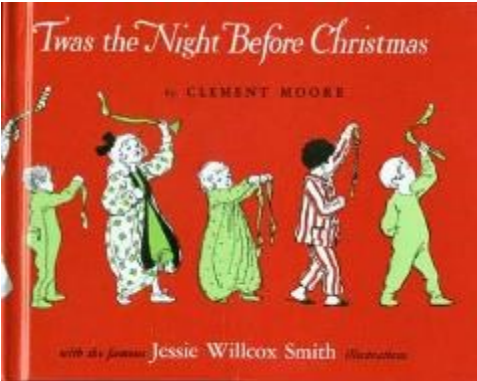
Any agnostic or atheist whose childhood has known a real Christmas has ever afterwards, whether he likes it or not, an association in his mind between two ideas that most of mankind must regard as remote from each other; the idea of a baby and the idea of unknown strength that sustains the stars. His instincts and imagination can still connect them, when his reason can no longer see the need of the connection; for him there will always be some savour of religion about the mere picture of a mother and a baby; some hint of mercy and softening about the mere mention of the dreadful name of God. —G. K. CHESTERTON from *The Everlasting Man*



# 5 Myths About Christmas that Just Won't Go Away

## Myth 1: Clement C. Moore wrote "Twas the Night Before Christmas"

**Truth:** The poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was originally published anonymously in New York's *Troy Sentinel* on December 23, 1823. Thirteen years later, Clement C. Moore stepped forward and said that he was the author of the poem. But soon after that, other members of his family disputed his claim, saying that other members of their family had been reciting the poem for



at least the last 30 years or so.

## Myth 2: "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song is a secret Catholic code

**Truth:** In 1979, a Canadian scholar published an article titled, "How to Decode the Twelve Days of Christmas." His article had a novel claim: the different gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" are code for Catholic beliefs, and it was created by English Catholics when Catholicism was illegal in England. Since then, the claim has been repeated and spread far and wide in Catholic circles.

There's only one problem: the scholar who originated the theory provided no evidence for his claims and later admitted that he had just made it up. Besides, none of the things he claimed the song mentioned in code were unique to Catholicism, so there would have been no need for them to be hidden from Protestants.



## Myth 3: Coca-Cola invented Santa Claus

**Truth:** The character Santa Claus developed into a form close to its current form in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Coca-Cola ran its famous advertising campaign in the 1930s. The campaign did help to further popularize the character, but the company did not make his clothes red to correspond better with Coke – Santa was already depicted with red clothes.

Further, Coca-Cola wasn't even the first soft



drink to be marketed with Santa Claus. The company White Rock Beverages used images of Santa Claus wearing red to advertise mineral water in 1915.

## Myth 4: The "Immaculate Conception" refers to the conception of Jesus



**Truth:** While it's of course true that Jesus was conceived without any Original Sin, the term "Immaculate Conception" refers to the conception of Mary without any Original Sin.

## Myth 5: Christmas is celebrated on December 25th to replace a pagan holiday

**Truth:** The first record of Christians celebrating Christmas on December 25th dates back to the 4th century. St. John Chrysostom says that Christians celebrate Christ's birth on that date not to co-opt a pagan celebration, but because they had good reason to believe December 25th was the actual date of Christ's birth.

Here's his reasoning: Scripture tells us that Elizabeth conceived John the Baptist after her husband Zachariah did his priestly duties for the Day of Atonement. That holy day usually falls around late September or early October.



Scripture also says that after the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive Jesus, she visited Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant. This means that Mary probably conceived Jesus around late March. Nine months later is the end of December.

Some point out that there was an ancient pagan feast on December 25th. While that may be true, there were lots of pagan feasts throughout the year – a Christian feast lining up with a pagan feast isn't that rare and doesn't prove anything about the origin of Christmas.

<https://churchpop.com/2014/12/21/5-myths-christmas-just-wont-go-away/>



# Christmas Eve 1942



It was Christmas Eve 1942. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted for Christmas.

We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Daddy wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible. After supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Daddy to get down the old Bible.

I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Daddy didn't get the Bible instead he bundled up again and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though I was too busy wallowing in self-pity.

Soon he came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now he was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew he was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my coat. Mommy gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what..

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up this sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Daddy was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up

beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. When I was on, Daddy pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed.

"I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me." The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on,

but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high side boards on.

Then Daddy went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood - the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all Fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. I asked, "what are you doing?" You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. Mrs. Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what?

Yeah," I said, "Why?"

"I rode by just today," he said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him. We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, he called a halt to our loading then we went to the smoke house and he took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand.

"What's in the little sack?" I asked. Shoes, they're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Mrs. Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Daddy was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a

big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was he buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us; it shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt, could we come in for a bit?"



Mrs. Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Mrs. Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Daddy said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then he handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children - sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling

*(Continued on page 17)*



(Continued from page 16)

and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at my Daddy like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," he said. Then turned to me and said, "Matt, go



bring in enough to last awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and as much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks with so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak.

My heart swelled within me and a joy that I'd never known before filled my soul. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Daddy handed them each a piece of candy and Mrs. Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of my Daddy in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Daddy had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Mommy and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Daddy insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. My Daddy took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Daddy and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door he turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell." I was the youngest. My two brothers and two sisters had all married and had moved away.

Mrs. Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, May the Lord bless you, I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Daddy turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your Mother and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we

didn't have quite enough.

Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square. Your Mom and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that, but on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Daddy had done it. Now the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. He had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Mrs. Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children. For the rest of my life, Whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside of my Daddy that night. He had given me much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life..



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BEAUTIFUL AND  
INTENTIONAL PARADOX  
THAT THE BIRTH OF THE  
**HOMELESS**  
SHOULD BE CELEBRATED  
IN EVERY HOME  
G.K. CHESTERTON

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"When we were children  
we were grateful to those  
who filled our stockings at  
Christmas time. Why are  
we not grateful to God  
for filling our stockings  
with legs?"

G. K. Chesterton

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To an open house in the evening  
Home shall men come,  
To an older place than Eden  
And a taller town than Rome.  
To the end of the way of the wandering star,  
To the things that cannot be and that are,  
To the place where God was homeless  
And all men are at home.

G. K. Chesterton





"Of course, when I first started here,  
the North Pole looked very different."

