

Celebrating the Christmas Season

The Christmas season begins as the sun sets on December 24th and concludes with sunset on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This year the Christmas season ends at sundown on Sunday January 13, 2013.

Throughout the liturgical season of Christmas our Church celebrates the many ways that God is made present in our midst and world. In our parish and families we are invited to celebrate the full season of Christmas.

Some suggestions for celebrating Christmas beyond December 25th are: sing a verse or refrain of a favourite Christmas carol before the evening meal; call or visit a family member who lives a distance from your home; pray for peace in our homes, community and world; at meal time talk about the many ways you see God each day; walk through your neighbourhood and enjoy the lights and decorations.

Prayer for the Christmas Season

Before your family meal light a candle and then prayer together the following.

Leader: Let us offer God praise and thanksgiving.

U All make the sign of the cross

Leader: Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem!

All: The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Leader: God's holy day has dawned for us at last.

All: Come, all you people, and adore the Lord.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your goodness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On December 30, 2012 we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We shall have hospitality after all Sunday (Saturday at 5 pm) Masses. The Knights of Columbus of Holy Family Parish are sponsoring a free skate for all families and parishioners from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. with free hot chocolate and donuts, compliments of Tim Hortons. Please join us at the Albion Community Centre as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family.

On January 1 the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary the Mother of God and Word Day of Prayer for Peace. Our Church calls us to come and worship God on January 1st. This holy day of obligation celebrates Mary as the Mother of God and we are called to pray for peace in our world. In our families it is appropriate to include a prayer for peace in our family, community and world.

We are reminded of Pope John Paul II message for the World Day of Peace in 1979, "Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace. Work for peace... Peace will be the last word of history."

On January 6th we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. During the week before we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord we can talk about how our family is a sign of God's loving presence.