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### **Social Weekend**

Next weekend, January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have our first 2018 Monthly Social Weekend. If you need to use the elevator, kindly let us know and we will be happy to take you to the hall where you can enjoy refreshments and catch up on parish updates and make new friends. This will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to catch up following our Christmas and New Year festivities.

We invite parishioners to kindly bring desserts to share. Hope many of you will attend.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten Registration Week for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario will take place Jan. 15-19, 2018.

The board's mission is to educate the heart, mind, body and soul of our diverse learners, to nurture and support them through an education rooted in Catholic values!

We have two Catholic schools in our parish:

St. Brigid, 200 Springfield Rd (613-746-4888) and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 675 Gardenvale Rd at Cummings Ave (613-745-4884). Registration info. and listing of Registration Open House events at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca).

### **Countdown to Lent**

This year, Lent comes early. Ash Wednesday will be on February 14.

It is important to remember that Lent is a time for penance and repentance; for almsgiving and prayer; for working to change attitudes that are not pleasing to God.

### **The Liturgical Year**

The Liturgical Year is marked by special seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Paschal Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

The Liturgical Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends on the feast of Christ the King. The purpose of the Liturgical Year Calendar is to celebrate and understand more fully the entire mystery of Jesus Christ, from his incarnation and birth until his ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of his return in glory.

The colours for the seasons are: Advent – purple; Christmas - white/gold, Lent - purple, Easter- white/gold and Ordinary Time - green.

### **Advent (Violet)**

The liturgical year begins with Advent which always contains four Sundays. A common devotional for this season of preparation is the Advent Wreath that includes four candles. The church year actually begins with the First Sunday of Advent. The stole and chasuble of the priest is violet or a shade of purple. Advent is seen as a time for preparation, anticipation and hope.

### **Christmas (White)**

The Christmas season, during which we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, includes the Feast of the Holy Family, the Feast of the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of Jesus as the last day of Christmas. The Church chooses white for the Feast of Christmas. White is the colour of purity and new life. White is appropriate for a new born infant.

### **Ordinary Time (Green)**

During the season between Christmas and Lent, the readings focus on Jesus' early ministry of teaching, and healing, and the gathering of disciples. Shrove Tuesday celebrations often mark the end of this season. Ordinary Time resumes later in the year. Green is the colour of on-going life in nature: the renewal of spring grass, flowers and trees. Green signifies hope and growth.

### **Lent (Violet)**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent which continues until the Holy Thursday. Lent is a time of penance observed with fasting and abstinence. A common devotion for Lent is praying the Stations of the Cross. The church is draped in violet. This time is a time of penance as well as a time of preparation for and renewal of baptism.

### **Paschal Triduum (Red/Violet/White)**

The Paschal Triduum is a separate season during what is often called "Holy Week". This three-day observance begins on the evening of Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends on Saturday evening with the Easter Vigil. The ceremonies of this special season celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Easter season is 50 days long, with the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, marking its end. Ascension occurs 40 days after Easter Sunday, and is usually celebrated on the following Sunday. Readings during the Easter season focus on Jesus' teaching after the Resurrection.