

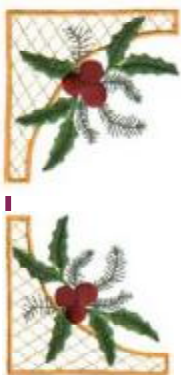


THE ROSE CANDLE OF REJOICING

December 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Gaudete: Rejoice Sunday)

Tues., Dec. 17th 9:00 am Advent Weekday Mass
 Wed., Dec. 18th 9:00 am Advent Weekday Mass
 Thurs., Dec. 19th 9:00 am Advent Weekday Mass
 Fri., Dec. 20th 9:00 am Advent Weekday Mass
 Sat., Dec. 21st 5:00 pm VIGIL MASS OF THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Sun., Dec. 22nd 11:30 am MASSES: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant



CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve : 5:00 pm: Family Mass with Children's Christmas Pageant
ALSO: Christmas Eve Masses at 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm
 Christmas Morning: 10:30 am Mass ONLY



Diocesan Cathedral Mass of the Opening of the Worldwide Jubilee Holy Year: 2025
 Sunday, December 29th at 10:30 am



All children are invited to be part of our annual Christmas Pageant at the 5 pm Mass on December 24, 2024.
Dress Rehearsal is on Sunday, December 22nd after the 10:30 am Mass

LET THERE BE LIGHT!



Just in time for Christmas, some of our Knights together with our custodian, Kevin Cerutti replaced the large ceiling spotlight in our Sanctuary. Thanks to (l.- r.) Kevin, Mike Spivak, Joe Salini, Mike Posmituk and Deacon Derek, who was taking the photo.

DONATIONS TO OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Last Sunday's Collection	\$ 3,833.50
On-Line Donations	100.00
Missals/Calendar Sales	180.00
Votive Candles	196.00
St. Anthony Poor Fund	45.55

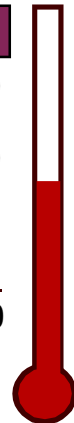
"ST. PAT'S HAT" DONATIONS THIS WEEK

Free Will & Online Donations.....	\$ 625.00
Donation to Honour Lynn Chorney.....	100.00
In Memory of Bernice & Walter Coskie	200.00
In Memory of Bob Coskie.....	100.00
In Memory of Leonilda Stilla	100.00
In Memory of Fr. Henryk Augustyowicz ...	100.00

Donation Totals this Week \$ 1,225.00

TOTAL PLEDGED/COLLECTED TO DATE

*** \$ 1,313,051.00 ***



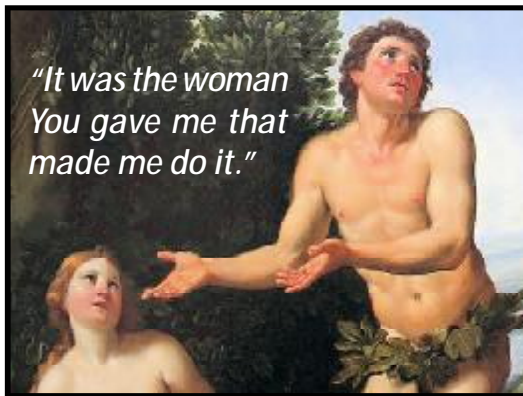
Q. In our current “polarized” world, why is it that when tragic events happen on a global scale or even in our own personal lives, one common reaction is to blame someone or something for causing it (the “blame game”), without any credible evidence to back up our claims?

A. Perhaps, your question could best be answered by a psychiatrist or a specialist in human behaviour. I can, however, offer a reply from the point of view of Faith, Biblical teaching and some human history.

Very Hurtful but not Surprising

This troublesome reaction to blame others to make ourselves feel better, emotionally hurts so many innocent victims because it encourages and promotes bullying, racism, and even hate motivated crimes! This should not surprise us because this “blame

Jews were defeated in battles they assumed that it was God’s way of punishing them for having gone astray. Likewise, whenever they were victorious, their win was interpreted as Yahweh’s ‘seal of approval’ on their conduct. It was even thought that diseases or tragic events that happened to individuals were directly caused by God, as sure signs of punishment for sin. Although Jesus corrected this when he cured the blind man, (*Jn. 9:1-41*), some Christians still think this way today!



“It was the woman You gave me that made me do it.”

Book of Genesis

According to the writers of this Book, even at the dawn of creation when Adam was

asked by God why he had eaten of the forbidden fruit, he too played this game. His response was not to take responsibility for his action but to blame Eve and, indirectly to blame God when he said, “it was the woman You gave me”, that caused me to eat it. Then, Eve blamed “the serpent” for her sin and so, the “blame game” continued to this day!

Jesus Changed Ancient Beliefs

Throughout the Old Testament, it was thought that floods and plagues were caused by God to punish humanity for their sins. Not only did the Israelites think this way but so did persons of other cultures that existed before them. Whenever the

Blame In History

Here are 3 examples of events of ‘blame games’ victimized millions of people:

◆ *Nero and the Fire of Rome*

In 64 A.D. when fire nearly destroyed Rome, Nero blamed it on the Christians and this caused an all out persecution on Christ’s followers;

◆ *The Destruction of the Temple*

When the Romans destroyed the Temple of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., it was thought that God allowed it because some Jews had converted to Christianity. Hundreds of Christians were killed by Jews because of this;

◆ *The Black Death (The Plague)*

In 1347, when this pandemic killed almost 200 million, Christians believed the disease was the result of God’s wrath because Jews were allowed to live alongside Christians in towns. This eventually resulted in the establishment of Jewish ghettos. I guess we just never learn!



Catholic Women’s League

A MEMBERSHIP GIFT?

As a family member or friend of one of our CWL ‘special long time members’, who is now no longer able to attend Mass, consider honouring her by paying her annual dues of \$35. for her. What a priceless Christmas gift this would be for her!

THUNDER BAY DIOCESAN NEWS



CLERGY TRANSFERS

FR. GERRY McDOUGALL S.J.: concludes his ministry in our Diocese on January 5, 2025. The Jesuit Provincial Superior has transferred him to ministry in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

FR. BIJU MATTHEW: has been appointed Administrator of St. Anne and St. Kateri Parishes in Thunder Bay and Our Lady of the Snows Parish with its Missions in Armstrong.

FR. CAJETAN UKACHI We welcome him to serve as a fill-in priest for ministry in our Diocese. He comes to us from Nigeria and will reside at St. Andrew’s rectory.

WHY NOT BUY 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET GIFTS FOR YOUR FRIENDS THIS CHRISTMAS?



We support legislation that requires Canadian companies to identify human rights and environmental risks throughout their global operations, and to report on the actions taken to mitigate these risks.