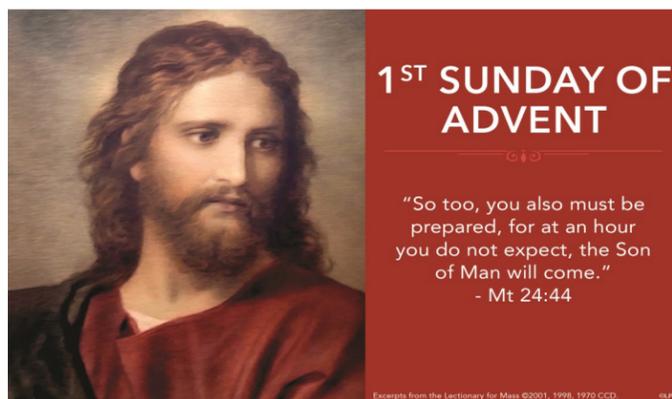


Rev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Sunday, December 1st, 2019



Sat. Nov 30	9-10am 4-4:45pm	First Sunday of Advent Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Nenadovich & Valcicak Families (Rosemary & Steve Lastovic)
Sun. Dec 1	9:30am	First Sunday of Advent ✠ Michael McLaughlin (Gloria Egert) ✠ Betty & Les Szabo (Lana & Jan)
Mon. Dec 2	11:00am 9:30am	Missa Pro Populo ✠ "Ray Kardas (Pat Vaillancourt)
Tues. Dec 3	7-8pm 8:30am	Holy Hour & Confessions Intentions of Joseph Mullin (Teresa Walters)
Wed. Dec 4	9:30am	✠ Stephen Bozik (John & Veronica Douglas)
Thurs. Dec 5	9:30am	Birthday Blessings for Christopher Bisson (Steve & Rosemary Lastovic)
Fri. Dec 6	9:30am	Intentions of Joseph Mullin (Walters Family)
Sat. Dec 7	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Second Sunday of Advent Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
Sun. Dec 8	9:30am 11:00am	Second Sunday of Advent Missa Pro Populo Special Intention (Patti & Cyril Simek) ✠ Ivan & Teresa Balazic (Teresa Blazic)

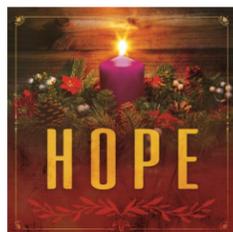
Confessions from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory November 23rd & 24th, 2019

70 Envelopes	\$1, 925.00
Loose Collection	\$ 73.25
Total Offertory	\$1, 998.25
Deo Gratias	\$ 140.00

First Sunday of Advent

"I'm never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be 'asleep'?" In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. "In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left."



When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world's darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up.

"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." There's another hour, too, both known and unknown. It's the present moment. Whether it's a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it's attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative's bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let's pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.

Pope's Prayer Intention Month of December: *The Future of the Very Young*—That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.



Advent and Lent are the two penitential seasons of the church year. However, Advent is a season in anticipation of the birth of Christ in time. Now, what is meant by "the birth of Christ in time"? Our four Sundays of Advent are not just Sundays in preparation for the birth of a child destined to become the Saviour of the

nations, but the birth of a child every day in the hearts of every Christian and the future return of the second coming in time where everything will be taken back by our God. This first Sunday in the season of Advent is a time for us to joyfully await the coming of Christ for the first time, at birth; for the second time, into our everyday lives; and looking forward to the last time when he will come to take all of creation back to his Father. **Families or individuals are asked to volunteer to light the candles during each of the weekend Masses of Advent. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church. You may choose a Mass during any of those weekends.**



Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated **Dec. 8th**. We invite everyone to make a gift towards the cost of the Christmas greens and flowers that will decorate our parish this blessed season. Honour a family member or friend, give thanks for a special event (such as a wedding or the birth of a child), or remember a departed loved one. If you do not have envelopes but would like to contribute, you may use a plain envelope and include your name, address and phone number.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2019/20



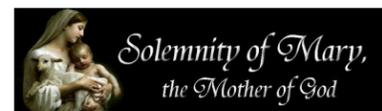
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Tuesday, Dec 24th 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 Wednesday, Dec 25th Midnight Mass
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, Dec 28th 9-10am Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Confessions
 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Dec. 29th 9:30am & 11am Masses



Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Tuesday, Dec 31st 5:00pm Mass
 Wednesday, Jan 1st 10:00am Mass



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan 4th 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Jan 5th 9:30 am & 11am Masses



Children's Liturgy During the Season of Advent:

The **Jesse Tree** is a popular Advent tradition. Named for the father of David, it is a tree that is decorated gradually throughout Advent with symbols or pictures of biblical persons associated with the gradual coming of the Messiah, Christ. This includes, among others, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Joseph and Mary. The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity; reminding children about the preparatory nature of Advent. This tradition will be the focus of our Children's Liturgy classes during Advent. **If your child has not received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, he/she is most welcome to attend during the 9:30 am mass.**



Advent food drive: Baskets will be placed at the church entrance next weekend. Donations will be forwarded to Pelham Cares.

Cathedral Appeal: Visit the website at www.saintcd.com/appeal today or pick up a brochure and pledge form at the back of the church. Donations can be made at any time.

Parish Calendar

December.....

Dec 3rd..... Advent Day of Recollection for clergy. **Morning Mass will be at 8:30am for this day.**
 Dec 3rd..... CWL Christmas gathering, Mass 6pm & meal to follow.
 Dec 6th... First Friday Holy Communion to sick and homebound. Phone the office to arrange a visit.
 Dec 11th.... Advent Reconciliation 7-9pm
 Dec 11th..... Final Youth Ministry for the year.
 Dec 12th..... Final Bingo for the year.
 Dec 15th..... **Youth Ministry fundraiser—bake sale & Christmas crafts. More to follow.**
 Dec 19th.... School Advent Mass 9:30am

2020 Offertory Envelopes: are available **this weekend** in the church hall. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2020, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.** This will ensure that donations are credited to the proper person. **If you do not find a box prepared for you, please phone the office.** Also, please do not begin using your new envelopes until the new year. Thank you!

CWL Membership: **FEES ARE \$25.** Please ensure your FULL MAILING ADDRESS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS is included on your envelope with your payment.

All busy Catholic moms are invited to retreat into the quiet and beauty of Advent and refuel your vocation to motherhood and witness to the feminine genius. This morning retreat is being held **Saturday, December 7th** at St. Thomas Aquinas Church hall, 316 Queenston Street in St. Catharines. Doors open at 8:00 am; a continental breakfast will lead into the program that ends at noon. Tickets are \$10. Register by calling 905-684-0154 or emailing familyandyouth@saintcd.com. Visit the Diocesan website, www.saintcd.com, for more information.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS - Wide-Open Eyes

When my first child was born, we had a nursery created for him that featured images from "The Beginner's Bible" painted on all the walls. (You may have seen this Bible before, where the Biblical figures in the book all had large wide-open eyes.) Images of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, and Jesus were displayed on all four walls. On the largest wall was a big picture of Noah's Ark with lots of animals. As our son got older, we would point to images on the wall as we read bedtime stories to him. Our son is now in his 20's and living several hours from us, so those days are far behind in our rearview mirror of life.

We prepared quite a lot for his birth. When our next two children were born, the preparation time had decreased significantly. Most parents know what I am talking about. The newness of your first-born brings with it so much emotion that you are compelled to spend countless hours preparing. When the next children are born, you are certainly excited, but you act differently and with a little more reserve.

For most readers, this is not your first Advent. It probably won't be your last. If you approach these December days simply as a way to prepare for Christmas, you may find yourself just doing the same old thing as last year. However, if you spend this time reflecting on the time when Jesus returns or when you shall see him face-to-face, you might be able to stir up some of that emotion of anticipation within you. Jesus is coming again. When people of all ages understand that reality, it can be a cause for large, wide-open eyes indeed.

