

**And so we Wait...**

There is no shortage of waiting in life, especially in high school. Waiting for the weekend. Waiting to find out if you got the after school job. Waiting to find out if you made the team. Waiting for mom to pick you up from said job or team's practice. Waiting to get a driver's license. Waiting to hear from colleges. Don't get me wrong — I know days are packed with extracurriculars, homework, and Netflix. But there is also lots of waiting in the midst of all the activity.

Because we wait so much, we can be tempted to think of Advent as just another time spent waiting for something to happen. We log in the four weeks of waiting...

Yet this waiting is very different from what we would do at a bus stop. Christmas celebrates the Incarnation — the fact that the Son of God became man to accomplish our salvation. Salvation — that was His plan all along. That was His plan from the moment Adam and Eve sinned and He promised Satan that he would “put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers...”

**He Waits for us, too**

The reality of Advent is that it is a time for us to prayerfully recall that at one time the world was awaiting The Savior and now we all await His second coming. But it also invites us to consider how God has been seeking us, inviting us and even waiting for us since the moment original sin entered the world. Unlike the way we wait for a bus or our coffee order, Advent is a season of active waiting — an opportunity to meditate on God's desire for us, even as we walk through the waiting of the coming of the Messiah recounted in the Old Testament and allow the reality of the Second Coming to permeate our hearts.

The heart of God awaits us, and the season of Advent especially invites us to dwell on the mystery that God seeks us — seeks you, seeks me, seeks the person who annoys you most, and the person who is most overlooked — He seeks us all not because of obligation or duty but simply because he loves. The challenge is to silence all the distractions of the season and truly encounter Him.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE**

<b>Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
4:15PM	Christmas Children's Pageant
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
7:45PM	Prelude – Caroling
8:00PM	Mass Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
9:45PM	Prelude – Caroling
10:00PM	Mass Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
<b>Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
<b>Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</b>	
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Wednesday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua

MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

+ Lidia Edda Favaro  
Requested by Isabella, Sean and Julia

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

+Rick Ainey  
Requested by St John's School Kindergarten Family

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

+Rick Ainey  
Requested by Maureen MacDonald

**Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

+ Maureen Bayne  
Requested by Maureen Carr

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

+George MacDonald  
Requested by Maureen MacDonald

REST IN PEACE

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of:  
*All those who have lost a loved one this past year*

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of  
**Adeline and Mervin**

IN THE NEWS

**St. John's Children's Christmas Pageant:** The St. John's Parish Children's Liturgy and Catechism Programs are beginning to prepare for the annual Christmas Pageant to be presented immediately before the 4:30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Permission/information forms are available from the Children's Liturgy and Catechism teachers. To audition / participate, please meet in the church basement on December 8<sup>th</sup>, following the 9 am Mass. Rehearsals will be held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Marlo Taylor at 647-233-7636.

**Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year** – All are welcome to join in this special Mass to formally launch the Jubilee year in the Archdiocese of Toronto. St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica – Sunday, Dec 29, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.

**Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Churches** – We have identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year. The locations are as follows:

<b>Archdiocese</b>	St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica,
<b>Shrines</b>	Martyrs' Shrine, Midland
<b>Central Region</b>	St Paul's Basilica St Mary's, Toronto St Edward the Confessor
<b>Western Region</b>	Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Etobicoke St. Mary's, Brampton
<b>Eastern Region</b>	St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough St Gregory the Great, Oshawa
<b>Northern Region</b>	St Padre Pio, Kleinburg St Mary's, Barrie

**Vocations:**

If you feel God is offering you the grace of a Church vocation, call, Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)

*Mary's divinely assigned role is to make the Lord known, and loved by all. She is our privileged companion during Advent, learning from her heart on how to love Christ more. She is our Mother, our Queen, and helper. ~Cardinal Leo*

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

**Advent Day of Confessions:**

St. John's Parish: Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM – 7PM  
Corpus Christi: Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10 – 11AM or 6 – 7PM  
Corpus Christi: Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10 – 11AM or 6 – 7PM

**Confessions:** Every Saturday: 3:30PM – 4:15PM

**Confirmation Registration**

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now open and online on the website ([stjohnsto.archtoronto.org](http://stjohnsto.archtoronto.org)) – please fill out the form and submit it by January 5, 2025.

**2024 / 2025 Sunday Missals Are Available For Sale**

The cost for the adult missals is \$8 and the Children's missals remain at \$11.

**DONATIONS FOR 2024:** Must be post marked December 31, 2024 and be into the office no later than January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to be eligible for 2024 tax receipts.

**2024 PARISH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The 2024 Parish Offertory envelopes are ready and waiting for you to pick up in the vestibule. Please note some of the previously assigned envelope numbers have changed, especially those who had envelopes 401 and up. Be sure to double-check that it's your name on the box. Please don't take a box that doesn't belong to you. If you can't find a box with your name on it, contact the office. Don't forget to put your name and address on the first few envelopes.

**KNIGHTS ADVENT SOCK & MITTS DRIVE:** continues until the end of Advent. We have also been asking for donations of small deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, combs, and reusable shopping bags as well. These items help the Good Shepherd provide for those men who, after assigning the 30 or so beds they only have available, a sense of formality in bearing and appearance they otherwise would not have. Donations can be left in the baskets available in the vestibule.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ellwood Donnelly, Philip Teixeira, John W., Paul Holliday, Gerry Genuino, Baby Isaiah Liam, Baby Owen, Patrick O'Neill, Jacob McLean, Elaine Atwood