

How to Advent...

As one of my favourite liturgical seasons, it's also the one that often gets overshadowed by all the other celebrations that it's meant to point towards. However, Advent is the sign of a new year, a time of renewal, and most of all a time to prepare. So how do we get the best out of Advent?

Dive into Daily Prayer

Spending time in prayer is the most important part of any spiritual journey. It's good to spend some time sitting with Scripture and allowing Our Lord to speak to your heart. Maybe take the time to journal your prayers and thoughts, and the ways Our Lord is speaking to you. If you're unsure where to start, use the readings from Sunday Mass, or perhaps pick up a guided daily reflection Advent devotional.

Ask yourself, "What's holding me back?"

Our Lord can only dwell in our hearts if we give Him permission to do so. We all have places in our hearts that we keep hidden from Our Lord, (at least we think it's hidden). Maybe it's a secret that we keep locked away from everyone, maybe it's a sin that we can't seem to shake, maybe it's a toxic relationship, or an attachment to material things, or ideas of ourselves... the list is endless. These things prevent Our Lord from fully entering into communion with us.

Make a Good Confession

Take the time to allow His mercy to heal you this Christmas. In the sacrament, we are given the opportunity to make room for Our Lord. Maybe we can only offer Him right now the stable. But that's okay, because we know He makes even the most pitiful places beautiful. He will take whatever you can give him.

Make an examination of conscience. Sit quietly with the Lord and think of all the ways we have distanced ourselves from Him through sin and recognize the ways we have failed in our journey to holiness. Empty yourself out in vulnerability in the Sacrament of Confession, share the things that hold you back from Him.

Christ did not come to us when we had it all together or when we were ready. He came in the midst of all our messes, in the midst of all our busyness. He entered into the mess of our lives...

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 3rd

+ Ian McLaughlin
Requested by Colim and Abina Murphy & Family

Wednesday, December 4th

+Maria Wilkinson
Requested by Colim and Abina Murphy & Family

Thursday, December 5th

Claudia Beausoleil
Requested by Paul and Lisa McCourt

Friday, December 6th

+ Hugh, Gerdie, and Danny Doherty
Requested by Maureen Carr

Saturday, December 7th

+Lidia Edda Favaro
Requested Isabella, Sean and Julia

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
+Richard Ainey

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



Please remember the St. Vincent De Paul poor box as you exit the church.



Help support your parish so that we are able to keep our doors open to support you when you need us. Contact the office if you wish to begin using envelopes or for more information on our Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Alternatively, scan the QR code and link will take you to our "Donate" button on our website where you can donate through your credit card; select "St. John's Parish, Toronto" in the drop-down menu.

IN THE NEWS

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

Gift of Securities:

One of the most financially sound ways to support the Archdiocese of Toronto is with a gift of securities. When you donate stocks, mutual funds and other publically traded securities to a registered charity, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift. For more information, contact our office at development@archtoronto.org

GLORIA! St. Michael's Choir School 59th Annual Christmas Concert at Massey Hall

Saturday, December 14 at 7 PM: *St. Michael's Choir School presents GLORIA!* -A magical blend of secular and sacred choral repertoire to usher in this Christmas season.

Tickets are now available at: www.masseyhall.com
 Promo Code: STARLIGHT.

For more information, please call 416-397-6367.

St. Augustine's Seminary – Spirit & Life Series Advent Day of Retreat, Saturday, December 14

"Here I am, Lord" - Living the unconditional yes of Mary and Joseph. **Cost:** \$45 - Includes warm croissants, pastries, coffee and tea on arrival, as well as lunch. Mass, Confession, and Adoration will also be offered.

Info: <https://staugustines.on.ca/events>

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre invites all women and men to a BEREAVEMENT RETREAT on

Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 9 am-3pm.

Mass will be celebrated. Cost \$45

Contact: office@qoa.ca for more info

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.. ~Archbishop Leo

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

Advent Day of Confessions:

St. John's Parish: Dec. 18th @ 6PM – 7PM

Corpus Christi: Dec. 19th @ 10 – 11AM or 6 – 7PM

Corpus Christi: Dec. 20th @ 10 – 11AM or 6 – 7PM

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th

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

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th

11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
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**Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Tuesday, December 31st 2024**

4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
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**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Wednesday, Jan. 1st, 2025**

11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
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Caroling in the Park. Come sing with the choirs and band on Tuesday, December 10, 7:30–8:30 pm. Gather in Glen Stewart Park (Glen Manor Drive, south of Wooden Bridge, North of Queen)

2024 / 2025 Sunday Missals Are Available For Sale

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

