

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent



For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a ‘vigilant’ disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

‘Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.’¹

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the ‘Light’ to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: “Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This ‘vigilance’ means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living ‘wait’. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: ‘Besides this you know what hour it

is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed” (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the ‘armor of light’ and so seek only to do God’s work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord’s coming because we don’t know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44)

1 Pope Benedict XVI, *Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006*

--Excerpted from the website of [Congregation for the Clergy](#)



The First Sunday of Advent marks the new Liturgical Year, and the Church shifts into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2021-22 from Year C, the Gospel of St. Luke. In the Sunday Gospel (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36) Jesus invites us to recognize the signs of the last days. This is a reminder that Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

The traditional Collect (or Opening Prayer) of the last Sunday of the Church year began "Stir up the wills of Thy faithful people, we beseech Thee, O Lord..." With this request to God to "stir up" our wills, this day was traditionally called [Stir-Up Sunday](#). Because the Ordinary Form celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the year, "Stir-Up Sunday" can now be the First Sunday of Advent. The traditional Collect of the First Sunday is asking God to stir up His might: "Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come." Many families create a traditional plum pudding or fruit cake or some other recipe that all the family and guests can "stir-up." This activity of stirring-up the ingredients symbolizes our hearts that must be stirred in preparation for Christ's birth.

What You Need to Know About Advent

- [A Short Explanation of the Advent season and Its Significance in the Liturgical Year.](#)
- [The History, Customs and Folklore of Advent](#)
- [Resources for Celebrating Advent in the Home](#)



[THE JESSE TREE OR TREE OF JESSE OVERVIEW](#)

PRINTABLE JESSE TREE GUIDE: [THE JESSE TREE: ADVENT 2021](#)

[A JESSE TREE PRAYER SERVICE](#)

[JESSE TREE, DAY 1 ~ CREATION](#)



Friday, December 3, 2021

HGA 11:00 pm
+ De Roache Family

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, December 4, 2021

SH Mass 4:00 PM
HGA Mass 5:30 PM
+ Thomas & Victoria Sampson

Sunday, December 5, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM
+Ken & Mary Cosman
SP 10:30 AM
+Jacob Battiste

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at the office, not with Fr. Yake.

November 21, 2021 receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes	\$ 987.00
Candles	27.90
Total	<u>\$ 1,014.90</u>

St. Peter's (Nov14th)

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 802.90
Parish Dues	20.00
Total	<u>\$ 822.90</u>

St. Peter's (Nov. 21)

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 862.00
Candles	3.00
Total	<u>\$ 865.00</u>

Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,265.00
Roof Fund	50.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,315.00</u>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. John The Baptist Memory Tree: Donations may be made in memory of a loved one. We will have the name placed on a dove, angel, or star; which will be placed on the tree during the Christmas season. Donations and names can be given to Marie Fougere or Mimi Fougere, or simply place the name and donation in the collection. Proceeds will help with purchases of heating oil and electric bills for the church this winter. Thank you."

Reminder to CWL members and friends to bring their recyclables to the depot as our Christmas gift to "Chalice" is coming up soon. Many thanks for your support.
SJB CWL

Religious Christmas Cards for sale: There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through www.lifecyclebooks.ca. You may order on line or Maureen Sampson of HGA has ordered several mixed packs for anyone in our surrounding communities who may be interested. The cost is \$5 for a pack of 10. **Phone 902-587-2517** for more information.

Anyone wishing to donate money towards Social Action Foodbank may do by placing an envelope with Social Action on it and putting it in the collection basket. **Thank you**

A Christmas tree will be displayed in the St. Peter's Church again this year, from Nov 27 throughout Advent. A decoration will be placed on it for each name received. All funds will go directly to St. Peter's Parish. Donations may be dropped in the collection box at Sunday Mass, dropped at the Glebe Monday through Thursday 9 AM to 12 PM or e transferred to memorytreestpeters@gmail.com. Security answer is memory tree and in the message section add the names you would like placed on the tree.

Retired Teachers Organization: The Richmond Branch of RTO will host a brunch on Sunday December 5th at the "Inn On the Canal", St. Peter's beginning at 11:30 PM. Please contact one of the following area representatives with your desire to attend as well as your meal choice; Colleen MacRae [345-2225], Helen MacDonald [535-3300], Sally Anne Mombourquette [587-2171], Marcia MacEwen [535-2051], Betty Ann David [631-0370]. Deadline Nov. 30th. Covid regulations in effect.

Operation Christmas Child: A sincere thank you to everyone who supported this project. This year 203 boxes were collected. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
St. John the Baptist CWL

Knights of Columbus officer's meeting Friday Dec 3rd at 9:30 Am in the basement of the glebe house. Meeting is open to all K of C members.

The general meeting of the St John the Baptist CWL which was postponed last week has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 2021 immediately following the 4 PM Mass in the vestry of the Church. You are reminded that dues (\$20.00) for 2022 are now being collected. Please bring your dues to the meeting or get them to Marguerite MacDonald by the end of December.

**Thank you,
Ann Cooke
Secretary, SJB CWL**

Sundays with Fr Patrick and John Ratchford

7 pm on Facebook Live

Featuring conversations about church teachings and issues

Join live or watch later on Fr Patrick's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill>

In the Diocese

Note that the website for the Synod is scheduled to be open on November 29 at this address: www.antigonishdiocese.com/ListeningChurch.

New Resources

for Year of the Family

The CCCB Office for Family and Life has recently added a series of resource pages to the CCCB website to assist in promotion of “Year of the Amoris Laetitia Family”.

Pope Francis launched this initiative on March 19 to mark the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia (On the Beauty and Joy of Love in the Family). The year will close on June 26, 2022 with the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome on the theme “Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness”.

In English: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/family-and-life/celebrating-the-amoris-laetitia-family-year/>

In French: <https://www.cccb.ca/fr/foi-et-questions-morales/famille-et-vie/celebrons-lannee-de-la-famille-amoris-laetitia/>

2021-2022 Campaign Theme:

People & Planet First

The campaign focuses on those in the global south who risk their lives to defend our Common Home from environmental and human rights abuses carried out in the name of greed and corporate profit. There is a call to action for mandatory due diligence and human rights legislation for Canadian corporations operating overseas. Thank you for supporting them!

To Learn More: <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/people-planet-first/>

Truth and Reconciliation:

the Continuing Journey

This new page on our diocesan website offers activities, links and resources to engage in Truth and Reconciliation not just on a single day, but every day. This page is part of an evolving diocesan plan to engage in and support individual and collective healing.

Suggested actions are first steps, and will be updated and enhanced as our knowledge and engagement grows. You are invited to visit, explore and connect:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/>

Mass For Shut-Ins

New Season Under Way

Mass airs on CTV on Sundays at 11:30 am, and can be watched later on our Diocese of

Antigonish YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPYevnyrNU6zIWHDh8KJ71w>

Join in worldwide prayers for the Synod:

<http://www.prayforthesynod.va/en/>

<http://www.prayforthesynod.va/fr/>

For the Synod process and resources:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/synod2021/>

Pray for the Synod

As We Journey Together

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.
Amen.*