

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes

(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

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November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

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For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the **First Sunday of Advent**, opening the Advent season. 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.’<sup>1</sup>*

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).

<sup>1</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, *Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006*

—Excerpted from [Dicastery for the Clergy](#)



## **Sunday Readings for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle A:**

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 2:1-5*. Today's lesson from Isaiah contains one of the encouraging speeches which God's great prophet addressed to his fellow-Jews, to help them persevere in their faith in God. Days of distress and tribulation lay ahead. Jerusalem, their beloved and holy city, the site of the temple where the true God manifested his power and his mercy among them, was to be razed one day to the ground, because of their sins. But when the great day came and God fulfilled his promises to them, Jerusalem would once more be the glory and the pride, not only of the Jews, but of all nations.

This prophecy of Isaiah, spoken 700 years before the coming of Christ, has been fulfilled. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." And we today, thousands of miles from Jerusalem, and almost two thousand years after his coming among us, are preparing ourselves for the annual commemoration of that greatest event of history.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14*. In the verses chosen for today's second reading, St. Paul urges Roman Christians to keep the purpose of their conversion, of their acceptance of the gospel, of true salvation, always before their eyes. They had accepted Christ in order to merit eternal salvation; for this reason, they must "Cast off the works of darkness," in which they indulged before their conversion.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Matthew 24:37-44*. St. Matthew gives us a discourse which our Lord held with his disciples concerning the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem and the *Parousia*, or the second coming of Christ as judge of the world. In the verses we read today Christ is speaking of his second coming, and emphasizes its unexpectedness and suddenness.

In today's lesson it is Christ himself who is asking each one of us so to live our lives that no matter when we are called to judgement we shall not be found wanting. This does not mean that we must always be praying. Nor does it mean that we must take no interest in the affairs of this life. Of the two men working in the field and the two women grinding corn, one of each was found unworthy, not because of the work he or she was doing, but because that work had for them wrongly excluded God and his purpose in life. The two found worthy had room for God and their own eternal welfare in their hearts—their work was part of their loyal service to God and was a means towards their salvation.

Christmas comes but once a year but its meaning, its lesson, must remain in our hearts and minds all the year round. God wants us in heaven forever. He sent his Son on earth to bring us there. Aided by God's grace we resolve today so to live our lives that when death claims us we shall meet Christ, not as condemning judge, but as a loving brother.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

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## **Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

**Please call the office:**

**902-535-2053**

**Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei**

## **Instructors for Baptism:**

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA. (902) 785-4018

## **Weekday Masses**

**Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

**SJB**

**4:00 PM**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022**  
**SP                                9:00 AM**

**Friday, December 2, 2012**  
**HGA                                11:00AM**  
**+ Hilda Mae Martell**

**December 3, 2022**  
**SH                                4:00 PM**  
**HGA                                5:30 PM**  
**+ Charlie & Annie Sampson**

**Sunday, December 4, 2012, 2022**  
**SJB                                9:00 AM**  
**+Earl Cosman**  
**SP                                10:30 AM**

**Receipts**

**Holy Guardian Angels**  
**November 19, 2022**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 915.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>22.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 937.00</u></b>

**St. John the Baptist**  
**November 20, 2022**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 602.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 602.00</u></b>

**St. Peter's**  
**November 20, 2022**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 742.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>23.00</b>
<b>Dues</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 825.00</u></b>

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Tickets being sold on a Yamaha Clavanova electronic piano valued at \$3000. Draw date is December 15, 2022

**Bonnie Brae Club:** Chinese Auction Saturday December 3 Bonnie Brae Club St. Peters 2 to 4 Light Lunch \$ 5.00 dollars Tickets for Auction 10 for \$ 5.00 dollars Please support the seniors.

**Wilma Martell**

**SJB Operation Christmas Child:** A sincere thank you to everyone who supported this project. This year 198 boxes were collected. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.  
**St. John the Baptist CWL**

**SJB:** Get to Know D&P-Development and Peace-Caritas Canada is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. It was founded in 1967 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is the Canadian member of Caritas Canada, a global confederation of over 160 organizations. It promotes social justice in Canada and assists groups in the Global South with social justice projects.

Thank you

**Ann Cooke**

**Member of Diocesan Council D&P**

**HGA: Here are 2 time changes in mass for Holy Guardian Angles and Sacred Heart parishes.**  
1. December 10 HGA 4:00 pm. SH. 5:30 pm  
2. December 24 Christmas Eve mass will be held at HGA 4:00 pm (children's mass). Sacred Heart mass 5:30 pm.

**"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 for the church this winter. Thank you."

**SJB:** YOU ARE INVITED to hear Adah Ogbe, Regional Animator for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE discuss what D & P is and how we work for justice in the Global South. WHERE? St John the Baptist Church Vestry. WHEN? **Sunday, November 27 at 2 P.M.** Come and bring a friend to this informal and informative discussion!

**Thank you**

**Ann Cooke**

**SJB:** As we enter the Advent Season there are many great resources online that offer Advent programs. By visiting the CWL Canada website you can view some of these program links under the Spiritual Development Communique. One such program is titled "Best Advent Ever" from Dynamic Catholic. It begins November 28<sup>th</sup> and you can register by visiting: [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com). May your waiting bring you peace!

**Thank you and have a great day,  
Valerie Cunningham**

**SJB:** DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: This weekend our Parishes are pleased to host Adah Ogbe, the Animator for D&P in the Maritimes, who will speak briefly at each Mass about the work of D&P. We are also placing in the back of the Church a petition asking the Canadian government to pass legislation requiring Canadian Companies working in the Global South to respect human rights and environmental protection there as they would in Canada. We invite you to sign these petitions which will be presented to our MPs

**Thank you**

**Ann Cooke**

**Religious Christmas cards for sale:** There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through [www.lifecyclebooks.ca](http://www.lifecyclebooks.ca). You may order online 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 cards.

Phone 902-587-2517 for more information.

**HGA:** Saturday, December 3rd Breakfast and Food Drive.  
Sunday, December 4th, Bake Sale and Merchandise Bingo.  
All events at L'Ardoise Community Centre.

**HGA:** Thank You! The family of Charlie Sampson are grateful to the many friends who supported us in the loss of our Dad. Your various expressions of kindness meant a great deal to us as so many shared stories brought smiles and tears of joy. The entertainment world in Heaven is happier these days and Mom and Dad are united in God's eternal love.

**Lisa and Boys .**

**HGA:** Holy Guardian Angels 200th Anniversary next meeting is **Sunday, December 11th @ 1:00 P.M.** L'Ardoise Community Center. Come and Share your ideas as we continue planning for 2023 .