

**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes**  
**(902) 535-2053**

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**December 1, 2024**  
**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.'*<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).

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 2024-25 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, the last Sunday of the Church year was traditionally called [Stir-Up Sunday](#). Because we now celebrate 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.

## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from *Jeremiah 33:14-16*. On this the first Sunday of Advent the Church wishes to remind us of what Advent means—a period of preparation for the Advent—the Coming—of Christ our Savior. This prophecy of Jeremiah intended to encourage the Jews to trust in God in spite of all their present difficulties, can and should encourage us, too. The fulfillment of the ancient prophecies in Christ (this particular one was made six centuries before he came on earth) are a guarantee for us of the truth of his claims—he was the Messiah promised to Abraham, David and the Chosen People. In the Christmas festival each year we commemorate his coming on earth. What the Jews of old looked forward to, we can see fulfilled. The great central hope of their religion and of their history—their expectancy of One who was to come, has taken place in our history.

The **Second Reading** is *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*. The teaching of Christ, the Christian faith, is for all races, all places and all times. St. Paul is telling us today what he told the Thessalonians nineteen centuries ago, to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ—the great day of judgement, by living each day as God wants us to live it, namely by living in love and peace in God and our neighbor. Some of the Thessalonians at that time were expecting the Second Coming—the general judgement—in their own day. It didn't come then, it hasn't come yet, but the particular judgement came to them, and it will come to us, in our day and sooner, rather than later, than we expect it. And that particular judgement, when we draw our last earthly breath, will decide our eternal fate. Advent—the preparation for Christmas, Christ's First Coming, is a most suitable occasion to prepare ourselves for that day.

Today's **Gospel** is *Luke 21:25-28; 34-36*. In these verses St. Luke gives our Lord's prophecy concerning the end of the world and how we should prepare ourselves to meet it. That this earth is not our permanent home nobody denies, yet many people live and act as if it were. They see funerals and read of the death of friends and fellow men every day, yet they try to persuade themselves that somehow they will not have to go the same road. But go they must and render an account they must, to the "Son of Man coming with power and in great glory." We have been forewarned and the words of Christ read in today's gospel should awaken us to the true facts of

life and of death. He does not ask us to ignore or despise this earth or this life but he does ask us to estimate it for what it is—a period of transit which properly used will earn for us our eternal home. If we judge ourselves daily we need not fear the day of judgement. If we are loyal and faithful to our Christian vocation, our end on earth will not be an end but the beginning of our true life.

What better occasion could we have for taking a serious, sincere look at ourselves and at our attitude to life and the things of this life, than this Advent period. If we can welcome the humble Babe of Bethlehem at Christmas with a sincere and open heart—a heart grateful for all the gifts already given us, and sorrowful for all the meanness and thanklessness we have shown in the past, we can trust and hope that the second and glorious coming of Christ will not be for us a catastrophe but rather the culmination of all our dearest hopes and desires—the beginning of a never-ending Christmas of happiness and joy. —Excerpt from *The Sunday Readings, Cycle C* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

## **Schedule of Mass Intentions**

### **Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

**SJB** **4:00 PM**  
**+ Alex MacDonald**

### **Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

**SP** **9:00 AM**  
**+ Roy & Arthur (Tullie) MacMillan**

### **Friday, December 6, 2024**

**HGA** **11:00 AM**  
**+ Gerard Taylor**

### **Saturday, December 7, 2024**

**SJB** **4:00 PM**  
**+ Mary & Ken Cosman**  
**SP** **5:30 PM**  
**+Rose & Ambrose Sutherland**

Sunday, December 8, 2024

SH

9:00 AM

+ *Gerard Taylor*

HGA

11:00 AM

+ *Lorraine Pottie*

## Receipts

### St. John the Baptist

November 23, 2024

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,212.00

Cemetery 35.00

Missals 40.00

Total \$ 1,287.00

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### St. Peter's

November 23, 2024

Envelopes & Loose \$ 725.10

Candles 19.25

Parish Dues 10.00

Missals 25.00

Memory Tree 80.00

Total \$ 859.35

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### Holy Guardian Angels

November 24, 2024

Envelopes & Loose \$ 640.10

Candles 36.80

Missals 40.00

Total \$ 716.90

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# **Community Notices**

**SJB Operation Christmas Child:** A sincere thank you to everyone who filled a box. This year the total collected was 214 boxes. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. St. John the Baptist CWL

**SJB: Our Memory Tree will again be in church during the Christmas season.**

Donations may be made in memory of a loved one, and the name will be 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.

**SP:** A Remembrance Christmas tree will be erected in St. Peter's Church again this year from Nov. 30 throughout Advent. A donation will be placed on it for each name received. The names will be announced each week prior to Mass until Christmas. Charitable donation receipts will be issued. All funds raised go directly to St. Peter's Parish. Donations may be dropped in the collection at Saturday Mass, emailed to [memorytreestpeters@gmail.com](mailto:memorytreestpeters@gmail.com), or dropped off at the glebe between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM Monday to Thursday. Security answer is *memory tree*. Please name persons you are remembering in the etransfer.

## **JUBILEE YEAR 2025**

The Jubilee Year 2025 will commence on Sunday, December 29, 2024. The theme is *Spes Non Confundit* (Pilgrims of Hope). Pope Francis decreed that diocesan bishops celebrate Mass in their Cathedrals. It may happen that there will be Holy Doors in St. Ninian's and throughout several churches in the diocese. A jubilee Prayer will be made available and, scripture workshops, youth ministry and other activities are encouraged.

**Classical Christmas Concert** will be held Dec. 15, 2024 at St. Mary's Church, East Bay at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature Katheryn Gordon on piano and Barbel Albert on violin and special guest Geoffrey Lee-Dadswell on cello. Admission - donation at the door for St Mary's Parish and Loaves and Fishes.

**Advent Mission with Father Bill Burke, OSA**

**Dec. 9-11**

Our Lady of Grace Monastery

Mission will begin with Holy Mass at 7 pm each evening.

Father Burke, a native of Main-a-Dieu, has an MA in liturgical theology from the University of Notre Dame. After 29 years in the diocese, he was appointed director of the National Liturgy Office for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2006. In September 2013, he returned to become pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys parish in Sydney.

Light refreshments available in the Retreat House Dining Room following each presentation. Anyone wishing accommodations may contact Lucille Fougere at (902) 623-0075 or by e-mail:

[ladyofgracemonastery@gmail.com](mailto:ladyofgracemonastery@gmail.com)

**A message from the Shrine in Mabou:**

On Saturday, December 7th there will be a Christmas Shopping Sale at the Shrine Gift shop in Mabou. From 1pm until 4pm all gifts, except for the candles will be 50% OFF. We still have some wonderful gifts for Baptism and Confirmation. All are 1/2 price while they last. We also have many other gifts for friends and family. Hope to see you here!