

First Sunday of Advent

Today we begin a New Year in the liturgical calendar. This first period is appropriately called "Advent". It comes from the Latin word adventus which simply means 'coming'. But who's coming are we talking about? We are beginning to prepare to remember God coming to be a human being among us, with us and like us. Actually, **at this time we can speak of three comings of God.**

The first, is when Jesus, the Son of God came to be born in the stable at Bethlehem. But today's Mass also speaks of **the final coming of Jesus** at the end of the world. And there is still **a third kind of coming** we need to be aware of, namely, when God enters our lives every day. Every single experience can be an opportunity to make contact with God. And we are reminded of that ongoing contact with God especially in the celebration of the sacraments, including this Eucharist. Concentrate on today, on the present hour, the present situation and respond to it in truth and love and the future will take care of itself. Then we do not have to fear no matter when Jesus makes his final call. Because we know he is going to say: "Come, my friend. I want to call you now; I want to share with you my life that never ends." And we will respond: "Yes, Lord, I am ready. I have been waiting for you all this time." It will be an encounter, not of strangers, but of two old friends.

Truth suffers, but never dies.
St. Teresa of Avila

Why do we have Advent?

Advent is the liturgical season we celebrate as the precursor to the Christmas season. **Don't skip it! It's there for a reason.** Advent begins on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30th) and ends on December 24th. Christmas begins December 25th at midnight and continues until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. Advent is our liturgically built-in time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. If you want to get the most out of the Christmas season and fill up your soul with love for Christ, the best way to do that is to **"let every heart prepare Him room"** — and celebrating Advent is the Church's way to do it!

Advent Wreath

Shape: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

Number: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles (symbolizing: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy), which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

Color: Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent, also called "little Lent," is the season where we spiritually wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his return.

MY BEST ADVENT SEASON starts this Sunday. Help your children, your family and friends to make this season unforgettable. Dedicate a bit of time to your children every day and your life and theirs will change for ever. This year we invite you to journey with our parish community by entering into this program.

During the First Sunday of Advent children will receive a special Advent Calendar and an activity chart. We love counting down the days to Christmas each December and this year we're focusing our Advent Calendar on reading Scripture passages and doing something the world always needs more: deeds of KINDNESS and LOVE. More details you will find in the activity chart.

 **Prayer Network:**

For those not on the internet there is an envelope on the bulletin board at the main entrance marked 'PRAYER NETWORK'. Please take a copy of the prayer intentions inside this envelope and pray for fellow parishioners.

Vocations – November 24, 2019

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Can you lead others to make this request of our Lord and King? Give your life to Jesus and others are sure to hear, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." If you think God is calling you to be a priest,, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton: 905-528-7988; vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2019

Monday, December 2 – Rev. Michael Vanderbeek
Tuesday, December 3– Rev. Todd Arsenaault
Wednesday, December 4 – Diocesan Priests
Thursday, December 5 - Rev. Pierre Caouette
Friday, December 6– Rev. Thomas Flynn
Saturday, December 7 – Very Rev. John Van Hees
Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Novena

This 9-day Advent Novena of 6:30 a.m. Masses will begin on **Friday, Dec. 6th - Saturday, Dec. 14th** at St. Agnes Parish, 75 Bluevale St. N., Waterloo. Enjoy coffee and fellowship after Mass.

Mass Intentions December 2 - 8, 2019

Tuesday, December 3 – 10:45 a.m. - Noon Reconciliation - Grade 3 – 8
Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. Intention of MA & B. Zister – Betty & Ken
Wednesday, December 4 – 8:30 a.m. +Larry Wismer – Joan Wismer
Thursday, December 5 – 8:30 a.m. +Tom Nakluski – Sandra Nakluski
Friday, December 6 – 8:30 a.m. +Mary Wand – Ann Snyder
Saturday, December 7 – 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving to Leilani Famorca – Betty & Ken
Saturday - 5:00 p.m. +Leona Grobe – Peter Grobe
Sunday, December 8 – 10:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish


Stewardship Report November 24, 2019

Envelopes.....	\$1,827.00
Loose.....	279.50
Building and Maintenance.....	994.60
2020 Missals.....	105.00

PARISH EVENTS

First Communion candidates will bring the offertory gifts to the altar on the following Sundays:
December 1 - 10 a.m. Logan Schnarr and his family.
December 7 – 10 a.m. – Tate Wilkin and her family.

First Communion & Confirmation Candidates
December 5 at 7:00 p.m. – Meeting with parents and First Communion candidates. Catechetical Session 2: "Discovering the gift of the Eucharist".
December 8 at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Mass with Gifts – "Actions speak louder than words". First Communion candidates will present their community projects.

 **St. Teresa Parish Christmas Party**
Join us on **Sunday, December 8th** at 4:30 pm for a family Christmas Party. We will be having a turkey dinner with all of the fixings! Entertainment and maybe even a special guest. Tickets for adults are \$15 (includes a glass of wine) and \$5 for children. Tickets will be on sale the weekends of November 16/17, 23/24 and November 30/Dec. 1 following Masses.

We would like to say – a big THANK YOU to Bruce Faria for his 4 years of service at St. Teresa Parish as our caretaker. Thank you for your openness, dedication and seeing the needs of our parish. We welcome Jim Weber who will be his replacement. We wish both of them many of God's Graces in their work as they serve different parish communities.

Cleaning Church for Christmas

Mark your calendars now, **Saturday, December 14th** after the 9:00 am Mass we will be cleaning the church in preparation for Christmas. Bring your pails, mops, rags, dusters, etc. The outside Nativity Set will also be set up that day. We need many hands to get the job done! Men, women and children who are old enough are welcome to help but they must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch will be provided. For information call 519-578-2019.

CWL Craft & Bake Sale Thank you

We would like to give a Big Thank You to all the people that helped set up, bake and work at the different tables. Also to the many that were so generous with their donations. We really appreciate it and are very happy with the way everything turned out. It was definitely a success.



CWL Christmas Potluck on Tuesday, December 10th starting with Mass at 5:00 pm followed by potluck dinner. Bring your favourite food, husband, children, grandchildren and friends. All are welcome. Entertainment by Sue Weber Bell.

St. Teresa CWL Collecting Adult Socks and Underwear for men and women during Advent. These will be donated to the Soup Kitchen and House of Friendship. Bins will be available at the Church entrances beginning **Nov. 30th/Dec. 1st**.



Items to Collect to Support Charities.....
Support local charities and organizations by collecting pop tabs, eye glasses, yarn, glass bottles (200 ml or smaller) canning jars, Campbell soup labels, milk bags, candles, religious items (rosaries, books, etc.), books (children and young adults), new and used religious cards, sheets and towels. The drop-off bin is outside the Adoration Chapel. For more information call Chris at: 519-745-2819.



Euchre
Next game night will be **Friday, December 13th** at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



Bingo
Matinee at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 21st** at the Charities Bingo Hall, 510 Krug Street, Kitchener.