

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

**No Weekday Liturgies other than those shown below
are scheduled**

Day & Date	Mass Celebrated	Church & Time
Saturday, 21st DEC	4 th Advent	SHJ 4:30pm
Sunday 22nd DEC		SJM 9am
		SFA 11am
Tuesday, 24th DEC	Christmas Eve	SJM 5pm
		SFA 7pm incense
Wednesday, 25th DEC	Christmas Day	SHJ 10:00am
Saturday, 28th DEC	Holy Family	SHJ 4:30pm
Sunday, 29th DEC		SJM 9am
		SFA 11am
Wednesday, 1st JAN	BVM	SJM 9am
		SFA 11am incense

SHJ = Sacred Heart of Jesus, Batawa
SFA = St. Francis of Assisi, Frankford
SJM = St James the Minor, Stirling-Rawdon
BVM = Solemnity of the Mother of God

Please Note:

That within Canada every Saturday or Sunday, every Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and every New Year's Day are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics.

When does the Catholic Church Use Incense?

Incense is used in many Catholic services, including: Masses, Funerals, The consecration of a church or altar, Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Solemn celebrations of the Divine Office.

Why does the Catholic Church Use Incense?

Catholics use incense for a variety of reasons, including:

- **Prayer:** Incense is a prayer in itself, and the smoke rising from the censer symbolizes prayer rising to God.
- **Solemnity:** Incense adds a sense of mystery and solemnity to Mass.
- **Connecting with heaven:** The smell and smoke of incense can remind us of heaven and help us enter into the presence of God.
- **Honoring the deceased:** At funerals, incense is used to honor the deceased.
- **Sacrifice:** Incense is offered as a sacrifice to God, similar to how it was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem.

What If I Am Sensitive to Incense?

- Our Parish of St Francis of Assisi is cognisant of your sensitivity and so advertises in the Weekly Parish Bulletin where and when incense is used (see schedule of Masses above).
- Please note that only occasionally at SFA is it used on Sundays or at Christmas and New Year solemnities, it is not used at any of our other two churches in our cluster (SHJ & SJM) except at funerals.
- If attending SFA when incense is used, you may wish to sit at the back of the church, away from the sanctuary.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

