

SHJ = Sacred Heart of Jesus, 152A Fraser Drive, Batawa
 SFA = St Francis of Assisi, 300 Riverside Parkway, Frankford
 SJM = St James the Minor, 236 Edward Street, Stirling

First Week in Advent (1)				
Date November	Place	Time	Liturgy	Intention/Donor
SAT 30	SHJ	4:30pm	First Sunday of Advent 	Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family
SUN 01 December	SJM	9am		Mary Cassidy [RIP] <i>Forestell Family</i>
	SFA	11am		Most Neglected Souls in Purgatory <i>Jules Hubert</i>
TUE 03	SFA	9am	St. Francis Xavier	Edel Quinn [RIP] <i>L.O.M.</i>
WED 04	SFA	9am	Forgiveness of Sins /Exposition/Benediction & Confessions	Leo and Alice Bujold [RIP] <i>Harvey and Marlene Bujold</i>
	SJM	3:30pm	LW&C	
FRI 06	SJM	9:30am	LW&C	
SAT 07	SHJ	4:30pm	Second Sunday in Advent 	Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family
SUN 08	SJM	9am		Terry Cassidy [RIP] <i>Joanne Belanger</i>
	SFA	11am		Genevieve DeLisle [RIP] <i>Karen Partridge</i>

Lay Ministers

Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Dec 07 Sun, Dec 08	Lector – K. Foster	Lector – B. Kerby Usher – M. Kerby
Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Dec 14 Sun, Dec 15	Lector – R. LeFort	Lector – C. Carswell-Towns Usher – B. Kerby

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First Sunday of Advent

Some people flip to the end of the book to find out what happens. Do you? Some people roam the internet for spoilers of their favorite show? Do you? We are tempted to know what is going to happen, especially in tension-filled situations. Knowing the ending changes the way in which we experience the angst of the present moment, especially if it's a great ending! Although we anticipate and know the comfort and joy of the Advent season, our Gospel reading from Luke does not begin there. Instead Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man. His Coming will include moments of dismay, tribulation, assault, fright, and death. Contemplating this time of justice can be fearsome, but it is also a source of joy, because Christ is coming! We know that through Christ we have been redeemed – and that, if we remain faithful to Him, we have the hope of eternal life. As Luke tells us, we can stand with our heads held high because redemption is at hand. Our Advent does not start with comfort and joy, but it sure ends there. Knowing how it will end helps us to have confidence and hope in God. We are encouraged and challenged this first week of Advent by the Word and by our Advent traditions to remember how it ends! In our first reading, the prophet Jeremiah relays consolation to the nation in crisis when God tells them that the days are coming when the Lord will “fulfill the promise.” This will bring them much-hoped-for safety and security. In Luke's Gospel, Christ's Coming will be with “power and great glory” and although it sounds somewhat frightening, it will usher in redemption. Those are some spoilers providing great confidence and hope. In addition to our readings, the lighting of our first candle this Advent season is a visual reminder of the culmination of our salvation story! The Light of Christ which has come into the world has and will dispel the darkness. We can stand erect and raise our heads together to glimpse this light of Advent and fill our hearts again with hope that God surely is the one who keeps His promises. That is the best spoiler of all.

SING:

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away

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FIRST COMMUNION

Place of Registration

St. Peter's Church. 140 Dundas St. W, Trenton, ON K8V 3P6

Dates of Registration

Tuesday, 21st January 2025 at 7.00pm

Or

Saturday, 25th January 2025 at 10am

Attendance on one of these two dates is mandatory.

Registration packages and details will be given at that time.

FORMED

We would like to share the joyous news with you, that our Parish now has a subscription to **FORMED**, a premier, online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic Studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books and even cartoons for our children. This material is **free** to you. You can enjoy **FORMED** on your computer or on your television with an inexpensive Roku device or Apple TV. You can even listen on your phone as you commute to work or do chores.

To gain access to all of **FORMED's** content, follow these simple steps:

- Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>
- Enter K0K 2C0 (Parish postal code)
- Enter your name and your email address

That's it! You're in. Now you can get the free **FORMED** app for your phone searching *FORMED Catholic* in your app store.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus hold their General Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Parish rectory at 7.00 pm. New members are always welcome to attend.

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**The Parish office is closed for the Christmas holidays
 from Wednesday, 25th December 2024 until Monday, 30th December inclusive.
 It will reopen for business as usual on Tuesday 31st December 2024.**

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 <i>incense</i>
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 <i>incense</i>

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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.

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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!