



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

Second Week in Advent (2)				
Date <i>December</i>	Place	Time	Liturgy	Intention/Donor
SAT 07	SHJ	4:30pm	 Second Sunday of Advent	Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family
SUN 08	SJM	9am		Terry Cassidy [RIP] Joanne Belanger
	SFA	11am		Genevieve DeLisle[RIP] Karen Partridge
MON 09	SFA	11:30am <i>Incense used</i>	Immaculate Conception	Most Neglected Souls in Purgatory Jules Hubert
TUE 10	SFA	9am <i>Incense used</i>	Our Lady of Loreto	John Jefferson [RIP] Eleanor Ross
WED 11	SFA	9am	Forgiveness of Sins /Exposition/Benediction &Confessions	Joann Newman [RIP] Mary Raybould
	SJM	3:30pm	LW&C	
THR 12	SFA	9am <i>Incense used</i>	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Members' Intentions KOC 11655
FRI 13	SJM	10am	LW&C	
SAT 14	SHJ	4:30pm	 Third Sunday of Advent	Betty Brodeur [RIP] Pete Brodeur
SUN 15	SJM	9am		Maurice and Jeanette Meir [RIP] Susan and Leo Plouffe
	SFA	11am		Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family

Lay Ministers

Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Dec 14 Sun, Dec 15	Lector – R. LeFort	Lector – C. Carswell Towns Usher – B. Kerby
Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Dec 21 Sun, Dec 22	Lector – T. O'Shea	Lector – N. Willemsen Usher – J. Forestell

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Second Sunday of Advent

On this second Sunday of Advent, when the hustle and bustle of the season is already upon us, I find St Paul's words in his Letter to the Philippians very comforting. He says: he is confident "that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Jesus will continue to be our Advocate and our Rock until the day when He comes again. Yes, these are comforting words, indeed. But we know that being a disciple of Christ requires our cooperation and our daily assent to accept and do the will of God. How do we know God's will for us? In his letter, St Paul goes on to pray that our love may continue to increase in knowledge and perception "to discern what is of value." In other words, if we are going to be able to choose what is good, we must be able to recognize it and then focus on it. This is where "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness" speaks to us during this season in which we prepare for Christ's coming. It is a season of hope and anticipation, but it also must be a season of preparation. In today's Gospel, the proclamation of John the Baptist takes center stage; he proclaims a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and says to "prepare the way of the Lord." These words do not suggest passivity – waiting patiently for the Lord to come. They suggest action: Repent. Prepare. Make straight his paths. Today let us consider how we can prepare for the Lord's coming in our own lives. God made us *good*, and he wants to bring that goodness to completion. As we continue in this Advent season, let us stay focused on recognizing and choosing "what is of value" in our lives so that we are able to truly rejoice that the Lord draws near.

SING:

*Dear Savior, haste
Come, come to earth
Dispel the night and show your face
And bid us hail the dawn of grace*

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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!

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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.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus General meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Parish Rectory at 7.00 pm. New members are always welcome.