

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

Third Week in Advent (3)				
Date <i>December</i>	Place	Time	Liturgy	Intention/Donor
SAT 14	SHJ	4:30pm		Betty Brodeur [RIP] <i>Pete Brodeur</i>
SUN 15	SJM	9am		Maurice & Jeanette Meir [RIP] <i>Susan and Leo Plouffe</i>
	SFA	11am		Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family
TUE 17	SFA	9am	Ferial	Anne & Patricia Nicholson [RIP] <i>Nicholson Famly</i>
WED 18	SFA	9am	Forgiveness of Sins /Exposition/Benediction &Confessions	Most Neglected Souls in Purgatory <i>Jules Hubert</i>
	SJM	3:30pm	LW&C	
THR 19	SFA	9am	Ferial	Knights of Columbus Council Members #11655 [RIP]
FRI 20	SJM	10am	LW&C	
SAT 21	SHJ	4:30pm		Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family
SUN 22	SJM	9am		Jack Dinis [RIP] <i>Victor Dinis</i>
	SFA	11am		Allan & Lillian Young [RIP] <i>Jeffrey and Sandra Young</i>

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Lay Ministers

Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Dec 21 Sun, Dec 22	Lector – T. O’Shea	Lector – N. Willemsen Usher – J. Forestell
Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Tue, Dec 24 Wed, Dec 25	Lector – TBA	Lector – TBA Usher – TBA

Third Sunday of Advent

“I want to be a sanctuary lamp,” Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. “To be the little flame which reminds everyone, ‘God is here.’” In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John’s message expressed repeatedly in today’s readings: “The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst”; “Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!”; “one mightier than I is coming.” God himself would soon be among them – indeed, He was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist’s ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but He remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – that is, to God in our midst – entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist’s message. In today’s Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when He comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from His merciful love. Then, confident in His willingness to forgive, we approach Him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, He might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today’s first reading: “He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.”

SING:

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for
 Whom priest and prophet long foretold
 Come break the captive fetters
 Redeem the long-lost fold*

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November 2024 Parish Income

Financial: \$8934.00 donated to the Parish.
Spiritual: 695 persons attended Mass in the month.

Knights of Columbus

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

“Journey Through Advent”

As we approach the Second Sunday of Advent, I am pleased to inform you that Video 2 of the series titled “Journey through Advent” is now available on the CCCB website:

English: Journey through Advent – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

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.

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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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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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