

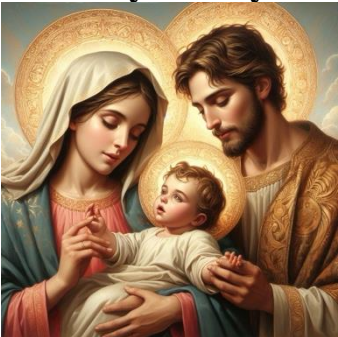


SHJ = Sacred Heart of Jesus, 152A Fraser Drive, Batawa
 SFA = St Francis of Assisi, 300 Riverside Parkway, Frankford
 SJM = St James the Minor, 236 Edward Street, Stirling

Fourth Week in Advent (4)

Date December	Place	Time	Liturgy	Intention/Donor
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 and Lillian Young [RIP] <i>Jeffrey and Sandra Young</i>
TUE 24	SJM	5pm		Soula Ringa [RIP] <i>Mary Hunt</i>
	SFA	7pm <i>Incense used</i>		Most Neglected Souls in Purgatory <i>Jules Hubert</i>
WED 25	SHJ	10am		Betty and Michael Brodeur [RIP] <i>Pete Brodeur</i>
SAT 28	SHJ	4:30pm		Betty Brodeur [RIP] <i>Pete Brodeur</i>
SUN 29	SJM	9am		Ed Vanattan [RIP] <i>Jo Vanattan</i>
	SFA	11am <i>Incense used</i>		Needs and Intentions of Our Parish Family

Lay Ministers

Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Dec 28 Sun, Dec 29	Lector – A. Bourgeois	Lector – A. Kostya Usher – L. Forestell
Date	Sacred Heart	St. James
Sat, Jan 04 Sun, Jan 05	Lector – K. Foster	Lector – J. Gosson Usher – B. Kerby

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ask a child, “Where is God?” and you’ll likely receive a variety of responses: “in heaven,” “in church,” “everywhere” and “in my heart” - are all conceivable answers from a child’s lips. But the one response which we most easily write off as silly or sentimental is that which the saints would urge us to revisit more seriously: God is indeed “in my heart” – that is, He is present in our souls! This is true not only when we receive Him in Holy Communion, and not only because He is “everywhere,” but because we possess *sanctifying grace*. Grace is *divine life* – God’s life – and if we are “in a state of grace” (that is, we have brought any mortal sins to confession), we have this life within us! Our model for becoming aware of this wonderful gift is our Blessed Mother, whose example in today’s Gospel teaches us to love, reverence, and obey God within us. Setting out “in haste” to serve her aged cousin, Mary carried God in her womb. We can imagine the love and joy with which she carried Him. At every moment, God is present in us, too (not physically, but by sanctifying grace) and we should strive to recognize and love Him Who has made our hearts His dwelling place. The events of today’s Gospel suggest that Jesus’ presence in Mary is not *for* Mary alone. Prompted by love, she made the arduous journey to visit Elizabeth – itself an act of charity. But Mary brought more than her services and support to Elizabeth during a potentially difficult pregnancy; she brought God himself! Mary was so conscious of God within her that even her words, flowing from a heart burning with His love, carried a special power; at Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and John the Baptist “leaped for joy.” As we become increasingly aware of God dwelling in our souls, we, too, become “Christ-bearers” to others. By being lovingly attentive to our Divine Guest, our words and actions become means by which He can act on the hearts of those whom we encounter each day.

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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**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, 21 st DEC	4 th Advent	SHJ 4:30pm
Sunday 22 nd DEC		SJM 9am
		SFA 11am
Tuesday, 24 th DEC	Christmas Eve	SJM 5pm
		SFA 7pm <i>incense</i>
Wednesday, 25 th DEC	Christmas Day	SHJ 10:00am
Saturday, 28 th DEC	Holy Family	SHJ 4:30pm
Sunday, 29 th DEC		SJM 9am
		SFA 11am
Wednesday, 1 st 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.

The Ladies of Sacred Heart

The Ladies of Sacred Heart Foundation have donated two sets of accessible doors to Sacred Heart Church in Batawa, both at the top of the ramp and into the hall. We thank them for their generosity to the church.

Journey through Advent

As we approach the Third Sunday of Advent, I am pleased to inform you that the **third video** of the series titled "Journey through Advent" is now available on the CCCB website:

In English: **Journey through Advent – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**