



Saint Joseph's | Immaculate Conception | Holy Name Of Mary

Website: [www.avonthamescatholic.dol.ca](http://www.avonthamescatholic.dol.ca)

Email: [avonthamescatholic@dol.ca](mailto:avonthamescatholic@dol.ca)

Parish Family Office: 519-271-6722

96 Huron Street, Stratford ON N5A 5S6

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 27, 2022

## First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Don't get me wrong. I love vacations and weekends away. But the night and day before? It's always a whirlwind of laundry, packing, and shopping for groceries and essential car snacks. I knew we were going away. I could have gotten my act together earlier. Next trip, I tell myself. Then the cycle repeats itself. Advent can be that way. This year's going to be the year! No rushing around, no crazy last-minute shopping, no stress: I'm going to study the daily readings, read that Advent devotional, settle into the season of waiting. Today's readings speak not only to procrastinators like me but also to the planners: Wherever we are on that continuum, Advent gives us an opportunity to ready our souls for Jesus' coming. It's less about what we do when than about preparing our hearts. Through prayer, study and the liturgies of this season, we can ask God to help us clean house within and prepare for Jesus' coming.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today is not only the first Sunday of Advent, but the first day of the liturgical year. Today's readings encourage us to prepare for Christ's coming. I love St. Paul's imagery: "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Just as we make resolutions for the new calendar year, Advent affords us an opportunity to start anew. However, the gift of our faith reminds us that we are not alone in this! We can seek the help of the Holy Spirit through prayer and turn to the accountability partners who sit in the pews next to us at Sunday Mass. We, in turn, can be a light to others through our words, attitudes, and actions. As we light our houses and light our Christmas trees this year, we can remember to put on the armor of light ourselves as we begin this holy season.

**ACTION** Even with the best of intentions, the holiday season can become busy. As you go about errands or prepare your home, make an effort to listen to Advent hymns or reflections.



**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of November 28—December 2**

**Tuesday—7:00 pm. at St. Joseph's Church**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Irma Delia & Eduardo Alvarez | Maggie & Hector Romero                          |
| 2. Abel Ritsma                  | The Knights of Columbus Council 1431 3rd Degree |
| 3. Robert Walton                | Elda Walton                                     |
| 4. Debbie Sterkenburg           | Stephen & Mary Horenberg                        |

**Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church**

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. John Parr                      | Steve Parr                      |
| 2. Assuntina Colangelo            | Franco & Rita Pugliese & family |
| 3. Elizabeth & Roderick MacDonald | Sr. Kelly MacDonald             |

**Thursday—10:00 am. at Holy Name of Mary Church (Also Holy Name of Mary School Advent Mass)**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. The intentions of the Romero family |                      |
| 2. Mary Ryan                           | John & Dora Van Herk |
| 3. The intentions of Jamie Gjesing     | Sue Gjesing          |
| 4. Ria de Wit                          | The de Wit family    |

**Friday —8:00 am. at St. Joseph's Church (Adoration following Mass until 9 pm.)**

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. George Brickman | Marg & Jim Brickman |
| 2. Kim Russell     | Heather MacDonald   |
| 3. Pio Fernandes   | Zita Pereira        |

**9:30 am. at St. Michael Secondary School (all are welcome)**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. The intentions of Harry Visser | The Knights of Columbus Council 1431 3rd Degree |
| 2. Ted Boersen                    | The Zanin family                                |
| 3. Steve Nicholson                | Anne Walsh                                      |

**We ask you to pray...**

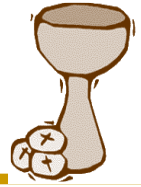
**Please pray for those who have died**, especially Oliver Leavy (brother in law of Joe Moss), and Jean Brodhagen. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Please pray for those are sick**, especially Lianne Vink, Joan Schnell, Lori Ruston, Tony Wieggers, Harry Visser, Ron Bokkers, Harry Thomas, and Claire Nicholson.

**Please pray for vocations**, especially this coming week for Jessica Jarvis (coordinator of Youth Ministry), Deacon Paul Bezaire, Erwin Fung (coordinator of Parish Ministries), Deacon Fred Truchon, Fr. Louis Mousseau, Rebecca Bondy (pastoral minister & coordinator of Youth Ministry) for religious communities, Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.

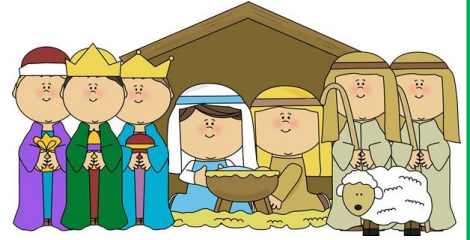
### First Reconciliation/First Communion

Our last parent information night Tuesday, November 29th at Holy Name of Mary, 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Children are not required to attend. For any questions please contact Erika at 519-271-6722 ext. 28 or [eeaglesham@dol.ca](mailto:eeaglesham@dol.ca)



### Christmas Nativity Play—Calling All Actors!

Come be a part of our **Christmas Nativity Play**! We are looking for kids of all ages to act and sing. Older kids will have the opportunity to learn behind the scene skills and fill the roles of director, costume manager, script supervisor, etc. Parents - we need you too! Rehearsals will be Tuesday nights at Immaculate Conception from 6 - 7:30 pm. on November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The dress rehearsal will be on December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 pm. - 8 pm. at St. Joseph's church. During rehearsals there will be entertainment and refreshments for parents to enjoy while their children are rehearsing. The Nativity performance will be on Christmas Eve either before, after or during the 5:00 pm. Christmas Mass (TBD). Please email Erika at [eeaglesham@dol.ca](mailto:eeaglesham@dol.ca) before November 28<sup>th</sup> to sign up! You can also call her at 519-271-6722 ex 28 for more information.



**Christmas Flower Memorials** We invite parishioners to participate in our tradition of making a donation toward the purchase of flowers in memory of their deceased loved ones. As a special way to honour your deceased family and friends, these flowers will decorate all 3 of our churches during the entire Christmas season. Please complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket at one of the churches or to the lock box outside the office door at St. Joseph's. You may also leave the name of your deceased love one(s) by calling the office or emailing Mary at [mchisholm@dol.ca](mailto:mchisholm@dol.ca) or Elizabeth at [emanto@dol.ca](mailto:emanto@dol.ca) and etransfer the Parish as follows:



**St. Joseph:** [stjosephstrat@dol.ca](mailto:stjosephstrat@dol.ca) **Immaculate Conception:** [immaculatec@dol.ca](mailto:immaculatec@dol.ca)

**Holy Name of Mary:** [hnmstmarys@dol.ca](mailto:hnmstmarys@dol.ca) **\*\*please put 'Christmas Flowers' in the message line.**

We will display the names of our deceased loved ones in sanctuary by the flowers.

-----  
(Please print clearly—thank you)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parish and Parish Supported Ministries/News

**Holy Name of Mary Brunch** on November 27<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 10:00 am. Mass. Breakfast casserole, waffles, sausages, toast, coleslaw, potatoes, tea and coffee. Cost is \$10.00 and funds raised will go toward building a new kitchen work station.

(continued next page)

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul—The "Giving**

Tree Program," hosted by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP), is now underway. We are very grateful for those dona-



**Society of  
Saint Vincent de Paul**

tions already received and are hopeful that the giving spirit continues over the next couple of weeks. The Giving Trees are displayed in Holy Name of Mary, Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Churches with gift tags decorating the trees that request donated gift cards from designated stores and in various amounts. Please feel free to take one or more of these tags, purchase the gift card(s), and return to the designated SSVP donation boxes at your parish. If you are unable to access the Giving Trees and would still like to participate, please drop any denomination of gift card(s) from Walmart, Canadian Tire, No Frills/PC, and/or Food Basics in a clearly marked envelope into the locked secure box on the right, outside the Main Parish Office. Thank you for your wonderful response to this program that helps those in need with providing a joyous Christmas Season!

**St. Michael Secondary School Community** is once again hosting a live nativity on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 8:00 pm. There will be live animals and a nativity scene, hot chocolate, crafts and treats, live music and an opportunity for personal prayer time in the Chapel. Free of cost and all are welcome!

**Holy Name of Mary CWL** Is hosting a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. at Holy Name of Mary Parish hall. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased after Masses today, November 27<sup>th</sup>, and December 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to join us for great food and great company!

**Knights of Columbus** The Christmas season would not seem to be complete without our annual

'Ham Sales". Hams: 2.5 lb. -- \$16.50    5 lb. -- \$32.00    10 lb. -- \$60.00

Stemmler's Summer Sausage (chubb) -- \$21.00 and pepperettes (mild) pkg of 10 -- \$7.00

Contact John Price 519 271 9120 or [jjprice@sympatico.ca](mailto:jjprice@sympatico.ca) by November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Pick up Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm. – 4 p.m. and Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.

**Thank you to our Family of Parishes!**

**Immaculate Conception CWL** The bazaar was well received by folks in attendance. This year we offered the penny sale, the wheel, kitchen, bake and used book tables. This fundraising allowed us to give the church \$3,200.00, in addition to the \$4,200.00 that we gave the church in the spring from the raffle sale. Other agencies that are supported by us: House of Blessing, L'arche, Masses for the Sick & Shut-ins, Right to Life, Kiwanis Christmas Basket, St. Vincent De Paul, Local Community Food, Catholic Missions, Shelter Link, Rotary Aqua Boxes, Project Precious, Canadian Food for Children, Development & Peace, Rotary Hospice, Farm Town (human trafficking) and a fund for community events that are up and coming in 2023.

**St. Joseph's Christmas Market** The organizing committee for the St. Joseph's Christmas Market wishes to thank everyone for their participation in this year's market whether through donations, volunteering, or coming out and making it a great community event. We are thrilled to announce we made \$8199.90 which will be split between St. Joseph's Parish and the CWL proceeds going to Parish projects and CWL community outreach. Let's hope we can do this again next year! Thank You!