

# DECEMBER 1, 2019

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation. For what exactly are we preparing? Two things: the celebration of our Savior's birth and the anticipation of His second coming.

These are weighty tasks with eternal consequences. So, let us stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths."

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn we are pushed to do more to create a "perfect" Christmas day. But the Church's guidance to use these weeks to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain-climb.

The intentional use of the gift of time is what the Christian steward is called to do, and with even greater intensity during Advent. How can we use our time to prepare for Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for His second coming at a date we do not know?

We can push back against the world's pressure to have the "perfect Christmas." Scale back on materialism so we have more time for spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, acts of kindness.

In the end we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, be-come more like our Savior and be ready for Him to come again.

### ST. JULIA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The St. Julia Church Choir and Dr. David Holler will be presenting their annual Christmas concert "*Christmas at St. Julia*" on Sunday, December 15th, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for an afternoon of music celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas. A reception will follow in the parish hall – all are welcome! A free-will offering will be collected at the door to support the music program at St. Julia.

### CWL CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE



**December 7 and 8  
(after all Masses)  
Donations are greatly  
appreciated**



- ◆ Please bring wrapped baked goods downstairs before Mass
- ◆ Donations for raffle prizes are also welcomed; please leave at the office the week of December 2—6

### PARISH CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

<b>MON, DEC 2</b>	8:30 am	Patricia Brzezcka †
	7:00 pm	RCIA St. Peter School First Reconciliation
<b>TUES, DEC 3</b>	8:30 am	Eugene Rudachuk †
	6:30 pm	Finance Council Meeting
<b>WED, DEC 4</b>	8:30 am	Deceased Members of Wakil Family †
	10:00 am	Reconciliation at St. Peter School
<b>THURS, DEC 5</b>	8:30 am	No Mass
<b>FRI, DEC 6</b>	8:30 am	Kevin Canough †
	9:00 am	Holy Hour
<b>SAT, DEC 7</b>	5:00 pm	Ted Fursey † CWL Bake Sale
<b>SUN, DEC 8</b>	9:00 am	CWL Gathering Mass Mass for the People CWL Bake Sale
	11:00 am	Ann Pogacnik † Gerri Sandler † Guiseppe Capacchione † CWL Bake Sale

### CATHEDRAL APPEAL UPDATE

At the end of the first six months of our Cathedral Appeal, as a Diocese we have raised \$532,442.19 in cash donations and \$132,009.35 in pledges. This brings our total raised to \$664,451.54 or 55% of our \$1,200,000 goal. **At St. Julia we have raised \$26,031.50 of our \$29,600 target.** We continue to thank God for the generosity of so many. Could this be the time that you too play a part in this historic event and undertaking in our diocese? Visit [www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal) or pick up a brochure and pledge form at the back of our church today. May God bless you!

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS MASSES

Ministry sign up sheets are available in the vestry. Please stop by and add your name to the list. Thank you for your dedication to these important ministries.

## DID YOU KNOW.....

...that the Advent wreath has tremendous symbolism? The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent; the purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, which is the Sunday of rejoicing, because we the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when our preparation for the coming of our Lord is half over. The light signifies Christ, the light of the world. The Advent wreath truly is a wonderful symbol and reminder of the true meaning of Christmas as we prepare for the arrival of Christ!

### THINKING OF STUDENTS IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a joyous time of year for most, but with families facing financial hardship it can be anything but merry. It's hard to believe that every day, one in five students goes to school hungry and waits in line to receive a breakfast. For lunch some eat pizza scraps from the previous night's supper. During the 2017-2018 school year, in 54 programs, over one million meals were served in our schools to hungry students. A donation of \$13.75 will provide a needy student with a breakfast and nourishing snack daily for a school week.

Other statistics reveal that 80% of classroom learning is done through the eyes, and that one child in four suffers from some kind of vision problem severe enough to impact learning. Many students do not have the financial resources to purchase eye glasses. Several others lack daily essentials such as warm clothing, personal care items, or the financial means to pursue a rewarding education. We often associate poverty with third world countries, little realizing that it exists right here at home in our own backyard.

In his scripture writings about the Lord's judgement of the nations the apostle St. Mathew tells us about the words of Christ when he speaks of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty and welcoming the stranger. Christ says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my brothers, you did it to me".

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is a registered charitable foundation and receipts are issued for tax purposes. Cheques can be made payable to the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Credit cards are also accepted. Donate on line using PayPal and view the foundation's video at [www.nfce.org](http://www.nfce.org). The mailing address is Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario. Phone (905) 735-0247 ext 210, email, [jim.marino@nfce.org](mailto:jim.marino@nfce.org)

### ADVENT 4 - 5 WEEK STUDY SERIES

Topic "Forgiven" - Sacrament of Mercy & Reconciliation; St. Denis Parish, upper meeting Room. This is a video based series, Fr. Ben Weber, leader. Starts Sat., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am. Call parish office to register at 905-685-5911 or Jackie at 905-646-4926.



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

Once again we will be collecting for St. Mary Church for the Christmas Food drive. Collections will be on December 1, 8 & 15. We appreciate your generosity in helping our friends.

### ST. JULIA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



*Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 12:30 pm*  
*Johnny Rocco's, 271 Merritt St, St. Catharines*  
*Please contact Karen Wright at 905-688-1724*  
*to reserve your spot*

### ALTAR SERVER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

All new and current altar servers are invited to attend an altar server refresher to tune-up our altar serving on **Saturday, December 14th, 2019 @ 10:30 am** in the Church followed by a pizza Christmas Lunch in our Parish Hall to thank you for your service to our parish.

### ONGOING FAITH FORMATION & CATECHESIS

We welcome you to join our RCIA session this week for **"Who Shepherds the Church—Church as a Community"** at 7:00 pm, Monday, December 2<sup>th</sup> in our Parish Hall.

### AVAILABLE MONDAY MORNINGS ON ROTATION?

Consider being on our Offertory Counting team. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining this ministry.

### ST. JULIA FACEBOOK PAGE



Visit our newly launched Facebook page! Sign into your Facebook page and search St. Julia Roman Catholic Church; "like" this page and you will see posts and receive notifications about our church community including Mass readings and upcoming events.

Liturgical Ministries		December 7 –9, 2019		
	5:00 pm	9:00 am	11:00 am	
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	C. Carlucci G. Porco L. Hicks	J. Bonasheski D. White K. Wright	J. Waters G. DiFrancesco A.M. Stockwell	
<b>Readers</b>	T. Farrell D. Easingwood	B. O'Reilly V. Giacomino	R. Piech D. MacLean	

Counters: D. McLean & R. McLean (Dec. 9)