

Welcome! 3rd Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule for St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Bridget Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish ~ December 14th – 21st

Saturday December 13 ~ St. Lucy		
SJ	5:00pm	In thanks to St. Jude ~ Bonnie Switzer
Sunday December 14 ~ 3 rd Sunday of Advent		
SJ	9:00am	James N. Walker ~ Barbara Poushinsky
SHP	9:00am	Bernadette Weatherdon ~ Gail & Fred Shepherd
SB	11:00am	Christians in Nigeria facing religious violence ~ Pamela Black
SJ	11:00am	Mass for the People of the Parish
Monday December 15		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
Tuesday December 16		
SB	9:00am	~ No intention booked ~
SJ	4:30pm	Maria Gomes ~ Gomes Family
Wednesday December 17		
SJ	9:00am	For the protection of all human life ~ LifeMatters Core Group
Thursday December 18		
SHP	10:15am	Combined daily/Sacred Heart Elementary School Mass For the intercession of St. Jude, for those in need of his help ~ Jamie Maher
SJ	12:00pm	Barbara Trudeau ~ Ken & Lucille Crawford
SJ	1:15pm	St. John Elementary School Mass Norma Riopelle ~ Brian Brosso
PCCC	2:00pm	Perth Community Care Mass
Friday December 19		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
SJ	9:00am	Poulin family ~ Jacques Poulin
SJ	9:30am	Holy Adoration & Benediction
Saturday December 20		
SJ	5:00pm	Ed & Evelyn Pennett ~ Pennett Family
Sunday December 21 ~ 4 th Sunday of Advent		
SJ	9:00am	Lee Family ~ Gerald Lee
SHP	9:00am	Jean & Fred Shepherd ~ Gail & Fred Shepherd
SB	11:00am	~ No intention booked ~
SJ	11:00am	Mass for the People of the Parish

Thank you for your contributions! Regular Sunday Donation \$3075.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th

St. John’s Church – 5pm, 7pm & Midnight
Sacred Heart Church – 5pm
St. Bridget’s Church – 7pm
Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25th
St. John’s Church – 9am & 11am



JOY

Welcome to the third Sunday of Advent!

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls “Gaudete Sunday,” meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the “**Shepherd’s Candle**,” and its color is **pink**, the liturgical color for joy.

-Advent Candles and Advent Wreaths: The History and Meaning, Colors, Symbolism, Themes, and More. (Hallow.com)

PARISH FEATURE & FOCUS

On this Third Sunday of Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**, the Church dares to wear rose and invites us to rejoice. And if you are thinking, “Rejoice? With everything going on?” You are in good biblical company. John the Baptist asked the same question. From his prison cell, he sends messengers to Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come, or must we look for another?” Jesus answers: “Go and tell John what you see and hear.”

Isaiah’s vision is a map for discipleship today. Every time you encourage someone who has lost hope, a desert blooms. Every time you forgive, or make peace, or choose compassion over cynicism, lame hearts begin to walk again. Grace puts spring back in the human step. Isaiah is not offering poetry for greeting cards; he is announcing what happens when God steps into our barrenness. The desert blooms precisely because grace enters where we least expect it.

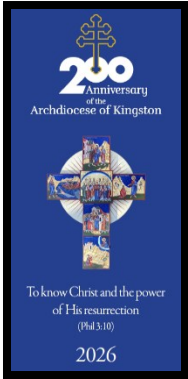
James urges us to be patient, like farmers waiting for rainfall. Advent patience is not passive. It is the discipline of refusing despair, the insistence that God is still sowing grace in hidden soil. Perhaps this week you may practice a small Advent discipline: be patient in traffic, gentle with someone anxious, or slow to speak when tempted to judge. These are tiny seeds of joy.

Again, John the Baptist in the Gospel was sitting in prison, wrestling with doubt, asked Jesus, “Are you the One?” Even saints have their moments of holy hesitations and questions. Jesus does not scold him; He simply points to the evidence: the blind see, the lame walk, the dead rise, the poor hear good news. In other words, “John, the Kingdom is happening, even in your darkness.”

So, what about us? Many of us carry hidden prisons: anxieties, disappointments, health struggles, fractured relationships. Like John, we sometimes whisper, “Lord, are You there?” And like John, Jesus answers not with theories but with signs, small healings, unexpected kindnesses, grace that arrives disguised as an ordinary day.

This Sunday invites us to practice JOY, not cheerfulness, and a deep Advent TRUST that God is moving even in deserts. Perhaps the gentle humor of the day is this: God is more patient with us than we are with ourselves. He does not rush His work, but He never stops working.

So, rejoice, quietly, steadfastly, confidently. The desert is already blooming. God is on the way. And He never arrives late.



200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston The Jubilee Year Begins!

We began our celebrations for the 200th Anniversary Jubilee of the Archdiocese of Kingston this past Monday, December 8th! Jubilee celebrations will take place throughout the year at the Parish, Deanery, and Archdiocesan levels. Keep an eye on the bulletin & Flocknote for parish and deanery events to come! Archdiocesan events can be found in the Fall edition of Journey, which can be found in your church today!

SACRAMENTS

Sacramental Preparation Classes!

First Communion & Reconciliation Candidates:

Class is this weekend! **December 14th**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex.

Confirmation Candidates:

The next class is weekend **December 21st**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to the ladies of Sacred Heart Church for organizing a wonderful Children’s Christmas Shopping Event last weekend. We are also grateful to all who gave their time and energy to hosting Coffee Sunday. Your generosity and dedication are truly appreciated!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT DONATIONS FROM BIRTHRIGHT

The St. Johns lifeMATTERS group will be collecting donations for the Pregnancy Resource Centre Birthright and for local crisis pregnancies from Dec 10th until Dec 28th.

There will be a crib at the entrance to the church for your donations of baby and maternity gear and clothes. Items particularly needed are Baby Shampoo, Soap, Lotion & Wash, Diaper Rash Cream, Diapers size 3, 4, 5 & 6, and maternity clothes. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

FRUIT CAKES FOR LIFE

Fruit Cake orders are ready for pick up in the Narthex. Thank you and God bless you for your support of this important fundraiser for Life!

HOLY FACE MONTHLY GATHERING

Special mini-Event

St. John’s Holy Face Group will be gathering on **December 18th following the noon Mass**. We will be showing an award-winning short film (30min) that highlights the real power of God’s grace in action, through the presence and ministry of Catholic priests and the vital role of the sacraments. Based on a true story and set amidst the real struggles of everyday Christians, this powerful film reveals and honours the beautiful gift of our priests and religious.

All are welcome to join us in watching this film and enjoying some Christmas treats together.

PRAYERS

Please remember the sick in your prayers, including Maureen Czap, Jeannette Olivier, Marjorie Facette, Demetrie Laming, Deborah LaRiccia, Barbara Morrison, Edith Lepine, Doris Quinn, Claudette Timmerman, & Mary

December 14, 2025

Rorwick. Please remember those who have recently died in your prayers, especially Dianne Wood. Jesus, I trust in You.

In need of prayer? Connect with our strong prayer warriors, Father Charles, Father Anthony, or one of our Parish Prayer teams through the Parish Office (for St John’s Pastoral Care, CWL, or KOC Prayer group). Jesus, I trust in You.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

- Sunday, December 14th @ 3:30pm:** St. Francis de Sales Church, Smiths Falls
- Sunday, December 14th @ 4:00pm:** St. Ann Church, Merrickville
- Tuesday, December 16th @ 6:00pm:** St. Edward’s Church, Westport
- Thursday, December 18th @ 6:00pm:** St. Laurence O’Toole, Spencerville
- Sunday, December 21st @ 3:00pm:** St. John the Baptist Church, Perth



Christmas gift cards are now being collected. Please consider donating gift cards, of any amount, to assist those who are struggling within our community. There is a box in the Narthex to collect your donations.

2026 Donation Envelopes

Donation envelopes for 2026 will be available in our churches this week or shortly after. Please remember **not** to use these envelopes until **January 1st. As always, for the first month or so of the new year, we kindly ask that you write your name and address on each envelope to help us keep our records accurate and organized. Thank you!**



UPCOMING MEETINGS

[St John Parish Meeting Place, 15 Church St, Perth]

CWL Monthly Meeting	2 nd Monday of each Month @ 7pm
Monday Bible Study Group – Contact Jenny Salte for details.	Mondays @ 10am
Parish Council Monthly Meeting	2 nd Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm.
Life Matters Monthly Meeting	2 nd Wednesday of each month @ 10am
Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting	2 nd Wednesday of each month @ 7pm
Pastoral Care Committee Meeting	TBD
Wednesday Bible Study Group – Contact Jenny Salte for details.	Wednesdays @ 7pm
St. John’s Holy Face Group Monthly Meeting *December 18th after Mass	Last Thursday of each month, after the noon Mass
Thursday Bible Study Group – Contact Evelyn Goodfellow for details.	Thursdays @ 1pm
Sunday Mass 11am Choir	Thursdays @ 7pm & Sundays @ 10:15am
St. John’s Movie Club	Friday, January 9th @ 7pm
Life Matters Men’s Group – Contact Dave Lapointe for details.	3 rd Saturday of each month
Saturday Mass 5:00pm Choir	Saturdays @ 4:45pm