

# Welcome! 4th Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule for St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Bridget Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish ~ December 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

Saturday December 20		
SJ	5:00pm	Ed & Evelyn Pennett ~ Pennett Family
Sunday December 21 ~ 4 <sup>th</sup> 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
Monday December 22		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
Tuesday December 23		
SB	9:00am	~ No intention booked ~
CCt.	10:00am	Carolina Court Mass
SJ	4:30pm	Frank Amyot ~ Ken & Lucille Crawford
Wednesday December 24 ~ Christmas Eve		
SJ	9:00am	-----Mass Cancelled-----
SJ	5:00pm	For the People of the Parish
SHP	5:00pm	For the People of the Parish
SJ	7:00pm	For the People of the Parish
SB	7:00pm	For the People of the Parish
SJ	12:00am	For the People of the Parish
Thursday December 25 ~ Christmas -The Nativity of the Lord		
SHP	9:00am	-----Mass Cancelled-----
SJ	9:00am	For the People of the Parish
SJ	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
SJ	12:00pm	-----Mass Cancelled-----
Friday December 26 ~ St. Stephen		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
SJ	9:00am	Closs, Christie, & Lachapelle Families ~ Mary Rorwick
SJ	9:30am	Holy Adoration & Benediction
Saturday December 27 ~ St. John		
SJ	5:00pm	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday December 28 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		
SJ	9:00am	In thanks to St. Jude ~ Bernie De Francesco
SHP	9:00am	Louis & Roseleen Weatherdon ~ Gail & Fred Shepherd
SB	11:00am	~ No intention booked ~
SJ	11:00am	Karen Thibeau ~ Howard & Anne Pledge

Thank you for your contributions! Regular Sunday Donation \$3870.



## Sunday of Advent!

"The fourth candle of Advent represents **Love**, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "**Angel's Candle**," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color **purple**, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth".  
-Advent Candles and Advent Wreaths: The History and Meaning, Colors, Symbolism, Themes, and More. (Hallow.com)

## PARISH FEATURE & FOCUS

On this **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, the Church slows us down at the very edge of Christmas and asks us to look not first at Mary, but at Joseph, the quiet, faithful man standing just outside the spotlight.

**Isaiah gives us the sign:** "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel." A sign not flashy or forceful, but tender, God choosing to come close, to dwell with us. Yet signs are only helpful if someone is willing to trust them. That is where Joseph enters.

**Matthew tells us Joseph was a righteous man.** That does not mean he had all the answers; it means he was open to God even when life stopped making sense. His plans were simple, decent, respectable. Then God interrupted them. Mary was pregnant. Joseph faced heartbreak, confusion, and the temptation to quietly walk away. Many of us know that place, when faith collides with disappointment, when obedience feels costly.

**Here is the gentle humor of God:** instead of a long theological explanation, Joseph gets a dream. An angel says, essentially, "Do not be afraid." And Joseph believes. He does not speak a single word in Scripture, but his actions preach loudly. He takes Mary into his home. He names the child. He stakes his reputation, his future, his comfort on trusting God's promise.

**Saint Paul reminds us in Romans** that the Gospel is not an afterthought, it is God's long-promised plan, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, born of David's line, revealed as the Son of God. Joseph becomes part of that promise not by preaching, but by protecting, by staying, by saying yes in silence.

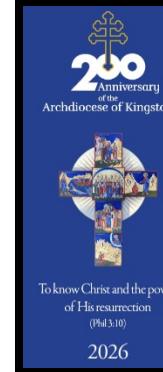
**This is good news for believers.** We do not need perfect clarity to be faithful. We need courage to trust God one step at a time. Joseph shows us that holiness often looks like quiet obedience, steady love, and showing up when it would be easier to disappear.

**As we prepare for Christmas**, ask yourself: where is God asking me not to be afraid? Whom is God asking me to welcome, protect, or trust with my imperfect faith?

**Emmanuel is coming.** God-with-us does not wait for perfect people, only for willing hearts. Like Joseph, may we rise from our fear and do what the Lord asks, trusting that God is already at work in ways we cannot yet see.

## LAST CALL FOR ADVENT CONFESSIONS!

Sunday, December 21st @ 3:00pm:  
St. John the Baptist Church, Perth



## 200<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>!

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:

The next class is **January 11<sup>th</sup>**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex.

#### Confirmation Candidates:

Class is this weekend! **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex

## THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to the St. John Parish community for your generous support of the Catholic Women's League bake sale. With over \$1,100 raised, the sale will help support a family at Christmas, provide bursaries, and contribute to the parish nutrition program and other meaningful projects.

Your kindness truly makes a difference.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT DONATIONS FROM BIRTHRIGHT

The St. Johns lifeMATTERS group continues to collect donations for the Pregnancy Resource Centre Birthright and for local crisis pregnancies until Dec 28th. There is 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 are also accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

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### Important Notice

All users of the St. John's Meeting Place (15 Church Street) are kindly reminded to turn down the thermostat when leaving the building. Our hydro costs in November and December were *significantly higher* than this time last year, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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### Important Notice

Our St. John's Church neighbours have been affected by vehicles blocking their driveways during Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Please take care when parking to ensure driveways remain accessible.

## PRAYERS

**Please remember the sick** in your prayers, including Maureen Czop, Jeannette Olivier, Marjorie Facette, Demetrie Laming, Deborah LaRiccia, Barbara Morrison, Edith Lepine, Doris Quinn, Claudette Timmerman, & Mary Rorwick. **Please remember those who have recently died** in your prayers. 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.

## December 21, 2025

### New Years' Mass Schedule

New Years' Eve - Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

St. John's Church -

5pm (replaces Wednesday 9am Mass)

New Years' Day - Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

St. John's Church - 9am & 11am

Sacred Heart Church - 9am

St. Bridget's Church - 11am

Christmas gift cards continue to be 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 are now available in our churches. Please remember **not** to use these envelopes until **January 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month @ 7pm
Monday Bible Study Group – Contact Jenny Salte for details.	Mondays @ 10am
Parish Council Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm.
Life Matters Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 10am
Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	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	<b>Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm</b>
Life Matters Men's Group – Contact Dave Lapointe for details.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month
Saturday Mass 5:00pm Choir	Saturdays @ 4:45pm

The Saint John's Movie Club will be holding its next meeting on Friday, January 9th at 7:00pm, at 15 Church St. We will watch a short film, followed by a group discussion. For more information, contact Anthony: adellazzera@gmail.com.

