

# Welcome! 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule for St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Bridget Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish ~ December 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

(FIRST) Saturday December 6		
SJ	9:00am	Sue Kato ~ Cavalier Family
SJ	5:00pm	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday December 7 ~ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent		
SJ	9:00am	Jayden Dowdall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary ~ Jason, Julie, & Justin Dowdall
SHP	9:00am	Julie Dunnigan ~ Gail & Fred Shepherd
SB	11:00am	Ivan Mahon ~ McMunn Family
SJ	11:00am	Jayden Dowdall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary ~ Jason, Julie, & Justin Dowdall
Monday December 8 ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
~200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston~ Our Jubilee Year Begins!		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
Cath	10:30am	ARCHDIOCESAN MASS for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston
Tuesday December 9		
SB	9:00am	~ No intention booked ~
SJ	4:30pm	Noreen Coulter ~ Rita Truelove
Wednesday December 10		
SJ	9:00am	Dave Nitschmann ~ Wayne & Kim Kehoe
LL	10:00am	Lanark Lodge Mass Bertha Renaud & Eileen Christenson ~ Evelyn Goodfellow
Thursday December 11		
SHP	9:00am	Special Intention ~ Kim & Dave Lapointe
SJ	12:00pm	Leo & Teresa McCarthy ~ Rita Truelove
Friday December 12 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
SJ	9:00am	Elmer Dodds ~ Elaine Cavalier
SJ	9:30am	Holy Adoration & Benediction
Saturday December 13 ~ St. Lucy		
SJ	5:00pm	In thanks to St. Jude ~ Bonnie Switzer
Sunday December 14 ~ 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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

Thank you for your contributions! Regular Sunday Donation \$3005.



2026 donation envelopes will be available in your church soon!

“Journey through Advent” is available again this year on the CCCB website, in both French and English. Prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent!



## Welcome to the second Sunday of Advent!

“The second candle on the Advent wreath represents **Peace**. Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the “**Bethlehem Candle**,” the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace”.

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

## PARISH FEATURE & FOCUS

### 2nd Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 11:1–10 • Romans 15:4–9 • Matthew 3:1–12

**Advent has always surprised me. Has it ever surprised you?** I observe that when everyone is rushing into Christmas with carols, sales, deals and enough lights to be seen from outer space, the Scriptures take us somewhere very different... from the shopping mall to the wilderness. And standing there in the sand is John the Baptist, looking like he has not seen a mirror, a barber, or a comfortable chair in quite some time.

**But John’s message is crystal clear: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”** And Advent insists that this preparation is not about tidying up the house, though that does not hurt, but it is about opening the heart. This is because the One who is coming only wants our willingness.

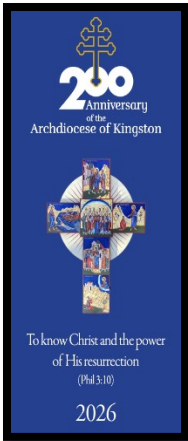
**Isaiah gives us a breathtaking vision to stir that willingness:** a tiny shoot growing from the stump of Jesse. God’s promise emerges not in splendor, but in surprising smallness. This is a reminder that hope often begins as a whisper. From this fragile shoot comes a Messiah who will judge with justice, defend the poor, and heal creation itself. Wolves and lambs, cows and bears, children and serpents, creatures that don’t normally get along, will stand together in peace. Isaiah is saying: **Where the Messiah rules, fear loses its power.**

**St. Paul picks up that same melody of hope and harmony.** He urges us to live in such unity that together we may “glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” In other words, Christians should be God’s preview clip, showing the world what His kingdom looks like.

**But the gospel of John reminds us that this is not automatic.** Fruit must follow faith. The valleys in our hearts, old resentments, tired grudges, selfish habits, need filling. The mountains, our pride, our stubbornness, need leveling. Conversion is not a spiritual crash diet; **it is a slow, steady, joyful work with the Holy Spirit as our coach.**

**So, this week, let us dare to make room:** maybe a small act of forgiveness, a word of encouragement, a moment of prayer that breaks through the noise. Advent teaches us that Christ’s coming always begins with a small opening.

**And if we make that opening,** even in the wilderness of our busy lives, **the Messiah will grow in us like that shoot of Jesse, quietly, steadily, and beautifully, until hope becomes real and peace becomes possible.**



## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston

### The Jubilee Year Begins!

This Monday, December 8th, we ring in the 200th Anniversary Jubilee of the Archdiocese of Kingston with the Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at St. Mary’s Cathedral. 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!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

✠ **THIS WEEKEND! St John’s CWL Christmas Bake Sale:** This weekend, **December 6th and 7<sup>th</sup>, after each Mass**, in the Narthex. Festive and delicious homemade baking and preserves(etc.) will be available for cash purchase.

Donations for our charity fundraisers will also be gratefully received. Anyone wishing to provide baking for our sale would be very much appreciated and may be dropped off before each Mass. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

✠ **Lanark Church Ladies Gathering:** All Sacred Heart of Jesus ladies are invited to our yearly get-together of all Lanark Church Ladies this **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** at the United Church Hall. Arrive at noon and mingle with others. Potluck dinner starts at 1pm. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## SACRAMENTS

### Sacramental Preparation Classes!

#### First Communion & Reconciliation Candidates:

The next class is **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex.

#### Confirmation Candidates:

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

## THANK YOU!

You may have noticed that the terrazzo floors in the church entrance are sparkling more than ever. We are grateful to share that two generous parishioners personally financed a full restoration of the terrazzo, giving our entranceway new life and beauty. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their tremendous generosity and love for our parish. Please keep them in your prayers, asking God to bless them abundantly for their quiet stewardship and kindness.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Advent Donations for 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!



December 7, 2025

### St. John Elementary School: Seeking Lunch Supervisors.

Lunch supervisors assist during recess and lunchtime. To learn more or express interest, please call St. John Elementary School at (613) 267-2865.

## 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, and Claudette Timmerman. **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

- **Thursday, December 11th @ 6:00pm:** St. Laurence O’Toole, Spencerville
- **Sunday, December 14th @ 3:30pm:** St. Francis de Sales Church, Smiths Falls
- **Tuesday, December 16th @ 6:00pm:** St. Edward’s Church, Westport
- **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.**

## 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 <b>Tuesday, December 9th @ 6:30pm</b>	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