

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00

Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

November 27, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

**Masks are
Mandatory in the
Church**

**Please note change in
Mass for Christmas Eve:
Mass will be at 3:30 pm**

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

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'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our

conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44)

1 Pope Benedict XVI, *Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006*

--Excerpted from the website of
Congregation for the Clergy

Collection:
November 13/21

Envelopes	\$315.00
Loose	\$15.00
	\$330.00

Notices:

1: New Missals: The new missals will be in the church this week. Cost \$5.00 per missal. If you want to purchase a Missal, please leave your payment in an envelope with your number.

2: Christmas Toy and Gift Drive: Christmas is coming and so is the Bras d'Or Lakers annual Christmas Toy and Gift drive for local families in need of assistance. This year's benefitting agency is the new Potlotek Food Bank in Chapel Island. We are asking for toys and children's clothing to be dropped off at the Fire Hall. These gifts are to be new and unwrapped. The food bank will distribute the gifts to their clients for their children. The reception and gift drop-off will be on Saturday December 4th between 2:30 and 4:00 PM. Covid protocols will be in place. Tea and snacks will be served, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. If you cannot attend in person, we encourage you to send a childrens' gift with somebody who is attending.
Seasons Greetings,

Howard MacIntyre, Chair
Edith Boyle, Vice-chair

3: Christmas Bake Sale: Sacred Heart Ladies Group will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday December 5th. Come and do some Christmas Baking without the hassle. We will also be looking for donations to the Bake Sale, so if you have time to help bake that will be greatly appreciated. Time: 10am – 12pm. This will be our last event for the year. Proof of vaccine will be required.

4: St. Mary's Parish Frenchvale Fundraiser: 4 cords of firewood split and delivered with the CBRM, or \$500.00 cash. Tickets: \$1.00 each available from Cathy Johnston, 902-535-2774. Draw date: December 4th, at St. Mary's Parish.

5: Religious Christmas Cards for sale: There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through www.lifecyclebooks.ca You may order on line or Maureen Sampson of HGA has ordered several mixed packs for anyone in our surrounding communities who may be interested. The cost is \$5 for a pack of 10. Phone 902-587-2517 for more information.

Christmas/New Year's Schedule: Johnstown - An update for all parishes will be added later

Christmas Eve: Friday, Dec 24, 2021: 3:30 pm

Sunday December 26: 2021 9:00 am

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God: Friday, Dec. 31, 2021 - Holy Day of Obligation – 3:30 pm

Sunday January 2nd, 2022 – 9:00 am