

# St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

## Office

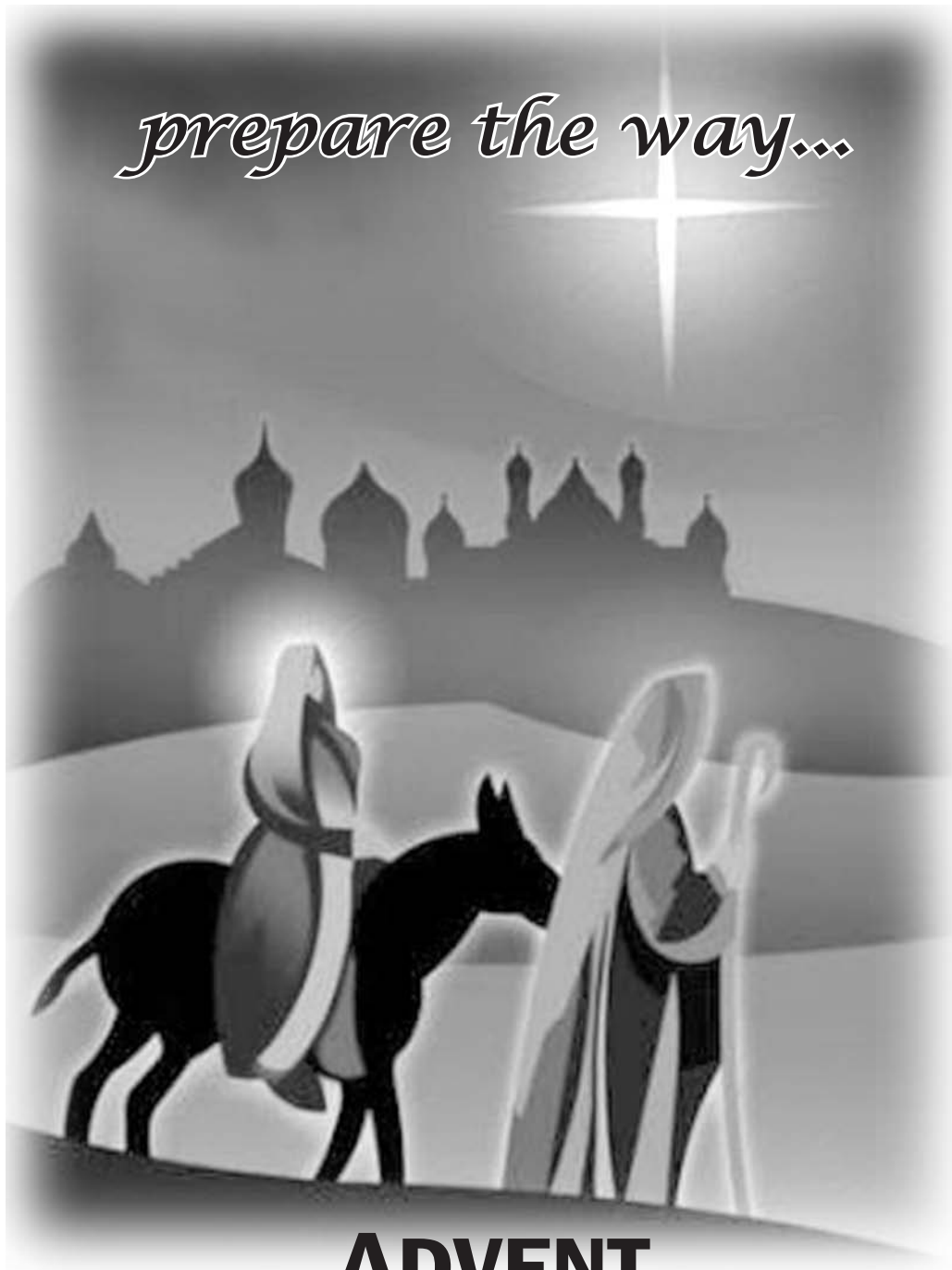
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Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor

Janet Raats, Office Administrator

Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Fri. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



# ADVENT

**A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:**

Last year you may recall that Christmas fell on a Monday. This led to a very short time to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We basically only had a few hours to celebrate that Sunday because parishes had to prepare for Christmas with the first masses being at 4 or 5 p.m. It felt strange to set up the parish Nativity Set a few days before the Fourth Sunday of Advent. It would have been impossible to have everything ready in a few hours on a Sunday afternoon.

This year we have a couple of extra days to celebrate and ponder the last Sunday of this Advent season. This Sunday, the scripture readings are alive with excitement about the Saviour who is coming very soon.

It is no surprise that the spotlight is focussed on Mary because no one can help us to better understand the meaning of Advent than Mary. The Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth is more than a happy exchange of support between two women sharing the joys of childbearing. We must see it as being a story of faith as well as one of friendship and human love.

Elizabeth clearly recognizes that Mary is carrying Jesus, the image of the unseen God, when she says: "Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?" What a warm welcome the unborn Christ child received at Elizabeth's home in contrast to the cool welcome He would receive in Bethlehem when there was no room for them in the inn.

Mary reveals to all of us how we are to wait for Christ. She was carrying Him as a gift to a world in need and we are to do likewise. We are called to be signs of His presence when we give ourselves to others and what better time than as we approach Christmas, when we meet with family and friends with warmth and true feelings.

Today's passage from Luke is also about Jesus and John. Even before being born, one child was acknowledging the greatness of another. We all know that a baby isn't powerful, it needs defending. Yet Luke is claiming that Jesus, as an unborn child, brought change to the world. We must recognize this change in our lives as we come to the end of the Advent season.

All our Christmas celebrations are an empty sham if Jesus is not born into our hearts. Good things need to be done at a deeper level out of love and affection and in a spirit of generosity. The gifts that we

give have no purpose unless God is part of the giving and unless we make Christmas a pattern to be followed in everyday living.

As we approach the birth of our Saviour, let us be like Mary who visited Elizabeth in a warm and loving way two thousand years ago. We can be inspired like Mary to offer the perfect Christmas gift which she did by saying: "Here I am Lord; I've come to do Your will."

May God bless all of you and your entire families this holy season. Let us share together the joy of the birth of our Saviour.

*Fr. Mark*

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:**

"Off to one side sits a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear Him—and so on this cloudless night He went to simple shepherds."

-Max Lucado

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

This week please pray especially for:

***Pat Haffey, Helen Stroz,  
Mary Humenyk***



This week we pray especially for the following families of our parish:

***Anastacio, Arbic, Arruda,  
Atkins, Baginski, Banks***

**MEETINGS**

Mon.	6:00 p.m.	Tops
Tues.	7:30 p.m.	
Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Acton Sharing

**Winter Weather Conditions:**

**During inclement weather, we remind Parishioners to be cautious when coming to Mass and be prepared to stay home if conditions are treacherous. We wish all our Parishioners to be safe both on the roads and on the sidewalks this Winter.**

97-1

DECEMBER 22, 2024

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 23 – December 29)	REQUESTED BY:
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Midnight		
<b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00 a.m.	<i>Christmas Intentions of Father Pope Francis</i>	
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	<i>People of the Holy Land</i>	
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	Adam Dyczkowski	Kwiatkowski Family
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Daniel Earl Haffey	Suzanne Blanchet-Haffey
Sun. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Marjorie Hutchison Pro populo	Raats Family



**CONTACT PERSONS for CWL and K of C**

Anyone interested in learning more about our parish Catholic Women's League or Knights of Columbus is invited to call the appropriate contact person:

CWL: Christie deSouza: 519-400-6012 [cwl@lartist.com](mailto:cwl@lartist.com)

K of C: Ian Nolan: [grand.knight.8050@gmail.com](mailto:grand.knight.8050@gmail.com)



<b>Sat. Dec 28</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	
Lector	Lilli	
Ex. Minister	Chris	
<b>Sun. Dec 29</b>	<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
Lector	Catherine	Cheryl
Ex. Minister	Marcus	Lorin

**CHRISTMAS MASSES** – Christmas and New Years Day fall on Wednesdays this year, Masses for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve and our regular Sunday Masses will be on the same days. Please note **there is one Mass on Christmas morning.**

**Christmas Eve:** 4:00 p.m. Christmas Mass  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Mass  
Midnight Christmas Mass

**Christmas Day:** 10:00 a.m.

**New Years Eve:** 5:00 p.m. New Year

**New Years Day:** 9:00 a.m. New Year  
11:00 a.m. New Year

**Reconciliation Times:**

**December 23 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Bulletins** are available online at:

<http://www.parishbulletins.com/bulletins/097>

**Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

Father Mark arranges Baptisms and Marriages personally, by appointment. Please see Father after Mass to set a time for an interview. Marriages must be arranged one year in advance. Completion of a marriage preparation course is required. Applications may be obtained from Father Mark.

The **Parish Office will be closed** from 12:30 p.m. December 20 to 9:30 a.m. January 3 to prepare for year-end reporting and to celebrate Christmas. Messages and emails will be monitored. **2025 Envelopes are now available. Numbers remain the same as last year.**

*We await with joyful hope,  
the coming of Our Lord!*






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**Catholic Women's League**



of St. Joseph's invites the ladies of the Parish to our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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