



First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

*We begin this season of Advent with the call to stay awake,
to open our hearts, and to return to God.*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday, Dec 24 th	4:30, 7:00, 9:00 and midnight
Monday, Dec 25 th	10:30 am
Sunday, Dec 31 st	5:00 pm
Monday, Jan 1 st	10:30 am

Seeking volunteers to help with our Parish Potluck in December

We are asking for help to make our Parish Potluck a shared event in terms of the setup, decoration, clean-up and tear-down. If you are able to assist in any area, please contact Sarah MacDonald-McLean @ smacdo03@gmail.com or leave your name and contact info with Bonnie Kobner, Parish Secretary at 613-824-4394. We are seeking volunteers who would be able to help in any area... please consider lending a hand to help make this event a memorable farewell for our Associate Pastor, Fr. Greg Murray, S.C.J.

SUNDAY MISSALS – The 2018 Sunday Missals will be sold after the masses this weekend. The cost is \$7.00. Copies are also available to be purchased at the office.

CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES – Campaign Life will be selling Christmas Cakes the weekend of December 9/10 in the gathering space.

Baptismal Preparation Ministry

We are currently seeking new members to join the team to assist families prepare for the reception of this Sacrament for their child and loved ones.

Baptisms are held the last Saturday of the month (2:00-4:00 pm) and one or two preparation sessions are held at the church (usually) between 10:00-11:00 am on Sundays prior to the day of the celebration.

Volunteers to this ministry could assist at the Baptism ceremony itself, or with the preparation sessions... no one is expected to do it all and the commitment is flexible to your schedule. Training will be provided and students requiring volunteer hours are welcomed. Please consider stepping forward to this very rewarding ministry – it is a way to share your gifts with the families of your parish. Please contact Magda Baillet at gs-respmin@bellnet.ca or call the parish office at 613-824-4394.

Pro-life Mass: Monthly pilgrimage of Masses to pray for the establishment of a Pro-life Centre in Ottawa. Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica, Sussex Dr. & St. Patrick St., **Sat., Dec. 9, 10:00 a.m.**
Sponsored by Pro-life Doctors. Info: wandawoj@rogers.com; 613-831-2515

Offering for November 26, 2017

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 2569.00
PAC/Visa/MC	\$ 2660.00
Loose:	\$ 711.00
Total Collection:	\$ 5940.00

Our financial requirements are approx. **\$8,000** per week to support our approx. **\$2,000** a week mortgage payment.

Fr. Shroff's Corner

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, a new liturgical year! Advent, of course, is a preparation for the season of Christmas. As such, we tend to associate Advent with the First Coming of Jesus in Bethlehem. However, in the Sacred Liturgy, the first part of Advent doesn't speak directly about the First Coming at all – rather, it focuses on the Second Coming of Christ in glory at the end of time. This is apparent from the Gospel of today's Mass.

Today's Gospel invites us to "keep watch." We are called to be ready, for "you do not know when the time will come" (Mk. 13). This call to vigilance was taken very seriously by the early Christians. The Apostle Paul exhorted them to maintain a state of watchfulness always, repeating the exhortation of Jesus Himself. But what were they to do while watching for the Lord's Second Coming? They were to live in accordance with the teachings of Christ, in holiness and virtue. They were to exercise Faith, Hope, and Charity, and to imitate the Lord Jesus and strive to live by His example.

The Church, during this beginning of Advent, invites each of us to maintain that same spirit of vigilance and watchfulness. We do not know how much time we have before the Second Coming of Jesus. Time is a precious gift from God, and we must use that time wisely, always keeping our gaze fixed firmly on eternity.

The spirit of watchfulness is actually a spirit of Faith-fulness. We are called to live as men and women of Faith, who know that the Lord Jesus will come again one day, perhaps when we least expect Him. The Second Coming of Christ will correspond with the General Judgement and ultimately with the resurrection of our bodies. It will bring all of our actions into the Light of God for all to see.

The early Christians did not fear the Second Coming of Christ – at least not with a servile fear. As His disciples, they looked forward to His Coming and waited for Him, as a bride awaits her beloved groom. They also prayed specifically for His Second Coming, as we read in the very last words of the Holy Bible: "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let him who hears say, 'Come.' 'Surely I am coming soon,' says the Lord. Amen. Maranatha: Come, Lord Jesus!" (Apoc. 22).

Movie Night at Blessed Sacrament: On Saturday, December 16 at 6:30 PM, we will show 'Popieluszko – Freedom is Within Us'. This is the powerful, true story of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, a courageous young Priest and Martyr who became the Chaplain and spiritual leader of *Solidarity*, the Polish Trade Union in the 1980s. At age 37, Fr. Popieluszko was murdered by the Communists for proclaiming the teachings of the Church. Snacks and drinks provided. Good will donation accepted.

INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2

9:00 am †Guenter Andrews & Herb Lalonde req by Myrna Andrews

Saturday, December 2– First Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm For Our Parishioners

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am †George Timko req by Bobbi Timko
†Brenda MacDonald req by Bobbi Timko
†Elizabeth Anne MacDonald req by Johanne Brady
11:15 am †Gerard Gaudet req by Jean Gaudet & family
Intention of Marjorie Riopelle req by Joe & Donna Verner
Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus

Monday, December 4 – First Monday of Advent

9:00 am †James Ferguson req by Josephine Ferguson

Tuesday, December 5 – First Tuesday of Advent

9:00 am Deceased members of the Martin & O'Carroll families'

Thursday, December 7 – Memorial, St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor

9:00 am †Gertrude Howell req by John & Maureen Butt

Friday, December 8 – Solemnity, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 am Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Anthony req by Dorothy Gibbs

Saturday, December 9– Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 †Rita Lake req by the family
†William McCallum req by John & Joan Ronan
†Magdalena Giraudy req by Myrna Andrews
Deceased members of the Pereira family

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am For Our Parishioners
11:15 am †Chris Husbands req by Carol-Ann & Claude Trudel
†Graham Marr req by the family
†Guenter Andrews req by Stase Danaitis

Please pray for our sick;, June Cheverie, Antoinette Tissaaratchy, Joe MacDonell, June Cheverie, Rose Dugandzic, Jean-Ella Lemire, Elsie & Steve Stadler, Lorretta Dillon-Robinette, and John MacDonald.

Please pray for our deceased, that they may be received into God's love.

Stairwell Carollers Christmas Concert Fundraiser: Saint Joseph Church, Orleans, 2757 St. Joseph Blvd., **Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.** Singing for the first time in Orleans, the Stairwell Carollers Concert will feature songs in many languages. Benefits to the financial campaign to renovate the Church, a historical landmark. Tickets at parish office or at concert, if space available. Cost: \$20; children 12 and under free. Info: 613-824-7983; paroisse_stjoseph@bellnet.ca; campaign <http://stjosephorleanscampaign.ca>

PRO LIFE CORNER

Let us pray that we may prepare for the new heaven and new earth by fostering respect and protection for all human life, including preborn babies and those at risk of being euthanized. Let us pray especially for

those who under the influence of cultural pressures are fooled into thinking that abortion and euthanasia are forms of compassion.