

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 — Year A



Sat. Dec 13
Sun. Dec 14
Mon. Dec 15
Tue. Dec 16
Wed. Dec 17
Thu. Dec 18
Fri. Dec 19
Sat. Dec 20
Sun. Dec 21

8:00AM †Francesco Smarella by wife, Linda
4:00PM †Marino, Palmina & Yvette Polverari by Joe
9:00AM For the People
8:00AM †The Pietrelli family
6:30PM †Sam Scalzo by the Zarb & Tedesco families
8:00AM †Paul Quinn by Dan Quinn
8:00AM †Argilio Lametti by wife Merina & family
8:00AM †The DiNobile family by Fernanda DiNobile
8:00AM †The Henry family by Mary Jane Cook
4:00PM For the People
9:00AM †Eve Abele by Theresa Azzopardi

YOUTH RETREAT

St. Michael's Parish (310 Central Avenue, Fort Erie) will be having a Youth Retreat led by NET Ministries for students between Grades Eight and Twelve on Saturday, January 24 from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. There is no cost. For more information or to register call 905-871-0692 or go to stmichaelfe.com.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St. Therese of Lisieux CWL are once again collecting socks, gloves, scarfs, hats and non perishable food items to make up Christmas baskets for the needy. Cash and Gift Certificates are also welcome and can be given to Mary Van Ruyven or Mary Nan. On the weekend of December 13-14 we are focusing on gifts and gift cards. This will be the last weekend when they will be accepting donations.

YEAR-END TAX PLANNING

The Diocese now has a Donation of Securities Form so Parishioners can make a donation of securities to a Parish or the Diocese and receive an income tax receipt for the full market amount of the securities donated. This will make it easier for income tax purposes to support a Parish or the Diocese. For more information or to obtain copies of this form contact John J. O'Brien, CFO, at 905-684-0154 ext. 206 or 289-259-0795.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

The Mass schedule for Christmas is as follows: Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM; Thursday, December 25 at 12:00 Midnight and 9:00 AM. For the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (a Holy Day of Obligation) Masses will be as follows: Wednesday, December 31 at 4:00 PM and Thursday, January 1 at 9:00 AM.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR KIDS

The Knights of Columbus wishes to thank the many parishioners who contributed donations of money or warm clothing to support of our Coats for Kids program this year. The effort helped 70 students at the nine Elementary Schools in Port Colborne and Wainfleet.. Thank you again and Merry Christmas.

VIDEO SERIES

A weekly on-line video series for Advent entitled "Journey Through Advent" is now available on the CCCB website. It is intended to help Catholics prepare for Christmas by providing valuable resources for faith formation. The series is produced by the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, the National Liturgy Office and the *Office national de liturgie*. Each video will be uploaded to the CCCB website on the Monday before the upcoming Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. The English link is: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/> In French: <https://www.cecc.ca/evangelisation-catechesis-et-education/ressources-video/cheminer-ensemble-durant-lavent/>

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on December 25, December 30 and January 1, 2026. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.. The secretary will be **away** from her desk **Thursday, December 18**.

NORTHLAND POINT MASS

Mass will be celebrated at Northland Pointe Residence (2 Fielden Avenue) on Thursday, December 18 starting at 2:00 PM (not 10:00 AM the usual time.).

LAKESHORE MASS

Mass is celebrated at Lakeshore Catholic High School each Wednesday during the School Year starting at 7:30 AM. On Wednesday, December 17 Fr. Basque will be celebrating the Mass so the Parish Mass will be at 8:30 AM.. This will be the last Mass before Christmas break

POLICE CHECKS

Last week a number of Police Check forms were found in the Office and brought to the Responsible Faith Ministry Office at the Catholic Center. A revised list of those who require new Police Check forms will likely be forwarded to the Parish some time soon. When this occurs those who do require new forms to be filled out will be notified. Thank you for your patience in this matter. The Parish will pay the cost of the Police Check for any volunteer who requires one..

TAX RECEIPTS

Please ensure all donations that require a tax receipt for 2025 are in before December 31, 2025. Anything given after that date will be included on your 2026 tax receipt.

GROCERY CARDS

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is once again providing grocery cards for the families of students in need this Christmas Season. Last year they were able to help 267 families. Donations can be made by cheque, Visa, MasterCard or online by using Pay-Pal at www.nfce.org. An income tax receipt will be issued for all donations. For more information or to donate contact the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education 427 Rice Road Welland, Ontario L3C 7C1 or phone (905) 735-0247 extension 210.

CONFESSON

The Sacrament of Confession is celebrated from 8:00 until 9:00 PM at St. Denis Parish (230 Lake Street, St. Catharines) every Monday through Friday and St. Andrew the Apostle Parish (4 St. Andrews Ave., Welland) every Tuesday.

CWL MEMEBERSHIP

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Catholic Women's League is collecting Membership dues for 2026. For those who use Offertory Envelopes a special envelope is included in your box of Envelopes. For those who do not use Offertory Envelopes put \$35 in a white envelope and write on it CWL Membership along with your name. Envelopes can be dropped into the Offertory Collection.

VISITOR ENVELOPES

Anyone who has forgotten their Offertory Envelope or is a Visitor is welcome to use a pink Visitor Envelope, available at the back of the Church, for their donation to the Parish. Just ensure you put your name, address and phone number on it so we can send you an income tax receipt next January.

SERRA CLUB FUNDRAISER

The Serra Club of St. Catharine's is hosting a Murder Mystery Fundraiser at Club Roma (125 Van Sickle Road, Saint Catharines) entitled "Murder at the Ritz" on Saturday, April 25 starting at 5:30 PM. The event will include a four course meal, signature drinks and dancing. Tickets are \$75 per person if purchased before January 6 (a \$10 savings). A Charleston Dance Lesson will be offered from 4:30 until 5:30 for an additional charge of \$10. Prize for best dressed couple. Tickets are available at events@serrastc.ca.

FR. BASQUE AWAY

Fr. Basque will be away from the Parish from Sunday, January 4 (after the 9:00 AM Mass) until Friday, January 9. Mass will not be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but will be offered on Friday at 6:30 PM.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist is among the most complex figures in the Bible. The circumstances of his life were unusual. His parents (Zechariah and Elizabeth) were considered too old to have a child.. As the son of a Priest, the Jewish Law required he become one as well. Yet, God called him to be a prophet. In that role, he was a bridge between the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and Christian Scriptures (New Testament). Like the prophets of the past he boldly called people to conversion, denounced religious hypocrisy and pointed towards a future where God's Kingdom would be established. He was fearless in condemning Herod Antipas when he married his brother Phillip's wife Herodias: an action which would cost him his life. Yet, John was also very human. When the Messiah he predicted and longed for arrived, he likely experienced doubts. Was this the one sent by God? But the Romans still occupied Israel. The religious and political elites were corrupt. Where was the radical change which would establish God's Kingdom on earth? Christ's response indicated the signs (the blind see, the deaf hear) were subtle and likely to be overlooked except by those who were open to them. It is easy to relate to John when our expectations aren't met. What are our expectations for this Christmas Season? They may not be met in ways we expect. Yet, if we are open to them, God may touch us in profound ways which enable us to see and hear what is really important about this time of year.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 6/7	Sunday Offering	\$ 1,790.00
	Maintenance	\$ 465.00
	In Memory of	\$ 350.00
	Christmas Flowers	\$ 500.00

E-transfer: celineincarmel@gmail.com