

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 — Year A



Sat. Dec 20	8:00AM †The Henry family by Mary Jane Cook 4:00PM For the People
Sun. Dec 21	9:00AM †Eve Abele by Theresa Azzopardi
Mon. Dec 22	8:00AM †Alfonzo & Mary Foresi by Amelia Foresi
Tue. Dec 23	6:30PM †Enzo Trasatti by wife, Josephine & family
Wed. Dec 24	8:00AM †The Monte family by Carmen Buri 4:00PM †Lisa Dayboll by Rita Smith
Thu. Dec 25	12:00AM †Pietro Lametti by Merina Lametti & family 9:00AM †Raymond & Laura Graveline by Ron Graveline
Fri. Dec 26	8:00AM †George Stepanchuk by Janet Plato
Sat. Dec 27	8:00AM †Joe & Shirley Palma by Amelia Foresi 4:00PM For the People
Sun. Dec 28	9:00AM †Ernest & Madelyn Bazinet by Roland & Mona Breton
Mon. Dec 29	8:00AM †George Leon by Paul Leon
Tue. Dec 30	6:30PM †The Nevar family by Anita Nevar
Wed. Dec 31	8:00AM †Frank Grimaldi by John & Teresa Marcone 4:00PM †Dudley Yapp Sr. by Frank and Dorothy Yapp
Thu. Jan 1	9:00AM †Jim Quinn by Dan Quinn
Fri. Jan 2	8:00AM †Giuseppina Pambianco by Angelo Pambianco
Sat. Jan 3	8:00AM †Enzo Trasatti by Josephine Trasatti 4:00PM For the People
Sun. Jan 4	9:00AM Giuseppina de Gregorio by Mafalda Chiavetti

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.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Bishop Bergie will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria (3 Lyman Street, Saint Catharines) on World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 8, 2026) starting at 3:00 PM. The Mass will honour all married couples but especially those celebrating significant anniversaries. No registration is required. A reception will follow the Mass.. Everyone is welcome.

CONFESSION

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

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

The Christmas Mass schedule 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.

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 value 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 call John J. O'Brien, CFO, at 905-684-0154 ext. 206 or 289-259-0795.

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.

NATIVITY SCENE

The Nativity Scene is once again on display at City Hall in St. Catharines (50 Church Street, St. Catharines). All the faithful are encouraged to visit this display in the hope that the humble beauty of the Creche will help inspire hearts to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. This meaningful religious display was made possible through the dedication of the Catholic Women's League of St. Mary of the Assumption parish and the generosity of Mr. Tom Rankin and the crew of Rankin Construction, for storing, transporting, and setting up the display, and Garden City Home Hardware Store for electrical cords and décor. It will be up until January 5, 2026

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-catechese-et-education/ressources-video/cheminer-ensemble-durant-lavent/>

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 offered on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but will be offered on Friday at 6:30 PM. In case of an emergency you can contact him at 905-941-1600 or call the Parish Office.

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.

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. Thank you.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: JOSEPH

The stories about the events related to the birth and early life of Jesus are known as the Infancy Narratives and found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. In the Gospel of Luke, the accounts have Mary (or her relatives) as the main character, while in Matthew's Gospel, Joseph plays the more prominent role. This has led some Bible scholars to speculate this is because the stories come from two different traditions. Although the ones which feature Mary tend to be better known, the ones focusing on Joseph are equally important. The genealogy (family tree) which begins Matthew's Gospel shows how Jesus is connected to Abraham (the founder of the Jewish people) and David (the person most associated with the coming Messiah). When Joseph chose not divorce Mary (as the Jewish Law expected) he made his divinely conceived son a legitimate member of the Jewish people. His actions to move Mary and the infant Jesus to Egypt after learning of Herod's plot to kill his son and then to Nazareth to protect him from the king's heir, highlighted Joseph's role as protector of the Holy Family and obedient servant of God. During these events, there is little indication of what Joseph thought or felt as they unfolded. It likely that he was confused when he learned his wife was pregnant and he knew he was not the child's biological father. He was probably baffled when the wise men (strangers) from the East showed up unexpectedly at his door with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for his son and paid homage to him. Joseph was likely afraid when he learned of Herod's plot to kill his son, wife and himself. There may have been moments when he wondered what he had gotten himself into by agreeing to be part of God's plan. Yet, Joseph trusted that somehow things would work out and they did. He obediently did what he was asked to do by God and that might have provided some comfort to Mary who could have been equally unsettled. Two thousand years later, we often face situations like those which confronted Joseph. We don't understand what is happening around us. We seem to have little ability to control events. The future frightens us. But, like Joseph, we trust God will make things work out..

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 13/14	Sunday Offering	\$ 980.00
	Maintenance	\$ 70.00
	Flowers	\$ 255.00
E-transfer: celineincarmel@gmail.com		