

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 — Year A



Sat. Dec 6	8:00AM †The Cassaro family by Carmen Buri 4:00PM †Dean Tedeso by Mike Tedesco
Sun. Dec 7	9:00AM For the People
Mon. Dec 8	8:00AM †Delia Mattiazo
Tue. Dec 9	6:30PM †The Peyton family by Carmen Buri
Wed. Dec 10	8:00AM †Bruce Smith by Rita Smith
Thu. Dec 11	8:00AM †Irene Stepanchuk by Janet Plato
Fri. Dec 12	8:00AM †Henry Nan by Mary Nan
Sat. Dec 13	8:00AM †Francesco Smarella by wife, Linda 4:00PM †Marino, Palmina & Yvette Polverari by Joe
Sun. Dec 14	9:00AM For the People

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.

SCHOOL MASS

The next Mass at St. Therese of Lisieux School gym will be offered on Wednesday December 10 at 11:30 AM.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St. Therese of Lisieux CWL will once again be 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 6 -7 we are focusing on hygiene items (toothpaste, shampoo, soap, hand cream, hairbrush, toothbrush) and socks; on December 13 14 we are focusing on gifts and gift cards.

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 x206 or 289-259-0795.

MESSAGE OF HOPE

The Message of Hope Speaker Series is a 2025 Jubilee initiative designed to help Catholics learn about Hope and reflect upon ways to promote it in our world. The next session will be held at St. Alexander's Parish (50 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill) on Tuesday, December 9 from 7:00 until 9:00 PM The speaker will be Dr. Stephanie Kafie who will be speaking on the topic "Hopeful Dying: Reframing Hope and the End of Life".

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/>

BAKE SALE

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Youth Group will be having a Bake Sale in the Parish Hall today (December 7) immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass. Proceeds from the Sale will fund future Youth Ministry activities. Please show your support for our youth.

CONFESSION

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 through Friday from 8:00 until 9:00 PM. A Sunday evening Mass starting at is also now celebrated at St. Andrew's Parish

SAINT CARLO ACUTIS CHALLENGE

Students in Grades Five to Twelve are invited to take part in the St. Carlo Acutis Challenge. It is a chance to use your talents to create a video, app, song, dance, poem, essay, fashion project or social media campaign, to highlight an aspect of your faith about which you are passionate. The top prize for Secondary students is \$1000 while the top prize for Elementary students is \$500 For information visit bit.ly/Saint-Challenge or contact us at: evangelization@saintcd.com.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED MINISTRY

The Diocesan Divorced and Separated Ministry Group will be meeting at Mount Carmel Spiritual Center (7020 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls) on Monday, December, 8 from 7:00 until 9:00 PM. The topic for this session: "Benefits of Waiting"/Advent Prayer Service. For information call 905-356 4113 or 905-684-0154.

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

CWL MEMBERSHIP

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.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Parishioners are invited to pick up their boxes of Offertory Envelopes for 2026 in the Sacristy before or after Mass. The number of boxes purchased for this year has been reduced which means some people's box number has changed. Each box has a label with the person's name on it. Please insure you have the correct box by checking the name on it.

PARISH CENSUS

The results of the Parish Census were the following: Saturday November 22 (37); Sunday November 23 (50); Saturday November 29 (47); Sunday November 30 (90). Thank you to those who assisted me with the Census.

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..

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 Masses will be as follows: Wednesday, December 31 at 4:00 PM and Thursday, January 1 at 9:00 AM

COFFEE SUNDAY

The next Coffee Sunday will be held in the Parish Hall today (December 7) after the 9:00AM Mass.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: PROPHETS

Prophets are people who speak on behalf of God. Their visions and oracles often sound harsh because it is the voice of a loving God who is warning or condemning those who have gone astray. Yet, prophets also speak words of hope and comfort to those who feel dejected or sorrowful because of the difficulties they face. God's anger expressed through the prophets reveals his desire to set things right. It shows God's relationship with humanity is personal.

Prophets are also intermediaries between God and humans straddling two worlds. They represent God and relay God's message to people. They can also act as intercessors, pleading on behalf of humans for blessings or the avoidance of punishment. Sometimes prophets have predicted how God will act in the future., often the near future.

John the Baptist was in many ways the last of the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) prophets and the first of those in Christian Scripture (New Testament). His words warned people about their sinfulness and need for conversion. Yet, he also gave them hope by pointing towards a new future in which they would encounter God's Kingdom in a direct way. The urgency of his message made it clear action must be taken now: prepare in concrete ways for the future before it was too late.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 29/30	Sunday Offering	\$ 1,845.00
	Maintenance	\$ 495.00
	Christmas Flowers	\$ 25.00
E-transfer: celineincarmel@gmail.com		