

# First Sunday of Advent

## November 29, 2025 — Year A



Sat. Nov 29	8:00AM †Italo Chiavetti by Karl & Jaime Douglas 4:00PM For the People
Sun. Nov 30	9:00AM †Temi Pietrelli by Caterina Buri
Mon. Dec 1	8:00AM †Anne Quinn by Dan Quinn
Tue. Dec 2	6:30PM †Domenico Rico by Elvira Mascio
Wed. Dec 3	8:00AM †John Vingerhoets Jr. by Mary Nan
Thu. Dec 4	8:00AM †The Graves family by Mary Jane Cook
Fri. Dec 5	8:00AM †Angelina Saracino by Bob Saracino
Sat. Dec 6	8:00AM †The Cassaro family by Carmen Buri 4:00PM †Dean Tedesco by Mike Tedesco
Sun. Dec 7	9:00AM For the People

### 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 November 22-23 we are focusing on dry food (cereal, pasta, rice) and hats, mitts or scarves; on November 29/30 we are focusing on canned goods (soups, beans, vegetables, pasta sauce, tuna, peanut butter) and toys; on 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.

### 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".

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish CWL will be holding their annual Christmas Lunch at the Belmont Restaurant (175 King Street) on Wednesday, December 3 starting at 11:30 AM. The CWL Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 2 has been cancelled.

### SCHOOL MASS

Mass will be offered at St. Therese of Lisieux School in the gym on Wednesday, December 3 starting at 11:30

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR KIDS

During the month of November the Knights of Columbus is once again collecting new and gently used winter coats, toques, mittens and boots for needy children and adolescents in Port Colborne and Wainfleet. If you wish to donate please place your item( s) in the box at the back of the Church. Money donations are also welcome. Please make cheques payable to the Knights of Columbus. For more information or money donations contact Josef Van Ruyven 289 969-9369. Thank you for your generosity!

### LAKESHORE MASS

Mass is celebrated at Lakeshore Catholic High School each Wednesday during the School Year starting at 7:30 AM. On Wednesday, December 3 Fr. Basque will be celebrating the Mass so the Parish Mass will be at 8:30 AM..

### 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.

### BAKE SALE

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Youth Group will be having a Bake Sale in the Parish Hall on Sunday, 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.

### PARISH CENSUS

The Bishop has asked us to count the number of people attending our two weekend Masses for the next two weekends (November 22-23 and November 29-30). The information gathered will be used to help plan for the future of the Diocese. The count will be taken immediately after the Homily and before the Creed. The count for last week was 37 people were at the 4:00 PM Mass (Saturday) and 50 at the 9:00 AM Mass (Sunday).

### 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.

### COFFEE SUNDAY

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

### 2025-2026 MISSALS

Missals for the upcoming Liturgical Year (2025-206) are now on sale at the back of the Church Cost is \$5.

### 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](https://bit.ly/Saint-Challenge) or contact us at: [evangelization@saintcd.com](mailto:evangelization@saintcd.com).

### POLICE CHECKS

The Diocesan Responsible Faith Ministry Office has notified us that the Police Checks for most of the volunteers who count collections or work with vulnerable people (Youth Ministry, Communion to the Homebound, etc.) have expired . Those involved in these ministries who wish to continue doing so will have to get a new Police Check in the near future. Fr. Basque has the complete list of those volunteers and will be able to speak with them individually. The Parish will pay the cost of the Police Check.

### 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

### YOUTH MINISTRY

The next meeting of the St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Youth Group will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 14 from 10:00 until 11:30 AM. For information call Dorothy Murtaugh at 905 -658-9579 . All youth are welcome.

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE: ADVENT

Advent is the season we prepare for the coming of Christ both in the past and future. During the first part of the season we focus on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. We are encouraged to "stay awake" because we do not know when it will occur. It is tempting to become complacent about it or so caught up in the daily grind of life that we convince ourselves it is not important or will never come. This was likely a temptation faced by the Jewish people when they were persecuted or experienced deportation and exile in Babylon before Jesus was born. Yet, they persevered and were rewarded. In the same way our waiting is not in vain. Jesus came once and has made it clear he will return. In our busy secular world waiting is seen as inconvenient and so something to be avoided. Yet, for us, waiting gives us a chance to prepare for the Second Coming. We can be thankful for how Christ is present in our lives in the people we meet or events we encounter and how much greater it will be in the future. We have the opportunity to identify the things which hurt our relationship with God and do something to correct the situation. We can reflect upon the glory of God and give praise for it.

During the second part of the season we focus on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus: the annunciation of the coming of John the Baptist and his birth; the annunciation of the birth of Jesus; Mary's visitation with Elizabeth; Matthew genealogy tracing Christ's ancestors from Abraham to Joseph; and the angel's revelation to Joseph. These stories place Jesus within human history. The characters are ordinary human beings who lack power, wealth and social connections. Their humility makes it easy for us to relate to them. Other than the appearance of the angels, there are no extraordinary events associated with the narrative unlike the births of figures in Greek and Roman mythology.

Advent is an opportunity for us to stop and reflect upon how God acts in our world. He asks for patience. He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He wants to be one with us.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 22/23 Sunday Offering	\$ 1,985.00
In Memory of	\$ 260.00
E-transfer: <a href="mailto:celineincarmel@gmail.com">celineincarmel@gmail.com</a>	