



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

December 01, 2024

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Issue 48 | Volume 5

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father Ranjan D'Sa O.C.D.

From this Sunday, we start a new liturgical year. This year we mainly focus on the Lukan Gospel to contemplate the mystery of Christ – the mystery of our salvation. During the liturgical year, as the Vatican II document on sacred liturgy puts it, “the Holy Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from the incarnation and birth until the ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of the coming of the Lord” (102). Thus, all the faithful are given a chance to have the privilege of attaining the necessary graces for their personal redemption.

The liturgy helps us to transcend time. Christ, who was the beginning, also becomes the hope of our glorious future. Though Christ was beyond time, He came, lived, worked and died in time, so that all can transcend from time to eternity. Therefore, the liturgy brings out different events of Christ’s life. By commemorating them, we may relive the mystery of Christ’s own life.

We begin the liturgical year with Advent. “Adventus” was a Roman (pagan) word that described the joyful celebration of the anniversary of the manifestation of a deity or a dedication of a temple to a particular deity. Later this term was also used in the context of celebrating the anniversary of Roman Emperors coming into power. Christians used this same term to prepare for the coming of Christ, who is truly the Son of God and the King of all the kings.

The present practice – four weeks of preparation for Christmas – was instituted by Pope Gregory the

Great at the end of the 6th century. Unlike Lent, preparation for Christmas is less aesthetic, putting the focus mainly on the incarnation of the Son of God, who is coming into the world to reconcile us to God. It is, therefore, a time for preparing ourselves in faith for the joyful event of Christ’s birth.

The liturgy in Advent helps us celebrate the three distinct comings of Christ in our world.

- The first is **yesterday**: we commemorate the actual coming of Christ in the historical context. He was born of the Virgin Mary – God becomes flesh (John 1:14). In the third and fourth week of Advent, we read about the events that lead to the birth of Christ. These events are sometimes called “annunciations” because they speak about the annunciations to Zechariah, Mary and Joseph.

- The second is **today**: One of the focuses of celebrating Christmas is to see the incarnation of Christ in the present context. Jesus always incarnates in our present time. Addressing the Asian Synod of Bishops, Pope John Paul II urged the bishops to make every attempt to plant the cross of Christ in their own local cultures, so that every human person can get an easy access to the redemptive graces given to all in Christ.

- The third is **tomorrow**: We look forward in expectation for the glorious coming of Christ in His glory. In the first two weeks of advent, the Gospel readings are focused on helping us for our own meeting of Christ at the end of our own time and that of the world.

Advent is all about preparing our souls to meet Christ at His incarnation. “Come Lord Jesus Come!”

PARISH LITURGIES

— THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT —

Tuesday, December 03 - St. Francis Xavier

8:30 am + Gerald McGraw

Wednesday, December 04 - St. John Damascene

8:30 am + Sundeep Khosla

Thursday, December 05 - Bl. Margaret of Citta-di-Castello

8:30 am + Walter Dabernig

Friday, December 06 - St. Nicholas

8:30 am + Angelo & Antonio Paccione

9:00 – 10:00 am **Adoration**

—THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT —

Saturday, December 07 - St. Ambrose

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Reconciliation**

5:00 pm For:

+ Sybil O’Leary, + Loreen Bergeron, + Edward Murray, + Maria Jose Pereira, + Rose Seculich, + Alan Wight, Int. Carol Cassim, In Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 08

9:00 am For our

11:00 am Parishioners



RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

Thursday, December 12th

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Three confessors will be available to celebrate this beautiful gift of forgiveness and spiritual healing with our parishioners.

Please mark your calendar!



SANCTUARY LAMP

Our Sanctuary Lamp will be lit this week for the Intentions of the Jacques Family

We pray for the repose of the soul of our dearly departed, especially, **Rose Seculich, Eileen McCallion and Alan Wight**

May they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



CHRISTMAS Mass Times

As you make plans to celebrate the great Feast of the Birth of Christ, please note the date and time for celebrations in our parish:

Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

- 5:00; 7:15 (Family Mass); 11:30 pm
(On Christmas Eve, Christmas Carols will begin 15-20 minutes before Mass)

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

- 9:00 & 11:00 am

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31 – 5:00 pm *and*

Wednesday, January 1 – 10:00 am

ST DOMINIC YOUTH MINISTRY'S 5TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BONANZA

St. Dominic's Youth Ministry 5th Annual Christmas Bonanza will be taking place on Wednesday, December 11th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Hosted by the Conquest and Challenge Clubs of Oakville. All youth are welcome to join! Please RSVP online at: <https://forms.gle/5FegAgVfv3n5bNLR8> or contact our Youth Minister, Michael Aguiar at: michael@saintdominic.ca

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY



For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, and it is also known as

Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines to Mass on the weekend of **December 14/15** to be blessed as, we too, celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you're encouraged to take your Bambino home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day – as you lay Jesus in the manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessing we receive at Christmas.

ANGEL TREE



The Angel Christmas Tree for seniors is back. To bring hope, peace, love and joy to the wonderful people who live at OSCR. Pick a card hanging from the Christmas Angel Tree. Bring a wrapped gift for that person with the name tag attached by December 15th. The seniors are very appreciative of your kindness at Christmas.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



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Christ
in
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www.keepchristinchristmas.ca

The Knights of Columbus, Council 3881, invite you to promote our Christian faith to our neighbours and friends as we enter the Christmas season.

Lawn Signs reminding us all to “Keep Christ in Christmas” are available for purchase for \$20 from Brian O’Connor (416) 575-6431 occonnor.brian.boc@gmail.com or Conor Boyd (905) 469-4157 conmarboyd@gmail.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

On Friday, December 6, 2024, our Social Committee will be hosting a **Candlelight Advent Service & Social** at 7:00 pm. This event will begin in the Church with a special candlelight service. To fully light the space by candles and lanterns, contributions of any sort of candles or lanterns from the community are encouraged. After the service, there will be refreshments in the parish centre along with a display of over 200 Nativity Scenes. If you’d like to contribute to the display, reach out to the Social Committee. There is no cost to this event. All are welcome to attend.

On Tuesday, December 31st, 2024, our Social Committee will be hosting a **New Year’s Eve Games Night & Celebration** starting at 6:30 pm in the parish centre. It will be a fun, social, and perhaps a little competitive night with games for everyone. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or treat to share. There will be a special New Year’s toast at 9:00 pm, as the countdown will be rolled ahead for an early celebration. A variety of games and possibly a special GAME SHOW will be part of the evening! The cost of this event is free. All are welcome to attend!

We appreciate the support that our wonderful St. Dominic parishioners give to all social committee initiatives, and we look forward to sharing in the FUN and FELLOWSHIP as 2024 comes to an end.

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday, December 02	Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger
Tuesday, December 03	Rev. Carlos Diaz
Wednesday, December 04	Order of Preachers (Dominican, O.P.)
Thursday, December 05	Rev. Fulbert Jonas Ahouansou
Friday, December 06	Rev. John Van Hees
Saturday, December 07	Engaged Couples

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SAINT DOMINIC PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT 7:15pm Family Mass

Children in **GRADES 4 to high school** are invited to participate in our Christmas Eve Family Mass as actors or readers!

With Christmas fast approaching we have limited time to prepare, so your child must attend the following rehearsals:

- **Friday November 29th** – 4:00 pm to 6:00pm (to assign parts)
- **Friday December 6th** – 4:00 to 5:30 pm
- **Friday December 13th** – 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- **Friday December 20th** – 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- **Tuesday December 24th** - 6:00 pm sharp we meet at the church hall to get prepared for the 7:15 pm Christmas Eve mass.

SIGN UP ONLINE!

St. Dominic Parish Youth Ministry will provide a nut-free snack at these rehearsals and the children are asked to **bring a water bottle** to each rehearsal.



Please confirm your commitment online or contact Mrs. Colleen Gamble at: colleengamble123@gmail.com

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

2415 Rebecca Street,

Oakville, Ontario, L6L 2B1

Phone: 905-827-2373

Fax: 905-827-6055

Email: office@saintdominic.ca

Website: saintdominic.ca



Pastor: Reverend Ranjan D’Sa OCD
rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com

Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar
michael@saintdominic.ca

Deacon: Reverend Mr. Terry Murphy

Parish Accountant: Brian Thornton

Secretary: Mary Evans

Sacristan: Judi Kingry

Custodian: Peter Coffey

Parish Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (*Closed from noon to 1:00 pm*).

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