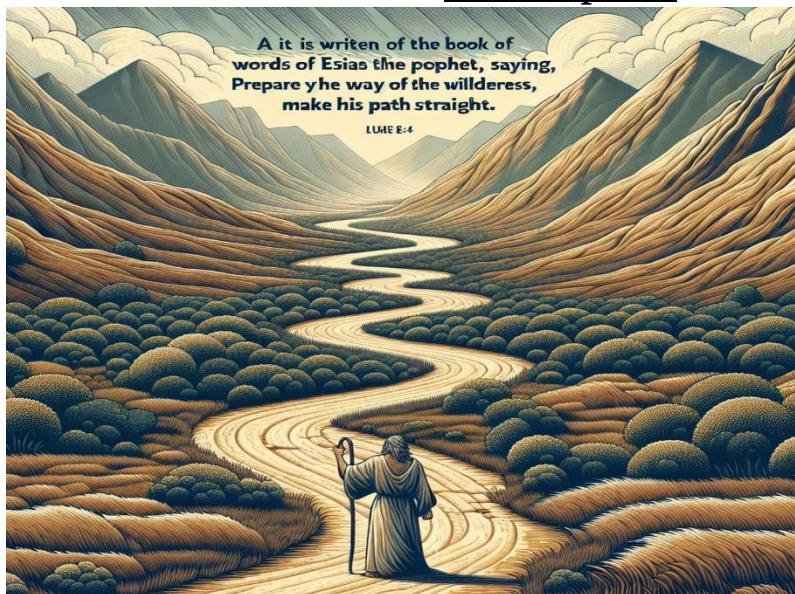


Second Sunday of Advent

Parish Update: December 7, 2025



*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”
(Luke 3.4,6)*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER 8TH TO DECEMBER 14TH

Monday, 8th *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Office Closed *No Mass*

Tuesday, 9th *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. **Holy Souls** (N Vendittelli)
+Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)

Wednesday, 10th *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. +Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)
9:30-10:30 a.m. *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Thursday, 11th *Ferial*
9:00 a.m. +Mrs. George Aubin (B Aubin)
6:45-8:15 p.m. *Choir Practice, Church*

Friday, 12th *Our Lady of Guadalupe – Feast*
9:00 a.m. +Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)
9:30-10:30 a.m. *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Saturday, 13th
2:00-3:00 p.m. *Confession*
3:30-4:30 p.m. *Confession*
5:00 p.m. **Holy Souls** (N Vendittelli)
+Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)
+Kathryn Waters (P Waters)

Sunday, 14th **3rd Sunday of Advent**
9:00 a.m. +Paolo & Giuseppina Salemi & Family (Marone Family)
11:00 a.m. +Felicia Ciccone (D Carile)
From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear Friends: Entering this 2nd Week of Advent, 2025, let us delve into the meaning of the Advent Wreath.

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent one candle on

the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Each week on Sunday, an additional candle is lit.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-coloured candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Also, those who receive Christ as Saviour are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow. As always during this time of year, parishes offer additional opportunities for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition to our regular schedule, Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., confessions will be heard from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 13 and 20. To assist each of us in making a thorough examination of conscience, please go to our My Parish app, which so many of us already have on our cellphones. Don't yet have this app? Log in to Myparish.com and select Download for Android or Apple, then select Star of the Sea Church, St. Catharines. A guide can also be found in our Sunday Missal, available in each pew.

Wishing you the best as we together endeavour to live out a fruitful Advent Season. *Fr. Richard*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – **Calendar Error** please join us on **December 15th at 1pm**, in the hall! We knit, crochet and loom prayer shawls, hats and scarves (mostly for Out of the Cold), baby blankets, and lapghans. We have lots of yarn to choose from! A pleasant afternoon of stitching and conversation – beginning with a prayer!!

CHEZ MARIE REFUGEE CENTER ADVENT PROJECT “Last December, we had the immense privilege of receiving your extraordinary donation. The generosity you showed towards the residents of Chez Marie Refugee Centre was truly heartwarming. The parents, and especially the children, could not believe the kindness they received. As you know, these individuals were in a stressful situation and needed a ray of joy during the December festivities. Thanks to you, many children were able to open gifts and experience the happiness they so deserved. It is precisely this spirit of

Second Sunday of Advent

Parish Update: December 7, 2025

generosity and compassion that makes this beautiful country such a special place, and people like you, who dedicate your hearts and time to such a noble cause, are a true example. From the bottom of our hearts, Sister Judith Carroll, Maria Toussaint, Lina Blanco, and all the residents of Chez Marie, we want to thank you infinitely for thinking of us and sharing your kindness.” **8 NEW FAMILIES** to care for this Christmas. Details at the doors of the church **all items to be placed** in the baskets **by GAUDETE SUNDAY December 14th**.

ICEDOG Hockey anyone?? The Niagara IceDogs are excited to invite ALL members of SOTS to our game on Thursday January 22nd, 2026 as the Barrie Colts come to town! Tickets are \$19 please see the sign up sheet at the back of the church or come to the parish office to order!! A fun night to be had...Go ICEDOGS!

THINKING OF STUDENTS IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS Christmas is just a short time away, and many students in need and their families will be struggling to put food on the table. Last Christmas, thanks to generous supporters, the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education provided grocery cards for 267 families, and gifts for some students who might otherwise have received very little, or perhaps nothing at all. It was called an act of grace that the Foundation is repeating this year. Please consider helping. One Niagara Catholic District School Board principal wrote, “Life is expensive, and those living below the poverty line really struggle during the holiday season, often feeling ashamed they can’t provide the magic they would like for their children. We thank you on their behalf for giving them some hope and dignity”. Donate by cheque, Visa, MasterCard or on-line using PayPal at www.nfce.org. Tax receipts are issued. Mailing address: Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education 427 Rice Road Welland, Ontario L3C 7C1 Phone (905) 735-0247 extension 210

PRAYER ANGELS Our ministry is set up to pray for the parish’s intentions. Please send by email or phone your concerns or cares and they will be passed on to the members of this group who will daily offer up your intentions to the Lord. Prayer is powerful. Let us help ease your troubles or shower the Lord with praises. Please call or email Marg 289-214-6679 mgmartin113@gmail.com

*‘He who prays most receives most.’
St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori*



CWL CORNER
(Catholic Women’s League)
*Here I am Lord, send me
(Isaiah 6.8)*



E-transfer payments for CWL may be made to cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com. Please remember to indicate which event in the subject line.

Thank you to all CWL members and parishioners for their support in making this year's Heavenly Hosts Christmas Market such a success! All proceeds will be used to support our

charitable activities in the parish and in our community! We are getting ready to visit our members who can no longer participate in our activities due to health or mobility reasons. We look forward to bringing them some Christmas cheer! In order to keep our member contact list updated, please let us know if your CWL family member has moved. Please contact our Membership Chair at marymarano73@icloud.com

In this second week of Advent we continue to pray for peace:

Come, Lord Jesus.
Fill my heart with Your peace
as I continue this Advent journey with You.
Amen
novenastosaints.com



Dec. 13 th /14 th	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Evans	Dn Maurice	R Eckstein
Lector	J Evans	M or K Wong	C Dutta
Hospitality Ministers	A&R Hancock	Zacharchuk Family	H Green G LaRoche M Mouradikian

WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

November 30th, 2025

Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 5,360.00
Loose Collection: CAD	\$ 444.00
USD	\$ 5.00
All Souls	\$ 100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 45.00
Total Offertory Collection:	\$5,954.00

Our Special Needs \$ 1,615.00

*Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU*

