

Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Update: December 14, 2025



*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to bring good news to the poor."
(Luke 4.18)*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER 15TH TO DECEMBER 21ST

Monday, 15th	<i>Ferial</i>	
Office Closed		No Mass
Tuesday, 16th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.		CWL Diocesan Mass
Wednesday, 17th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.		+Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)
9:30-10:30 a.m.		Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, 18th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.		+Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)
6:45-8:15 p.m.		Choir Practice, Church
Friday, 19th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.		+Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)
		+Carol Hawkes (V&J Hawkes)
9:30-10:30 a.m.		Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday, 20th		
2:00-3:00 p.m.		Confession
3:30-4:30 p.m.		Confession
5:00 p.m.		+Cynthia Cwierniewski (J Kubica)
		+Howard & Leona Tracey (R&C Tracey)
		+Cindy Cwierniewski & +Bonnie Barron (S Pawlik)
Sunday, 21st	4th Sunday of Advent	
9:00 a.m.		+Catharine & +Ron Winterbottom (Serwatiak Family)
11:00 a.m.		+Pietro & +Marianna DiFranco (N Vendittelli)

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends: Through this Season of Advent, whose theme is "turning back" to the Lord as the most effective means of preparing to celebrate His Birth once again this year, the topic of Confession has been brought up during homilies and in the

church bulletin. I have had a copy of a bulletin from a Catholic Church in Florida, which was given to me by a parishioner returning from a holiday last year. The reason I have held onto this bulletin is that it contains an interesting article on Confession do's and don't's which I have been wanting to share with you. The priest, Fr. Casey, clarifies, often in a humorous manner, the essentials involved in making a good confession. Let's take a look at some of these.

These are the six areas which are addressed in this article.

1. Approaching the Sacrament unprepared. 2. Confessing the sins of other people. 3. Telling the priest what a good person you are. 4. Providing unnecessary details. 5. Being vague or intentionally omitting mortal sins. 6. Using confession time for spiritual direction, pastoral counselling or advice.

1. Preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not difficult. It involves real sorrow for sin and a resolution not to sin again. An examination of conscience such as the one in our parish app is there to assist the penitent.

2. Fr. Casey writes, "I have sometimes sat in a confessional with a penitent for over ten minutes without them confessing a single personal sin. However, I did learn about all the sins of their spouse, children, the Pope, neighbours etc." The only sins I can confess are my own and unnecessary disclosure of another person's faults can be the sin of detraction or calumny.

3. Remember that the priest is not there to make judgments of your character but to help you make a good confession and provide you with God's mercy. The penitent is advised to be vulnerable with the Lord and to bear one's wounds to Christ Who longs to heal you.

4. Things that are good to disclose to the confessor are: your state in life—married, single, religious, etc., perhaps approximate age, and if you acted alone or with another. Relating conversations is not necessary.

5. Statements such as, "Just put me down for all of them" or "I could be a better person" are not helpful. The Catechism states, "All mortal sins of which the penitents after a diligent self-examination are conscious must be recounted by them in confession. Those who fail to do so and knowingly withhold some, place nothing before the divine goodness for remission through the mediation of the priest, for if the sick person is too ashamed to show his wound to the doctor, the medicine cannot heal what it does not know." (CCC, quoting the Council of Trent and St. Jerome.)

6. While the Rite of Penance does say that the priest can and should provide "suitable counsel" to the penitent, this would be mainly to help make a good confession and perhaps practical advice on resisting sin in the future. Counselling, spiritual direction, and theological questions not pertinent to your confession should be done during a scheduled appointment or a telephone call.

I hope these pointers prove helpful to all in preparing to make a good confession. I hope also that the sacrament is recognized as the tremendous help it is in the development of our spiritual lives and ongoing pursuit of personal holiness. Please never be timid to approach God's great Tribunal of Mercy.

"See" you in the Confessional! *Fr. Richard*

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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.

Many ladies of the parish participated in last weekend's **Advent Retreat**, held in our parish hall. We appreciated having time to reflect, sing and share, as we continue to Wait in Hope.

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent we are joy-filled! We are grateful for the many gifts we have been given and we are busy preparing our Christmas gift baskets to share with our refugee families. **Thank you** to everyone who brought items for this annual, important campaign. May God Bless You!

Please consider joining our CWL council for the 2026 year. We can make a difference in the lives of many. New memberships and renewals are being accepted now, via e-transfer or by placing your \$40 in the collection basket.



Dec. 20 th / 21 st	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	B or L MacNeil	K Zacharchuk	Dn Maurice
Lector	L Urquhart	I Serafini DeLuigi	C Purcer
Hospitality Ministers	L Bourret M Ford C Tracey	C DeLuca W Riddle K Gilmore	Bott Family

WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

December 7th, 2025

Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 4,836.00
Loose Collection: CAD	\$ 371.50
USD	\$ 0.00
Deo Gratias	\$ 200.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 812.00
Total Offertory Collection:	6,219.50
November E-Transfer Contributions	\$ 1,305.01
Our Special Needs	\$ 415.00

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Please note that there will be **NO** Prayer Shawl Ministry this month. We will resume on **January 19th 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!!

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 signup sheet at the back of the church or come to the parish office to order!! Payment, by e-transfer or drop off a cheque to the office. A fun night to be had...Go ICEDOGS!

2026 Parish Contribution Envelopes – The office is currently working on 2026 Parish Contribution Envelopes, and they **should** be available at the main entrance of the church in the next week. Once the new year begins, **PLEASE recycle** any **OLD** contribution envelopes as that number maybe allocated to another member. If you did not use envelopes in 2025 and want to start, please contact the parish office to get a box. Clearly print your information on the first couple of envelopes used in the new year. Thank You!

Automated Fund Transfer (AFT) & E-Transfer Contributions – if you are interested in setting up setting up AFT contributions for the new year. Please see the office for the form. Please note all AFT and E-Transfer contribution are appreciated. We thank everyone for their continued support.

World Day of Marriage – Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 3:00pm. The Annual Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Gerard Bergie at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria (Corner of Church and Lyman Streets, St. Catharines, ON) Celebrating All Married Couples especially those with significant 2026 Anniversaries. Reception to Follow. No registration needed. All are welcome.

To assist parishioners in year-end tax planning, the diocese has available a **Donation of Securities Form**. Parishioners can make donations of securities to the parish or diocese and receive a receipt for income tax purposes for the full market amount of the securities donated. This is an opportunity for parishioners to support the parish and also receive a donation receipt for income tax purposes. For copies of this form or if you would like the diocese to assist in this process, please contact John J. O'Brien, CFO, at 905-684-0154 x206 or 289-259-0795.

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

