



## First Sunday of Advent -Year A

Diocesan Theme: **Christ is Everything for Us!** "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life". (John 6.68).

Parish Mission Statement: **Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples!** Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish through the liturgy, faith formation and sacramental life, provides opportunities for members to develop their faith and service to others.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### **Saturday, Nov. 30-St Andrew**

**4:30 pm-** For the benefits and special intentions of Mr. Donald Trump by Nellie Nahri

#### **Sunday, Dec. 1-First Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am-** For the intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45 am-** For the repose of the soul of Don Leclair by John and Lisa Serjak

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 3-St. Francis Xavier**

**7:00 pm-**For the intentions of the Lehman family by Joseph James

#### **Wednesday, Dec. 4**

**8:30 am-STA**

**9:30 am-OLMM**

#### **Thursday, Dec. 5**

**9:00 am**

#### **Friday, Dec. 6**

**9:00 am**

#### **Saturday, Dec. 7-St. Ambrose**

**4:30 pm-**For the intentions of the Wolfert family by Luke James

#### **Sunday, Dec. 8-Second Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am-** For the intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45 am-** For the intentions of Dini Achtereekte by the Adult Choir

#### ~IN OUR PRAYERS~

For the sick among our families and friends  
especially:  
Genny Detillieux, Marie Kirkman, Theresa Harps,  
and Alia M.

#### **YOUR OFFERINGS FOR:**

November 24-\$4,631.00

Thank you for your generosity and support

#### **INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR DECEMBER:**

##### **The Future of the Very Young**

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

#### **Today's Reflection**

Today begins the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation. For what exactly are we preparing? Two things, actually: the celebration of our Savior's birth and the anticipation of His second coming. These are weighty tasks that have eternal consequences. So, let us Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways and we may walk in His paths."

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn, we are pushed to spend more, do more, entertain more, and generally rush around at a frantic pace — all to create a "perfect" Christmas day. In contrast to this worldly pressure, the Church's guidance to use these weeks as a time to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain-climb.

But the intentional and wise use of the gift of time is exactly what the Christian steward is called to do, and with even greater intensity during Advent.

St. Paul makes this so clear in his letter to the Romans, our second reading today. He instructs, "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep." And, what should we do once awake? We must become like Christ. St. Paul puts it this way: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."

Our Lord Himself gives us several powerful images to fix in our minds as we travel through the Advent season.

First, He calls to mind for us the image of Noah preparing the ark in the days before the flood. While Noah used his time (and talents) to follow God's instructions in preparation for the coming flood, everyone else around him was "living it up." This is exactly what it can feel like for us as we attempt to focus our time on spiritual matters in the days leading up to Christmas! But when the flood came, those unprepared were carried away by the water while Noah endured unharmed. Jesus warns that this is how it will be at His second coming.

How can we Christian stewards prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for His certain second coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world's pressure to have the "perfect Christmas." Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for the spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, performing acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain climb, but in the end we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain!

Blessings,  
Have a great week!

December 1, 2019

**Are you new to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish?**  
**WELCOME! If you have not yet registered, please complete a registration form found in the foyer or in the office.**  
**You may bring the completed form to the office**

**What's Happening This Week**

- Mon.-Dec. 2 -Adult choir-9:00am-church
- Tues.-Dec. 3 - CGS-Level three-4:30-6:30pm-hall
- Tues.-Dec. 3- Light up for Christ-7:30 pm

**First Friday Adoration~ Friday, December 6, 4:00 pm to Saturday, December 7, 4:00pm. You are invited to come spend an hour with Jesus.**

**Parish Advent Activities**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
**Monday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**  
**CGS-Advent Presentation/Reflection**  
**Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm**  
**Advent Penance Service**  
**Thurs, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

**Mark your Calendars!**

**CHURCH DECORATIONS & FLOWERS:** Parishioners can help beautify the church for Christmas by making a donation for church flowers and decorations in the name of a departed loved one. The names of the donors and the names of their departed loved ones will be published in the church bulletin at Christmas. If you have a loved one you would like to honor in this way, please fill out the envelope found in the pews including your donation. Deadline for envelopes to be in is December 15. Thank you!

**Coffee Sunday:** Have you been missing the fellowship from attending coffee Sundays? If so please feel free to sign up and host an up-coming coffee Sunday. Sign up sheets are posted just outside the kitchen. Thank you all in advance.

**PILGRIMAGE STATUE OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL** is available to go home with a family this week. If you wish to take home Our Lady for one week, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the foyer.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE** at [www.olmm.ca](http://www.olmm.ca) and our Facebook page  
Email: [admin@olmm.ca](mailto:admin@olmm.ca)

**Please consider giving generously to our parish addition and renovation project.**  
**Please also pray for the success of the much needed up-grades.**

**This is the last weekend** to get your tickets for the upcoming spaghetti dinner. The dinner will be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at STA at 6:00pm.  
Ticket prices are: Adults-\$20.00,  
Children (5-12)-\$10.00, Family pack-\$60.00

**Annual Christmas Concert:** An invitation from Archbishop Prendergast to the Annual Christmas Concert at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on Sun., Dec. 15, 2:30pm and the reception afterwards in the parish hall. Free admission. All are welcome.

**Light up for Christ:** Everyone is invited to join the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the 7:00pm mass for the blessing and lighting of the creche.

**If you have not done so yet please take a few minutes and fill out the anonymous national online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/fc429c>.** We hope for 50% or more of our adult attenders to fill out the survey. With strong survey involvement, we will access data unique to our parish. Thanks, in advance, for completing this survey!

**The OLMM Parish Women's Group Ministry** will be breaking for advent and resume in the new year.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve**  
Tuesday, December 24-4:30 pm-(STA)  
-7:00 pm-(OLMM)  
-9:00 pm-(OLMM)

**Christmas Day**  
Wednesday, December 25, -10:00 am

**New Years Eve**  
Tuesday, December 31,- 4:30 pm

**New Years Day**  
Wednesday, January 1,-11:00 am