



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca

519 745 7855

85 Strange St., Kitchener

JESUS, THE AWAITED AND WELCOME GUEST

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Today in the Church a new liturgical year begins, which is a new journey of faith for the People of God. And as always, we begin with Advent. The passage of the Gospel (cf. (Mt 24:37-44)) introduces us to one of the most evocative themes of Advent: the visit of the Lord to humanity. The first visit — we all know — occurred with the Incarnation, Jesus' birth in the cave of Bethlehem; the second takes place in the present: the Lord visits us constantly, each day, walking alongside us and being a consoling presence; in the end, there will be the third, the last visit, which we proclaim each time that we recite the Creed: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead". Today, the Lord speaks to us about this final visit, which will take place at the end of time, and he tells us where we will arrive on our journey.

The Word of God emphasizes the contrast between the normal unfolding of events, the everyday routine, and the unexpected coming of the Lord. Jesus says: "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away" (vv. 38-39): so says Jesus. It always strikes a cord when we think about the hours which precede a great disaster: everyone is calm, and they go about their usual business without realizing that their lives are about to be turned upside down. Of course, the Gospel does not want to scare us, but to open our horizons to another, greater dimension, one which, on the one hand puts into perspective everyday things, while at the same time making them precious, crucial. The relationship with the God-who-comes-to-visit-us gives every gesture, every thing a different light, a substance, a symbolic value.

From this perspective there also comes an invitation to sobriety, to not be controlled by the things of this world, by material reality, but rather to govern them. If, by contrast, we allow ourselves to be influenced and overpowered by these things, we cannot perceive that there is something very important: our final encounter with the Lord: this is important. That encounter. And everyday matters must have this horizon, and must be directed to that horizon. This encounter with the Lord who comes for us. In that moment, as the Gospel says, "Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left" (v. 40). It is an invitation to be vigilant, because in not knowing when he will come, we need to be ever ready to leave.

In this season of Advent, we are called to expand the horizons of our hearts, to be amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness. In order to do this, we must learn to not depend on our own certainties, on our own established strategies, because the Lord comes at a time that we do not imagine. He comes to bring us into a more beautiful and grand dimension.

May Our Lady, the Virgin of Advent, help us not to consider ourselves proprietors of our life, not to resist when the Lord comes to change it, but to be ready to let ourselves be visited by him, the awaited and welcome guest, even if it disturbs our plans.

POPE FRANCIS — November 27, 2016

Upcoming Meeting Reminder: The Catholic Women's League will be having our final meeting of the year on *December 2nd* starting with the *Rosary at 5:30pm in the Parish hall*. We will be having our Potluck dinner, so please bring something to contribute if you are able. We will also be collecting items to donate to Marillac Place as well as enjoying some fellowship and games. Nomination results will also be presented. Hope to see you there and if you have any questions please reach out to Leah at [<leahfriedrich04@gmail.com>](mailto:leahfriedrich04@gmail.com)

“Forgiving Each other ~ and Ourselves”. We all sin. In that, we separate ourselves from God. Yet, in our human weakness, our loving & merciful God meets us in our sin & struggle. We may fight a spiritual battle within, resistant to forgive those who have offended us ~ *we may also struggle to forgive ourselves* ~ even after God has forgiven us. Join us for the **St. Agnes Education Cafe** for this timely Advent talk on Forgiveness & the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with Fr. Francisco Cruz, Pastor St. John’s Parish, & Missionary of Mercy, appointed by Pope Francis. **Wed. Dec. 3rd, 6:30 - 8pm, St. Agnes Parish.**

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 29 **5:00 PM**
+Dolores Sedlmeir

Sunday, November 30 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, December 2 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, December 3 **NO MASS**
St. Francis Xavier

Thursday, December 4 **11:00 AM**

Friday, December 5 **11:00 AM**
+Ron & Pauline Craig

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 6 **5:00 PM**
+Gerard Hennessey

Sunday, December 7 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

I Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 29 de Noviembre **7:00 PM**
+Maria Eduarda Lopes

Domingo 30 de Noviembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 2 de Diciembre **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 3 de Diciembre **NO HAY MISA**
San Francisco Javier

Jueves 4 de Diciembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 5 de Diciembre **12:00 PM**

II Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 6 de Diciembre **7:00 PM**
+Elsa Montero +Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 7 de Diciembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

First Friday of the Month, December 5th Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

Viernes Primero del Mes (5 de diciembre): El Santísimo Sacramento se expondrá para adoración silenciosa después de la Misa de 12:00 pm hasta las 2:00 pm y nuevamente de 5 a 7p.m.

A las 6 de la tarde se tendrá una Hora Santa, que concluirá con la Bendición con el Santísimo a las 7pm.

Mientras el Santísimo esté expuesto, se ofrecerá el sacramento de Reconciliación.