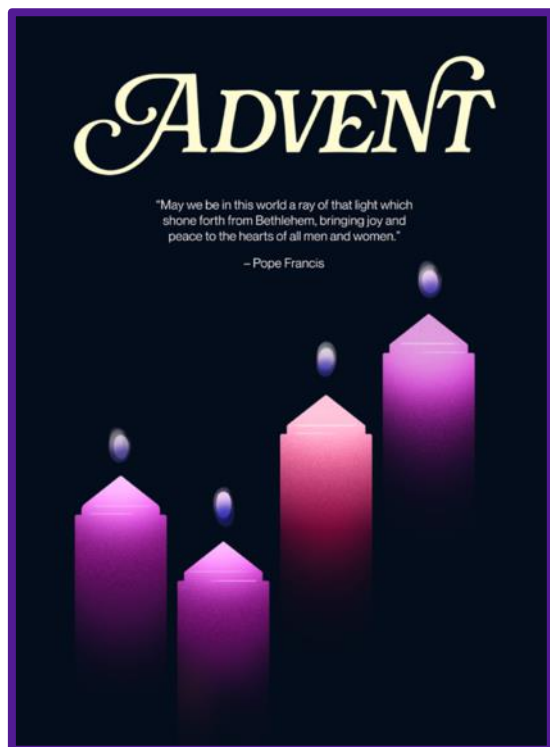


PARISH BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 3, 2023

*The parish schedule herein continues to December 25, 2023
As circumstances suggest, updates will be posted on the parish website.*



Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: On designated afternoons 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
and at other times for pre-arranged appointments

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

As announced in the schedule in this bulletin.

ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

*As circumstances permit, on Wednesday evenings,
Friday afternoons or by appointment.*

See page 12 for the Central Deanery Advent Reconciliation Schedule

*Please follow the rules of good hygiene including hand washing/sanitizing and cough etiquette. Stay home if you are sick.
Individuals may continue to use face masks based on their preference, personal risk, or other reasons.*

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 sharon@johnxxiii.ca

Trustee: Loris Vendramelli

204-888-8200 lvendro8@gmail.com

Trustee: William Gould

204-832-7175 william.d.gould@gmail.com

Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Building and Maintenance Chair: Brad McKay

204-795-6788 br.mckay@outlook.com

Parish Pastoral Council Facilitator: Laurette Burch

204-885-6988 burchd@mymts.net

FAITH FORMATION:

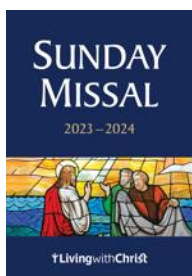
Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information concerning catechism materials for lessons to take place at the church on Sunday mornings (September to May as circumstances permit) and/or in the home setting.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact our Pastoral Assistant for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.



Living with Christ SUNDAY MISSAL 2023 – 2024

Now Available at the parish office - Price \$7.25 each

Current English translation of the Roman Missal, COMPLETE Scripture readings for Sunday Masses, Musical acclamations by Canadian composers, Reflections for all Sunday liturgies, Monthly Calendar of Saints, Inspiration from the Saints, Papal Prayer Intentions for each month of the year, Guide to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Prayers and hymns for various occasions. Living with Christ is completely edited and produced in Canada. Use of the new 2023-2024 edition commences on December 3, 2023 which is the First Sunday of Advent.

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

Given overwhelming support in recent years, we once again are soliciting donations for a Sixth “Memorial Christmas Appeal”. **Those who have lost loved ones are invited to make a minimum donation of \$25 towards each ornament to be placed on the large Christmas tree which will be located in the sanctuary near the altar this Christmas. If we run out of space on the large tree, further ornaments will be placed on trees around the Christmas manger scene and/or on trees in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.**

The names of your departed loved ones will be specially printed onto ribbons to be attached to each Christmas tree ornament. Immediately following Mass on Wednesday evening, December 20th, we plan to place all the ornaments donated onto our Memorial Christmas Trees and officially turn on the Christmas tree lights.

Our pastor will offer a special Mass intention on Christmas Day, December 25th for the repose of the souls of all those remembered on our Memorial Christmas Trees. Your deceased loved ones will continue to be prayed for at Masses offered by our pastor throughout the entire Christmas season.

The ornaments will remain on the Christmas trees throughout the entire Christmas Season until Monday, January 8, 2024 which is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. At the end of the Christmas Season those who have contributed to the Memorial Christmas Appeal may take home the ornaments they have donated.

For Memorial Christmas Appeal envelopes and further information, you may contact our pastoral assistant, Sharon Camier, at the parish office for assistance after liturgies or during announced office hours. Thank you for your continued support.



SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH BUILDING GOD’S HOME FUND

Saint John XXIII Parish recently obtained a loan from the Trustees of the RCAW Inc. for the purposes of paying off by October 31, 2023 the \$500,000.00 owed to the Diocese of Rupert’s Land for the purchase of our parish facility, the former Assiniboia Christian Centre. According to the loan agreement, over the next few years, through a capital campaign and other fundraising efforts, we now must raise the funds to pay off the principal sum of \$500,000.00 CDN together with the requisite interest.

To this end, we have started a capital campaign and are soliciting pledges from parishioners towards our “Building God’s Home Fund”. As of November 26th, the total of pledges received is \$139,380.00.

Thank you to those parishioners who already have submitted their pledge forms. We ask other parishioners to prayerfully consider their response and to kindly submit a completed pledge form asap.

Envelopes containing pledge forms are available at the parish office. Alternatively, a pledge form is also provided on page 10 of this bulletin.

JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT: Video Series from the CCCB

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is releasing a series of videos this Advent. Each video in the series serves as an introduction to the liturgical season of Advent and will present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday leading up to Christmas. This year's spiritual reflections are delivered by the Most Rev. Jon Hansen, C.Ss.R., Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith (in English), and the Most Rev. Alain Faubert, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal (in French). **To watch the first Advent reflection video, if you are reading this online click [here](#) (for English) or [here](#) (for French).** You also may find the link on the home page of www.cccb.ca



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. In preparation for her feast day on December 12th, many participate in praying a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning on December 3rd. Copies of suitable prayers for the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe are available in the pamphlet rack at the south entrance.



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS APPEAL

Our Parish's Appeal target for 2023 is \$39,379.00

This year's **Sharing God's Gifts Campaign** will be focused on the six weeks between November 5 to December 10, 2023. The theme for this year's Campaign is **"May they all be one so that the world may believe"** (John 20:21). Sharing God's Gifts brochures are available in the pamphlet rack at the south entrance and in the parish office. **We all are invited to watch a promotional video which can be seen at www.archwinnipeg.ca** We also have provided a link to the video on our parish website www.johnxxiii.ca Contributions to Sharing God's Gifts may be forwarded through the parish office or directly to the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Various payment options are available through the Archdiocese of Winnipeg website www.archwinnipeg.ca or the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Mobile APP. If you wish to contribute via cheque, please make cheques payable to "Sharing God's Gifts". Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

REQUEST FOR ADULT WINTER CLOTHING: Here in our parish, Carl Broughton spearheads a personal effort to bring warm clothing (winter coats, socks, gloves, etc.) to adults in need on the streets of our city. If you have any adult clothing to donate, Carl will make sure these items get to folks on the streets either directly from his vehicle or through various mission agencies (e.g. Union Gospel Mission) working in the inner city. **You may contact Carl Broughton by calling or texting him at 204-292-1581.**



HARVEST MANITOBA: If you are able to help in the ongoing food drive for Harvest Manitoba, please donate by placing food items in the yellow Harvest donation bin found at local food retailers: e.g. Save on Foods, Sobeys, and Safeway. Alternatively, our parish's Harvest donation box is located under the pamphlet rack at the south church entrance. Dry food donations may be deposited there when you come to church for liturgies. **THANK YOU to parishioners of Saint John XXIII for your continued support of Harvest Manitoba. Your generosity is most appreciated!**



KNITTING GROUP: The next gathering of the Knitting/Crocheting Group will be held on **Tuesday, December 12, 2023** from **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm** downstairs in Room 8. Over the years we have been creating "welcome baby" layettes to support mothers and babies assisted by *Villa Rosa* or *Thrive Community Support Circle* and sometimes for other worthwhile causes. **WE CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE DONATIONS OF YARN AND OTHER SEWING MATERIALS.** For further information, you may contact Beverly Hewitt at 204-885-1202 or bevhe Witt@mymts.net

"Advent increases our hope. A hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down."

— Pope Francis

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 3 – 25, 2023

As circumstances suggest, the schedule published here may be subject to change.

Sunday, December 3 4:00 pm (Saturday) 9:00 am 10:15 pm – 11:15 am 11:45 am	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day One</i> <i>N.B.: Readings in this new liturgical year are taken from Year B of the Lectionary</i> MASS – Angela Kalichak+ (Bequest) MASS (livestreamed) – Gladys Barton+, requested by St. James Assiniboia CWL CATECHISM CLASSES (downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms) MASS – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners
Monday, December 4	FERIAL <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Two</i> Mass (offered in private) – Souls in purgatory, requested by Tualla family
Tuesday, December 5 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	FERIAL <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Three</i> Mass (offered in private) – Intentions of Fr. Robert Polz, req. by George and Olga Bonnefoy <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to attend the Council of Priests Meeting to be held at St. John Brebeuf Parish</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Mary’s Cathedral</i>
Wednesday, December 6 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:40 pm	FERIAL <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Four</i> OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS MASS – Carol Arnason+, requested by Sharon and John Camier RCIA Session (Guadalupe Room)
Thursday, December 7 6:30 pm	MEMORIAL: SAINT AMBROSE, Bishop, Doctor <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Five</i> Mass (offered in private) – Wilson Ignatius Gabriel+, requested by Tannena and Volda <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Paul the Apostle Church</i>
Friday, December 8 12:00 noon 12:10 pm 12:45 pm – 3:45 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm 3:45 pm	SOLEMNITY: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Six</i> Angelus MASS – Conversion of hearts (Baziuk & Shymanski families), requested by Janet Hemingway Adoration Time (monstrance on altar in main worship space) – ring door buzzer for access SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions) <i>A couple of priests from the deanery will join our pastor</i> <i>in hearing confessions of the faithful throughout the afternoon</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Saturday, December 9 4:00 pm	FERIAL <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Seven</i> MASS for Sunday – Ismael Castillo+, requested by Rhina Molina and family
Sunday, December 10 9:00 am 10:15 pm – 11:15 am 11:45 am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Eight</i> MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners CATECHISM CLASSES (downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms) MASS – Orlando Florida Sr.+, requested by Florida family

Monday, December 11	FERIAL <i>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Nine</i> Mass (offered in private) – <i>In thanksgiving for the intentions of Lauren and Josh Klassen, requested by Hiebert-Polz family members</i>
Tuesday, December 12 10:00 am 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	FEAST: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE <i>National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples</i> <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions for the students of St. Charles Catholic School</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance Knitting Group Meeting (Room 8) MASS – <i>Special intention, requested by a parishioner</i>
Wednesday, December 13 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:40 pm	MEMORIAL: SAINT LUCY, Virgin, Martyr OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS MASS – <i>Special intention, requested by Jackie</i> RCIA Session (Guadalupe Room)
Thursday, December 14 7:00 pm	MEMORIAL: SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest, Doctor Mass (offered in private) – <i>In thanksgiving for the intentions of Jeroen Trommer, requested by Hiebert-Polz family members</i> Wedding Rehearsal – Carlos Artieda Acosta and Olena Dobrovolska
Friday, December 15 12:00 noon 12:10 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm 6:30 pm	FERIAL Angelus MASS – <i>Special intention, requested by Jackie</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Edward the Confessor Church</i>
Saturday, December 16 1:00 pm 4:00 pm	FERIAL Celebration of Marriage – Carlos Artieda Acosta and Olena Dobrovolska MASS for Sunday – <i>Intentions of Chad Wallack (health), requested by Maria Wallack</i>
Sunday, December 17 9:00 am 10:15 am – 11:15 am 11:45 am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>“GAUDETE SUNDAY”</i> MASS (livestreamed) – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i> CATECHISM CLASSES (downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms) MASS – <i>Bill Camier+, requested by John and Sharon Camier</i>
Monday, December 18	FERIAL Mass (offered in private) – <i>Special intention</i>
Tuesday, December 19 10:30 am 12:00 noon 12:10 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	FERIAL MASS at Golden West Centennial Lodge, 811 School Road Angelus MASS – <i>Special intention, requested by a parishioner</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
Wednesday, December 20 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	FERIAL OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS MASS – <i>Intentions of Jarette Mithian Remolacio, req. by Fr. Robert Polz and Holly Hiebert</i> Hanging of Ornaments and Lighting of Memorial Christmas Trees <i>N.B. No RCIA Session this evening</i>
Thursday, December 21 6:30 pm	FERIAL Mass (offered in private) – <i>Special intention</i> <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Charles Church</i>

Friday, December 22 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm	FERIAL MASS for Saint Charles Catholic School at St. Charles Church <i>(All welcome!)</i> – <i>Special intention for the staff and students of SCCS</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday, December 23 4:00 pm	FERIAL MASS for Sunday – <i>Deceased members Capri and Korolyk family, requested by Tannena, Jim, and Mary</i>
Sunday, December 24 10:00 am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS (livestreamed) – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>
Sunday, December 24 4:45 pm 5:00 pm 7:45 pm 8:00 pm	VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Gathering before Mass will include the singing of Carols CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night” – <i>Lyndon Michalchuk+, requested by Wanda Michalchuk</i> Gathering before Mass will include the singing of Carols CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night” (LIVESTREAMED) – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>
Monday, December 25 9:50 am 10:00 am	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Gathering before Mass will include the singing of a few Carols CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Day” – <i>For the intentions of all our beloved faithful departed, especially those remembered on our Memorial Christmas Trees</i>

TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

December 3 – 9, 2023	Fr. Rhéal Forest+, requested by Margaret and Jerome Strachan
December 10 – 16, 2023	Intentions of John and Annabelle Javra <i>(Wedding anniversary Dec. 10th)</i>
December 17 – 23, 2023	For those desiring to conceive children, requested by Kenny Costa

If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office.



PARISH CATECHISM CLASSES 2023 – 2024: Regular catechism classes are held on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am in the parish hall and classrooms. We follow the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* liturgically-based faith formation program that provides weekly handouts with a short description of the Sunday Gospel plus suggested activities and discussion starters for each age level. This faith formation program has materials divided into the following age groups: SEEDS (Preschool), PROMISE (Kindergarten – Grade 1), GOOD NEWS (Grades 2-3), VENTURE (GRADES 4-6) and VISIONS (Grades 7-8 and up). **To register your children and/or if you are willing to help out, please contact Sharon Camier (our Pastoral Assistant).**

Please pray for the loved ones of our community in need of healing and comfort:

Dora Auger, Annette and Maynard Bates, Monica Bird, George Bonnefoy, Freda Broughton, Barry and Sharon Burke, Ken Burke, Donna Burns, Alan and Cathleen Critchley, René Defries, Randy Fiks, John and Marina Foucart, René Gobeil, Helen Hallack, Darryn Hellofs, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Angela Krassie, Violet Lebedeff, Marie Mangin, Norman Mangin, Tim Mangin, Frances Mijker, Zonia Patson, Fr. Robert Polz, Jarette Mithian Remolacio, Owen Robertson, Carol Ann Robinson, Jerome Strachan, Angie Turner, Joe and Maria Wallack, and Helen Yankoski.



STAND FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND: The CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) laments the loss of all innocent lives and the displacement of all innocent peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, and calls for peace. With an office in Jerusalem and local partners on the ground, CNEWA is dedicated to pursuing its mission in places where poverty, war, and displacement shatter innocent lives – now more than ever. For their "Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land", click [here](#). For the statement from CNEWA's President on this conflict, click [here](#). To support and donate to CNEWA as they continue their efforts for peace, click [here](#) or type www.cnewa.org/ca/

CNEWA
*a papal agency for humanitarian
and pastoral support*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE - GAZA CRISIS: Development and Peace, Caritas Canada, has issued a press release in which they invite Canadians to pray for peace, donate to help people affected by the conflict, call for an immediate ceasefire, and more. For more information go online to www.devp.org. To donate you may call 1-888-234-8533 or go directly to www.devp.org/give. When filling out the form indicate you are donating for the “Gaza Humanitarian Emergency”.



For other news and events in and around the Archdiocese, go to the website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Today's readings: Isaiah 63.16b-17; 64.1, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9;

Mark 13.33-37

SPIRITUALITY OF THE READINGS

Waiting for Patience

“I want patience and I want it now,” or so the joke goes.

Fine. So remember, the purpose of Advent is to wait. Did you ever stay awake on Christmas eve as a child and sneak into a hiding place in order to see the Christmas tree being decorated? I surely did. I was impatient. We kids also had big felt stockings hung on each of the doors to our rooms and I remember during the night trying to keep an eye open to see Santa or the Good Fairy or at least someone putting the prizes into it.

Did I keep my eyes open all night? No. I woke in the morning to find a bulging stocking, mysteriously full, having arrived by magic. So, I had gone to sleep instead of patiently spying. Patience is not often a virtue of the young.

Hopkins, the Jesuit poet, has a poem on patience that speaks to this first Advent Sunday:

*Patience, hard thing! the hard thing but to pray,
But bid for, patience is! Patience who asks,
Wants war, wants wounds; weary his times, his tasks;
To do without, take tosses, and obey.
Rare patience roots in these and, these away,
Nowhere. Natural heart's-ivy, Patience masks
Our ruins of wrecked past purpose. There she basks
Purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves all day.
We hear our hearts grate on themselves; it kills
To bruise them dearer. Yet the rebellious wills
Of us we do bid God bend to him even so.
And where is he who more and more distils
Delicious kindness?—he is patient. Patience fills
His crisp combs, and that comes those ways we know.**

Our most beloved plans and purposes come often to wreckage, just like ancient buildings. But patience resembles beautiful ivy, Hopkins says, gradually spreading its way over the rubble, making it a picture of quiet composure. The phrase, “Purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves,” doesn’t just remind us of how ivy looks, it bathes us in the luxury, the peace and the relief of such a sight. Hopkins portrays patience as “delicious kindness,” a honey that fills the combs of our lives. A gift to us.

God’s kindness provides us with comfort and also time to prepare—an allowance of days, weeks, years, and even a lifetime—to get ready, to desire, and gradually, along the way, to receive. With patience. Even though infants demand their every wish be granted right now, our adult humanity is simply too deep to get an instant fill-up.

If there were nothing worth waiting for, then patience would indeed be silly. The birth of Christ into this world and into our hearts is well worth the wait. We know that his birth has happened already—but also, in a surprising way, it has not happened at all. We are still mean to our neighbors. We still hide truth from those who love us. We envy and lust after what is not ours., and there is horrendous evil all around us in this twenty-first century.

We need the birth of Jesus into our hearts, into the world. And so we bask in Advent patience.

— John Foley, SJ

* Taken from Gerard Manley Hopkins: A Critical Edition of the Major Works, edited by Catherine Phillips (London, New York, etc., Oxford University Press, 1986), #176.



Parts of this poem may be difficult to understand immediately, so I want to be crass and suggest its meaning in prose:

- 1) Patience is difficult because it grows only in adversity, usually.
- 2) Yet, like ivy it gradually covers the failures of our lives with quiet beauty. (The “purple eyes” are berries.)
- 3) Our hearts are like stones chafing on each other, bruising themselves dearer (the word “dearer” is used in England to mean “at greater cost.”) Yet even so, we ask God to bend our defiant wills to him.
- 4) Hopkins ends with a comparison of God to the bees who—patiently—fill up honeycombs.

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Image: *God's Shining Face*, George Millereau, *Saint-Nicolas Basilica*, *Saint-Nicolas-de-Port*, France, *Art in the Christian Tradition*, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

“Advent: the time to listen for footsteps—you can’t hear footsteps when you’re running yourself.”

—Bill McKibben

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Today's readings: Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3.8-14;

Mark 1.1-8

GLANCING THOUGHTS

Comfort

In the First Reading the prophet reports a command given by God: ‘Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God!’ In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God?

But what is comfort?

Sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don’t want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us.

But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to have to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on.

And comfort isn’t a matter of giving weakness. It’s a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the “-fort” in “comfort” comes from the Latin word for “strong.” The “com-” in “comfort” is from the Latin word for “with.” To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him.

But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it?

The Gospel says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each person who comes to Christ.

That is why no one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism of the Holy Spirit walks the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed.

And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is “the Comforter.”

— Eleonore Stump

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Image: *John the Baptist preaching in the desert*, Jesus Mafa, *Art in the Christian Tradition*, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

“John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.”

—Saint Augustine

“The true secret of love consists in this:

we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus.”

—Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Third Sunday of Advent – “Gaudete Sunday”

December 17, 2023

Today's readings: Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8, 19-28

THE INNER WORD

What's in your heart?

Some joy creeps into the readings this week. We are closer to the moment of Incarnation when God takes on a human identity, becomes flesh, and dwells among us. God becoming human casts new light on our own identity. We see both Isaiah and John the Baptist wrestling with questions of identity. It's an opportunity to check in on our own sense of identity. Set aside some time to reflect on the following questions:

- Before discovering our true identity it's necessary to wade through "lies" we've been told about who we are from early on. What lies about my own identity linger in my heart, blocking knowledge of my identity as a beloved child of God?
- When pressed as to his own identity, John the Baptist says he is a voice. That's an interesting way to describe himself. How would I describe myself? As a voice? A heart? An ear? An open hand? An iron fist? A backbone?
- Both Isaiah and John the Baptist lay claim to having been "sent" by God. In what way do I feel sent? To do what? To be what? Am I living my true and intended identity?
- In this season of darkness John testifies to the light. How might I testify to the light in my words and in my deeds? Where can I point to the light of Christ radiant in our life as a community?
- Saint Paul urges that people "test everything" and keep what is good. How open am I to testing new ideas? How confident am I that I know what is worth keeping or worth tossing?



Reprinted with permission from PrepareTheWord.com

Image: Red Magnificat, Frank Wesley, Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

"A God who became so small could only be mercy and love." —Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

"Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." —Henri Nouwen

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;

Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

THE INNER WORD

What's in your heart?

Today's readings invite us to look at where God chooses to dwell. David, in his palace, feels remiss that he has not provided a suitable palace for God, rather than the tattered and worn tent covering the Ark of the Covenant. While his intentions were good, God had some lessons for David about who would establish a house for whom. Mary, too, learns that God chooses unlikely vessels to bring forth God's life.

- In what ways do I try to put God in a "box"—a safe and contained place where I know I can always find God? Where does God choose to dwell in my parish or community? In what "house" does God want me to dwell?
- Do I welcome God into the life I live and into my home?
- When do I feel most certain God dwells in me?
- How can I emulate Mary's response to God?



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Image: Annunciation to Mary, Fra Angelico, Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain, Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

"Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear him in our hearts." —Saint Peter Damian



Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

www.johnxxiii.ca

Building God's Home Pledge Form

*Please complete and drop off at the parish office
or place in an envelope and submit during the offertory collection at Mass.*

Full Name: _____

Spouse's Full Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I/We hereby Pledge to St. John XXIII Parish a total of \$ _____

Kindly refer to the Contribution Calculator on the reverse side of this form.

I/We agree to pay this amount over a period of ☐ 5 years or ☐ ____ years

*Please note you have the option to cancel your pledge anytime
in case there are changes to your financial situation.*

Pledges will start on ____ (day) / ____ (month) / ____ (year)

(If payments are made by Pre-Authorized Debit, deduction date will be ☐ 15th or ☐ 30th of the month)

My installments will be made:

☐ Annually \$ _____

☐ Semi-Annually \$ _____

☐ Quarterly \$ _____

☐ Monthly \$ _____

☐ Other: _____ \$ _____

Payment will be made by:

☐ Cash

☐ Cheque (*Cheques payable to **St. John XXIII Parish***)

☐ e-Transfer (*Use this email: finance@johnxxiii.ca*)

☐ Pre-Authorized Debit (*Monthly*)*

***Please complete a pre-authorized debit form at the office**

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please note that all donations are income tax deductible on the year received.

Contribution Calculator

Monthly	Annually	5 Years
\$ 20.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 1,200.00
\$ 25.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00
\$ 30.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,800.00
\$ 40.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 2,400.00
\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,000.00
\$ 60.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 3,600.00
\$ 83.33	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
\$ 100.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 6,000.00
\$ 125.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
\$ 166.67	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
\$ 333.33	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
\$ 416.67	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 25,000.00

Saint John XXIII Parish Stewardship of Treasure

PARISH OFFERINGS: You may place your offering envelopes in the COLLECTION BASKET passed by the ushers to those sitting in the pews during Sunday liturgies. Or you may mail your contribution to the parish via CANADA POST. Or you may leave a message with the parish office to make arrangements with one of our parish staff to drop off your offertory donations at a safe drop off location. For donations to the parish, please make cheques payable to “St. John XXIII Parish”.

PAD OPTION: Alternatively, we encourage parishioners to consider being an “intentional giver” by registering for PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT. Please leave a message at the parish office and someone will contact you and assist you.

ONLINE OPTIONS: If you wish to donate to the parish ONLINE, a link to CanadaHelps.org can be found on our website. Go to www.johnxxiii.ca and click on the DONATE NOW tab at the top of the *Links* column on the home page. Alternatively, you may donate to St. John XXIII Parish via the **Archdiocese of Winnipeg Mobile APP** on your mobile device. Go to the Apple APP Store or Google Play Store to download the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Mobile APP.

INTERAC e-Transfer: If you to donate via e-Transfer, go online and login to your online banking account. Select send an Interac e-Transfer (or autodeposit etc.) Complete all the necessary information including the amount of your contribution.

For name of recipient you may use ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH and be sure to use this email address: finance@johnxxiii.ca Review details and Confirm (Send) to submit your contribution. Transfers sent to finance@johnxxiii.ca will be automatically deposited to the account of TRUSTEES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINT JOHN XXIII at RBC Royal Bank.

If you don't mind, after submitting your contribution via Interac e-Transfer, please send a personal follow up email to the parish finance office at finance@johnxxiii.ca to ensure we have the information we need for our records, so that charitable contribution amounts may be included in an income tax receipt issued to you at year end.

New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register with the parish and to arrange for pre-authorized debit or a box of regular offering envelopes.



Central Winnipeg Deanery
SCHEDULE FOR THE
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Advent 2023

<u>TUESDAY, December 5</u> 6:30 pm	St. Mary's Cathedral 353 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg
<u>THURSDAY, December 7</u> 6:30 pm	St. Paul the Apostle Church 2400 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg
<u>FRIDAY, December 8</u> 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Saint John XXIII Church 3390 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg
<u>TUESDAY, December 12</u> 6:30 pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Church 95 MacDonald Avenue, Winnipeg
<u>THURSDAY, December 14</u> 6:30 pm	St. Patrick's Church 172 Worth Street, Winnipeg
<u>FRIDAY, December 15</u> 10:30 am to 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Good Shepherd Church 1125 Saskatchewan Avenue East, Portage la Prairie
<u>FRIDAY, December 15</u> 6:30 pm	St. Edward the Confessor Church 836 Arlington Street, Winnipeg
<u>WEDNESDAY, December 20</u> 6:30 pm	St. Anthony of Padua Church (Hungarian) 365 Burnell Street, Winnipeg
<u>THURSDAY, December 21</u> 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	St. François Xavier Church 1049 Highway 26, St. François Xavier
<u>THURSDAY, December 21</u> 6:30 pm	St. Charles Church 320 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg
<u>FRIDAY, December 22</u> 6:30 pm	St. Eustache Church 57 Main Street, St. Eustache
<u>SATURDAY, December 23</u> 6:30 pm	Blessed Sacrament Church 17 Elie Street West, Elie

As circumstances permit, penitents also are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the following locations in the deanery:

Holy Names House of Peace
 211 Edmonton Street, Winnipeg
 Mondays 4:00 pm to 4:50 pm
 Wednesdays 4:00 pm to 4:50 pm
 Saturdays 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

St. Ann's Church
 271 Hampton Street, Winnipeg
 Call 204-888-1935 for information

"Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine."
 —Saint John Chrysostom

*For those who wish to plan ahead,
 here is the Mass Schedule
 for the end of Advent
 and the Octave of Christmas
 at Saint John XXIII Church*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 23rd
 Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 24th
 Mass at 10:00 am

*CHRISTMAS MASSES
 SOLEMNITY OF THE
 NATIVITY OF THE LORD*

Sunday, December 24th
 Masses at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Monday, December 25th
 Mass at 10:00 am

*FEAST OF SAINT JOHN,
 APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST*

Wednesday, December 27th
 Mass at 7:00 pm

*FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
 OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH*

Saturday, December 30th
 Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st
 Mass at 10:00 am

*NEW YEAR'S MASSES
 SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
 THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD*

Sunday, December 31st, 2023
 Mass at 5:00 pm

Monday, January 1st, 2024
 Mass at 10:00 am