

## PARISH BULLETIN

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – November 30, 2025

The parish schedule published herein continues to December 25, 2025.

*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.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com)

Website: [www.johnxxiii.ca](http://www.johnxxiii.ca)

Office Hours: On designated afternoons 1:00 – 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 noted in the deanery schedule on the back page of this bulletin,  
and, as circumstances permit, on Wednesday evenings,  
on Friday afternoons or by appointment.*

## PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

### Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335      [rpolz.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:rpolz.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206      [scamier.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:scamier.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com)

### Trustee: William Gould

204-832-7175      [william.d.gould@gmail.com](mailto:william.d.gould@gmail.com)

### Trustee: Derek Lobo

204-832-7175      [dereklobo73@gmail.com](mailto:dereklobo73@gmail.com)

### Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

### Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200      [d\\_vendramelli@mymts.net](mailto:d_vendramelli@mymts.net)

### Parish Pastoral Council Facilitator: Laurette Burch

204-885-6988      [burchd@mymts.net](mailto:burchd@mymts.net)

### FAITH FORMATION:

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

**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.

## Memorial Christmas Appeal 2025

Given overwhelming support in recent years, we once again are soliciting donations for our annual "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.** 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.**

## Advent – Christmas Caroling Fundraiser

This year some of our parishioners have initiated a Caroling Fundraiser in support of Saint John XXIII Parish. Many of them are members of Couples for Christ and belong to the West 2 Chapter. Groups of carolers are willing to visit homes, usually on the evenings of each weekend (i.e. Friday, Saturday and Sunday) throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

**If you are willing to welcome carolers and make a generous donation to Saint John XXIII Parish, please visit or contact our parish office to add your name and contact information to the *Caroling Fundraiser List*.**

**Or you may contact one of the following members of Couples for Christ directly to make arrangements for carolers to come out to your dwelling place: Vincent Balbenta – telephone 204-890-4984 or email [balbenta\\_vincent@yahoo.com](mailto:balbenta_vincent@yahoo.com) or Elona Paragas – telephone 204-930-2426 or email [captrouge\\_sweetangel@yahoo.com](mailto:captrouge_sweetangel@yahoo.com)**

Your welcoming of our carolers and your generous participation in this *Advent – Christmas Caroling Fundraising* effort is most appreciated. Special donation envelopes will be provided and income tax receipts may be requested. If you wish to contribute by cheque, please make your cheque payable to "St. John XXIII Parish". *What better way to spread the Christmas message of peace and love than to welcome a bunch of carolers to your home! Thank you for your kind support!*



## Please Make Your Gift to the 2025 Annual Appeal *SHARING GOD'S GIFTS*

The weekend of November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> marked Commitment Sunday ("Amen Sunday") of our annual Archdiocesan Appeal *Sharing God's Gifts*. During Sunday Masses that weekend, immediately following the homily, parishioners were given an opportunity to make their gift to this year's appeal.

**Our parish has been asked to raise \$28,196.00. As of the date of the publication of this bulletin, we estimate that close to 2/3 of our target has been raised thus far.** We still have time to accomplish our goal if everyone prayerfully gives what they can. Any amount raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to be used for our particular needs including paying our current insurance premium of \$29,231.00 and outstanding Archdiocesan Assessment, and towards repairs and upgrades of our parish's office technology, communication platforms, security equipment and lighting fixtures.

**Thank you to everyone who has already made a gift.** If you need additional time to pray on your gift, please know that SGG brochures are still available. **If donating by cheque, please make it payable to SHARING GOD'S GIFTS.** You may also visit <https://archwinnipeg.ca/donate> to learn more or make your gift online.

Small acts of kindness and generosity can create a lasting impact, transforming lives in ways we may never fully see. Through Sharing God's Gifts (SGG), we can bring hope, compassion, and love to countless members of our faith community. Our gifts directly support ministries that impact lives of people every day. By participating in Sharing God's Gifts we become an essential part of the mission. Our generosity helps sustain the many ministries and programs that share God's love and serve those in need throughout our Archdiocese. **Thank you for your prayerful generosity!**

## Gaudete Sunday Fiesta

Sunday Afternoon, December 14, 2025, Saint John XXIII Parish Hall

The FAMILY CELEBRATION after the 11:45 a.m. Mass will include a Potluck Lunch, Rainbow Auction, SING-A-LONG ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS, and other music and activities, including the well-loved smashing of the Piñata by the children.

ADMISSION is by MONETARY DONATION and/or by the DONATION OF FOOD for the Potluck Lunch. The donated food (preferably commercially prepared) will be set up buffet style in room 9. In the interest of health and food safety, as in previous years arrangements will be made for designated food handlers to serve the food buffet style. For those with food allergies and/or other health concerns, you are welcome to omit the buffet and bring your own bag lunch for your family.

If you are willing to donate items for the Rainbow Auction and/or help in other ways (e.g. provide food to share, soft drinks, juice, lead children's activities, assist with food service or clean up, etc.) please let us know in which area(s) you would like to help. You may contact the parish office at 204-832-7175 or email [office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com), or you may contact Norie Celestino at 204-881-0290 or Elona Paragas at 204-930-2426.

### NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

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



### National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

December 12, 2025 is the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. This day is an opportunity to reflect on Reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and the Catholic Church in Canada.

*Message from the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council for 12 December 2025:*

As Catholics, we continue to reflect on the life and legacy of Pope Francis, remembering his call to be “pilgrims of hope” in this year of Jubilee. It has been a time for reconciliation, pilgrimage and “coming home”. For Christians, this “Reconciliation” is the accomplishment of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection reconciles humanity to God. Responding to the Lord’s call to be reconciled to one another in love, Catholic Canadians have set on a journey towards reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples, one born out of a painful and difficult history. That history included the Indian residential schools, administered by Catholic and Christian churches alike. Accounts of prejudice, discrimination, and abuse came out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which concluded ten years ago. For many people impacted by this history, healing may well require generations to realize.

We have started this journey in several ways, including the Pope’s apology and penitential pilgrimage to Canada in 2022, and a financial commitment of \$30 million that promotes healing, cultural and language revitalization, and other Indigenous-led projects. These efforts complement work happening at diocesan and parish levels, as well. But much remains to be done, and there might be setbacks and disappointments as we continue the journey together with the First Peoples of this land. As Catholics, we need to share Pope Francis’ vision of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people walking together in prayerful and respectful ways towards a stronger, shared future.

As pilgrims – and communities – of hope, each of us has an important role to play in Reconciliation. This is both a Church endeavour and a personal one. We need to learn about our shared history, define lessons learned, and take steps to promote equity, opportunity, and fairness, regardless of one’s background. St. Peter, in his first letter, reminds us that, as Christians, we are called upon to give the reason for our hope. Our commitment to Reconciliation – backed by action – is what will build and sustain both real hope and good will among all peoples on Turtle Island.

***“Today we pray with our ancestors who brought us where we are today. They took care of our lives and embraced Christian faith in our camps and communities. We pray that our families will continue to be strong in their faith and that the elders and the young will work closely together to create a better future.”***

Here is a link to the CCCB’s response to the Indian Residential School legacy, Truth and Reconciliation, and the steps taken by the Church to restore relationship with Indigenous peoples:

<https://www.cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/indian-residential-schools-and-trc/>

# SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 25, 2025

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

<b>Sunday, November 30</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <i>N.B.: Readings in this new liturgical year are taken from <b>Year A</b> of the Lectionary</i> <b>4:00 pm</b> Saturday <b>MASS – Monica Bird+</b> , requested by Tannena Korolyk <b>5:00 pm</b> Saturday Birthday Gathering in honour of Sharon Camier ( <i>downstairs in the parish hall</i> ) <b>9:00 am</b> <b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners <b>10:15 am – 11:15 am</b> <b>CATECHISM CLASSES</b> ( <i>downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms</i> ) <b>11:45 am</b> <b>MASS – Rene Defries+</b> , requested by Genevieve Defries
<b>Monday, December 1</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – Yvette Arsenault+, requested by Tannena Korolyk
<b>Tuesday, December 2</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <i>12:00 midnight</i> Fr. Robert is on-call for emergency sacramental ministry at Grace Hospital until 12:00 noon Friday Mass (offered in private) – Intentions of Margaret and Jerome Strachan, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch <i>10:30 am</i> Fr. Robert is scheduled to attend a Tribunal Judging Session at St. Boniface Catholic Centre <b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b> <b>Parish Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day One</b> <i>10:30 am</i> Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with the Sacrament of Reconciliation for students of Saint Charles Catholic School at St. Charles Catholic Church <b>2:00 pm</b> <b>FUNERAL LITURGY</b> for Victor Burtnyk+ at Glen Eden Funeral Home and Cemetery <b>6:45 pm</b> <b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>MASS – Fr. Robert Brennan, SJ+</b> , requested by Gould family <b>7:40 pm</b> <b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Session</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 8</i> )
<b>Thursday, December 4</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Two</b> Mass (offered in private) – Delfin Anievas+, requested by Blaquera family
<b>Friday, December 5</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Three</b> <b>12:00 noon</b> Angelus <b>12:10 pm</b> <b>MASS – Barry Burke+</b> , requested by Tannena Korolyk <b>12:45 pm – 3:45 pm</b> <b>Adoration Time</b> ( <i>monstrance on altar in main worship space</i> ) – ring door buzzer for access <b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b> <b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions)</b> <i>A few priests from the deanery will join our pastor in hearing confessions of the faithful throughout the afternoon</i> <b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b> <b>Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>3:00 pm</b> <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> <b>3:45 pm</b> <b>BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>
<b>Saturday, December 6</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Four</b> <b>2:00 pm – 3:30 pm</b> <b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 6</i> ) <b>4:00 pm</b> <b>MASS for Sunday – Jeffrey Penner+</b> , requested by his mother, Rose Penner
<b>Sunday, December 7</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Five</b> <b>9:00 am</b> <b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners <b>10:15 am – 11:15 am</b> <b>CATECHISM CLASSES</b> ( <i>downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms</i> ) <b>11:45 am</b> <b>MASS – Edith McNaughtan+</b> , requested by Sharon Burke

<b>Monday, December 8</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Six</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Special intention, requested by a parishioner</i>
<b>Tuesday, December 9</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Seven</b> <b>12:00 noon</b> <b>12:10 pm</b> 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Angelus</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Barry Burke+, requested by Bob and Brenda Smith</i> <b>Parish Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Eight</b> <b>6:45 pm</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> 7:40 pm	<b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Edith McNaughtan, requested by Bob and Brenda Smith</i> <b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Session</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 8</i> )
<b>Thursday, December 11</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe – Day Nine</b>  6:30 pm	<b>Mass</b> (offered in private) – <i>In thanksgiving and birthday blessings for Marietta Gendive, requested by Henrietta Zhanel</i> <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Patrick’s Church</i>
<b>Friday, December 12</b>	<b>FEAST: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, Patroness of the Americas</b> <b>National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples</b> <b>12:00 noon</b> <b>12:10 pm</b> 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm <b>3:00 pm</b> 6:30 pm	<b>Angelus</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Special intention, requested by a parishioner</i> <b>Parish Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> <i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Edward the Confessor Church</i>
<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT LUCY, Virgin, Martyr</b> 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm <b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 6</i> ) <b>MASS for Sunday</b> – <i>Mary Capri+, requested by Janet Hall</i>
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – “GAUDETE SUNDAY”</b> <b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:15 am – 11:15 am</b> <b>11:45 am</b> <b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i> <b>CATECHISM CLASSES</b> ( <i>downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms</i> ) <b>MASS</b> – <i>Jeffrey Penner+, requested by Motuz family</i> <b>PARISH GAUDETE SUNDAY FIESTA</b> ( <i>downstairs in the parish hall</i> )
<b>Monday, December 15</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>	<b>Mass</b> (offered in private) – <i>Deceased family members and Julia+, requested by Tualla family</i>
<b>Tuesday, December 16</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>10:30 am</b>  1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>MASS at Golden West Centennial Lodge, 811 School Road</b> <i>– Intentions of a parishioner</i> <b>Parish Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 8</i> )
<b>Wednesday, December 17</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>6:45 pm</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> 7:30 pm	<b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Intentions of Amanda Proctor, requested by a parishioner</i> <b>Hanging of Ornaments and Lighting of Memorial Christmas Trees</b> <i>N.B. No RCIA Session this evening</i>
<b>Thursday, December 18</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>	<b>Mass</b> (offered in private) – <i>Marguerite Korolyk+, requested by Tannena Korolyk</i>

<b>Friday, December 19</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
12:00 noon	Praying of the Angelus
<b>12:10 pm</b>	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Dominik and Cecile Capri+</i> , requested by <i>Tannena Korolyk</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Parish Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b>
6:30 pm	<i>Fr. Robert is scheduled to assist with confessions at St. Charles Church</i>
<b>Saturday, December 20</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 6</i> )
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>MASS for Sunday</b> – <i>Mary Capri+</i> , requested by <i>Tannena Korolyk</i>
<b>Sunday, December 21</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – <i>Lyndon Michalchuk+</i> , requested by <i>Wanda Michalchuk</i>
<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>MASS</b> – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
<b>Monday, December 22</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
	Mass (offered in private) – <i>Feliciana Siquinia+</i> , requested by <i>Blaquera family</i>
<b>Tuesday, December 23</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
12:00 noon	Praying of the Angelus
<b>12:10 pm</b>	<b>MASS</b> – <i>Adele Sapielo+</i> , requested by <i>Bill Sapielo</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Parish Office Hours</b> – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
<b>Wednesday, December 24</b>	<b>VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
4:45 pm	Gathering before Mass will include the singing of Carols
<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night”</b>
	– <i>Yvonne Marie Desjarlais+</i> , requested by <i>Janine Gaudry</i>
7:45 pm	Gathering before Mass will include the singing of Carols
<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Night” (LIVESTREAMED)</b>
	– “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
<b>Thursday, December 25</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
9:50 am	Gathering before Mass will include the singing of a few Carols
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS “During the Day”</b>
	– <i>For the intentions of all our beloved faithful departed, especially those remembered on our Memorial Christmas Trees</i>

**PLEASE PRAY for the loved ones of our community in need of healing and comfort:**

*Cathy Blaquera, Jean-Louis Charles, Betty Connor, René and Sue Gobeil, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Magdeline Johnston, Larry Kuyzk, Brett Lawrence, Kristy O’Toole, Lauran Peters, John Powell, Fr. Barry Schoonbaert, Jerome Strachan, Joe and Maria Wallack, Helen Yankoski.*

*If you wish your name or any of your loved ones to be included in our prayer list, please notify the parish office. Be sure to obtain the consent of persons concerned before submitting their names.*



**TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING**

**November 30 – December 6** Intentions of Cecile and Janet, requested by Cecile Talas  
**December 7 – December 13** Intentions of John and Annabelle Javra (59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniv. December 10<sup>th</sup>)  
**December 14 – December 20** Intentions of Melba Wozny  
**December 21 – December 27** Tony Wozny+, requested by Melba Wozny

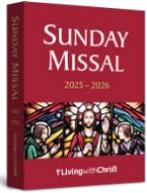
*If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office.*



**NRSV CATHOLIC BIBLES from the Canadian Bible Society are now available at the parish office:**

**Attractive Presentation Bible with imitation leather cover, presentation page, gilt edges, ribbon marker: \$35 per bible.**

**NRSV Bible with forest green hardcover and gold stamping: \$25 per bible.**



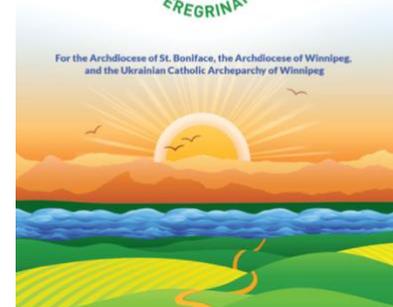
## Living with Christ SUNDAY MISSAL 2025 – 2026

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

Current English translation of the Roman Missal, COMPLETE Scripture readings for Sunday Masses, Reflections for all Sunday liturgies, Monthly Calendar of Saints, Inspiration from the Saints, Papal Prayer Intentions for each month of the year, etc. **Use of the new 2025-2026 edition commences on the weekend of November 30, 2025 which is the First Sunday of Advent.**

### The Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday, 28 December 2025, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Pilgrim's Guide to Jubilee Churches and Shrines  
Guide du pèlerin pour les églises et sanctuaires du Jubilé  
Путівник паломника по церквах та святих місцях у Ювілейний Рік



Until that time, the free gift of the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence remains available to all who:

- Make a pilgrimage to one of the named Jubilee Sites, or
- Make a pious visit to one of the named Jubilee Sites, or
- Participate in works of mercy and penance;

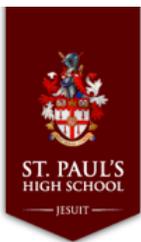
And, in conformity to the usual norms for a plenary indulgence:

- Intend to receive the indulgence, and
- Receive Holy Communion and the sacrament of Reconciliation within several days of the indulgenced work, and
- Are free from attachment to all mortal and venial sin, and
- Say a prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

For more information, please consult the local **Pilgrim's Guide to Churches and Shrines** for the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg. This guide will continue to help us in these last weeks of the Jubilee Year to live out our call as Pilgrims of Hope!

The Pilgrim's Guide and other Jubilee resources are available at: <https://archwinnipeg.ca/jubilee-2025/>

The Ordinary Jubilee will formally conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter at the Vatican on 6 January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. As Pope Francis wrote in his letter announcing the Jubilee Year... **"During the Holy Year, may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God's love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!"**



### ST. PAUL'S HIGH SCHOOL applications are now available

Please call 204-831-2327 to have an admissions package sent to you. **Please see our website at [www.stpauls.mb.ca](http://www.stpauls.mb.ca) for more information about our admissions program and bursary information.** *It is the goal of the school that no boy who is able to gain admission to St. Paul's High School based on his own merit be turned away due to inability to pay tuition as determined by our bursary committee. Every boy, regardless of financial need, should be given a chance to receive a Catholic education.*  
**OPEN HOUSE for parents and prospective students is Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

### ST. MARY'S ACADEMY is now accepting applications

St. Mary's Academy, established in 1869, is a Catholic school in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Our legacy of learning, faith, service, and leadership defines the Academy as a distinguished girls' school where students graduate empowered with knowledge, aware of their gifts, possess a desire for excellence in all endeavours, and embrace a sense of social responsibility to use their abilities in the service of others. New student applications are due February 2, 2026. Applications accepted for all grades, with major entry points in Grades 7 & 9. Financial assistance available. All faiths welcome.



**For more information, please call 204-477-0244 or go online to [www.smamb.ca](http://www.smamb.ca) – Instagram.com/smawinnipeg – Facebook.com/smawinnipeg. OPEN HOUSE is Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

For news and events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, go to the website: [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)



# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

JANUARY 18 - 25, 2026

*“There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling”*

Ephesians 4:4

*All are welcome to participate with church leaders in the*

**CITY-WIDE**

## **ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

**7:30 pm**

### **FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH OF WINNIPEG**

**922 Notre Dame Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3E 0M9** 

204-772-2419 • [office@firstmennonitechurch.ca](mailto:office@firstmennonitechurch.ca) • [www.firstmennonitechurch.ca](http://www.firstmennonitechurch.ca)

### **Invitation to participate in Ecumenical Choir**

An ecumenical choir is being formed to lead music at the forthcoming celebration on January 18<sup>th</sup> which will be held during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. No audition is required. Anyone who can carry a tune and wishes to sing in the choir is welcome!

**Rehearsals will be held at First Mennonite Church of Winnipeg  
from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Sunday, January 4, 2026  
and from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Sunday, January 11, 2026.**

A short final rehearsal will be held immediately before  
the Ecumenical Worship Service on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

**For further information, you may call or text Michele Barr at 204-297-9212  
or contact her via email: [mbarr41@shaw.ca](mailto:mbarr41@shaw.ca)**

For more information you may contact your own minister/pastor,  
or Rev. Robert Polz at Saint John XXIII Church: 204-832-7175, [office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com), [www.johnxxiii.ca](http://www.johnxxiii.ca)

The prayers and reflections for the 2026 Week of Prayer have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic, and Evangelical Churches. We are reminded that unity is a divine mandate at the core of our Christian identity, more than simply an ideal. It represents the essence of the Church's calling – a call to reflect the harmonious oneness of our life in Christ amidst our diversity. This divine unity is central to our mission and is sustained by the profound love of Jesus Christ, who has set before us a unified purpose. As the Apostle Paul asserts in his letter to the Ephesians, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (4:4). This Bible verse, chosen for the 2026 Week of Prayer, encapsulates the theological depth of Christian unity.

**\*\*\* A poster outlining other services to be held throughout the Week of Prayer in Winnipeg is forthcoming.\*\*\***

***“When we consider that Christ is the true light, having nothing in common with deceit, we learn that our own life also must shine with the rays of that true light.”***

—Saint Gregory of Nyssa, bishop (335-394 A.D.)

## Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2025

### Learning to tell time

The demise of the analog clock has probably affected the learning curve a little. But flashing digital displays still don't offer to children or other fine people the precise meaning of time that goes along with merely knowing the numbers. So it's 3:02 p.m.: What does that signify, and why should we care? The question of time always comes down to this: What does knowledge of the hour have to do with me?



Time means different things to different people. It also means different things to the same person—but let's take our time with this idea. Ask an indolent person sleeping off the latest six-pack what 3:02 means and he might say, “Time for another beer.” A shopkeeper might call it two hours after closing time. A school child running for the bus won't hear the question. A depressed person may sigh: “One hour is as good as another.”

For the average person, 3:02 has many meanings depending on the day. A workday is different from a Saturday. Vacation time and the holiday season seem to change the texture of time altogether. A week in bed with the flu changes the feeling of time, even the pace at which it moves. Waiting in the hospital at 3:02 for word from a surgeon about a loved one is not the same as waiting for the groom two minutes late for the wedding, or waiting for the mail delivery, or waiting for Godot. Maybe we're anxiously anticipating spring break, or perhaps nothing at all, because no future possibilities seem from here to make a difference, to offer hope or rescue.

Being a seer, Isaiah could look to the horizons of time and see a new day dawning. To prophets, time is like a ribbon of road set before us that only requires a certain amount of determined walking to get where we want to go. The light of the Lord is out there; how badly do you want to see it? Get walking, and you'll arrive to bask in it. Stay put, and you'll never see that day shine forth. Saint Paul, who could certainly dance with the prophets on a good day, imagined that we're all farther down that road to kairos time than we suspect.

How do we want to arrive at the fateful hour: steeped in the current sludge of sinfulness or shimmering in the freshly polished armor of virtue? Meanwhile—we can say *meanwhile*, because in eternity the perspective is not linear—Jesus says that winding your watch or glancing at your cell phone won't give you the information you need about the advancement of the hour. In the reign of God, it's never 3:02. It's always now.

—Alice Camille

***“Never will God's coming be what you expect, and yet never will it disappoint.”***

—Venerable Fulton Sheen

## Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent – December 7, 2025

### What are you waiting for?

Christmas is on its way. You can feel it rushing in toward us like a runaway train, uncontrollable and inevitable. It transforms the environment of the church as much as the landscape of the community, not to mention the economic reality of many parishioners. Already folks are taunted by the constant consumer demands to enter into the spirit of the season with each new purchase. Purses are achingly stuffed with receipts for things no one needs.



Is this hurtle toward the holidays what we want? Is this momentum that catches us what our hopes are pinned on? God knows we need Christmas, wait on it, and look forward to it every winter like the answer to a prayer at the end of a long, weary year. Christmas will lighten our hearts. It will bring the family back together. It will satisfy our hunger for belonging, warmth, cheer, and a multitude of sugar cookies. For only a few weeks we can be children again, anticipating the impossible good fortune that magically wrapped presents apparently grow on trees.

Such is our modern version of the peaceable kingdom, Isaiah's description of the remarkable hour when wolves and lambs become pals and children need not fear snakes. Whatever elements are necessary for us to experience this blissful harmonic convergence, that's what we expect from Christmas each year.

That's why we have this peculiar phenomenon of the Christmas shop: stores dedicated to selling Christmas 365 days of the year. We want Christmas to come and don't want it to end. Yet even when it arrives, a lot of people experience a deflation

of hope, a letdown of unmet expectation. Maybe the loved one didn't come, the hoped-for reconciliation postponed to another year. Maybe the desired gift wasn't offered or received. Maybe we burned the cookies.

When John the Baptist announces the arrival of the kingdom of heaven, he doesn't offer the cookies casually. *Repent* is the Baptist's first word—not a suggestion but a command. If you repent, you get heaven. You get your heart's desire. If you don't repent, you get nothing. That's serious. The psalmist says it another way: Peace follows justice. You can't have a world at peace unless you first have a just society. Paul says it a third way: You want hope, first you must endure in Christ Jesus.

The world we want is in our grasp. The Christmas we anticipate is absolutely doable. But there are prerequisites. To have the Christmas cookie, there are things we must do: Assemble the right ingredients. Follow the instructions. Take the time to bake the results, not too much and not too little. Be patient. Wait. The delight you seek is almost ready. —Alice Camille

***“No believer in Christ, no institution of the church, can avoid this supreme duty:  
to proclaim Christ to all peoples.”***

—Saint John Paul II

### Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025

#### New rules

Consider John the Baptist for a moment: What a résumé! Luke alleges that John's kinship with Jesus is biological. That alone is worth some bragging rights. “James, the brother of the Lord” certainly uses the genetic tie to his advantage in the church to come. But in the days of John, being kin to Jesus wasn't yet the trump card it would later be. In the beginning, in fact, Jesus might well have profited from claiming ties to the more celebrated and powerful John.



John emerges from the wilderness with a mystery wrapped around him more astonishing than his attire. Was he a graduate of the reclusive Essenes out at Qumran, who awaited a Righteous Teacher to turn around a hopelessly misguided religious leadership? Did he perhaps pen one of the ancient Dead Sea Scrolls we now possess? Whatever his training, John was a master of what we call desert spirituality: austere and solitary, careless of worldly comforts and advantages, fearless in speaking truth to power, uncompromising when delivering God's sovereign word. John laid his ax at the root of the biggest tree in the land and struck. The tree crashed down on his head, literally.

Before the end, however, John had them all jumping through his hoops. He commanded repentance in the name of God and declared the sign to be immersion in the river. Many came out of the cities and towns and lined to take the plunge, and still others to watch the baptisms with increasing anxiety. Believe John or not, you had to reckon with him. Even Jesus would find himself compared with John, suspected to be his ghost, and in today's gospel felt the need to distinguish himself from his forerunner.

When reflecting on all John was and did—a man who made a king tremble with fear and fascination!—we're not surprised that Jesus names him the greatest man ever born. This is *Jesus*, remember: He has no reason to win the esteem of crowds by flattering a man they admire. First he exalts John. Then he deflates him—or at least changes the terms of greatness altogether. John is the greatest man ever born in the normal course of things. But because Kingdom values depend on being “born again,” even the lowest member of the new reign will be exalted ahead of John.

Being born anew means embracing the Good News that the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the dead are raised. In other words it means accepting that the rules have changed. Even the great John, in his prison cell, had trouble with that one. If the rules have changed, we can't march ahead. We'll have to consent to be led. —Alice Camille

***“Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me.”***

—Saint Patrick

### Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2025

#### The righteous person's dilemma

Joseph had a problem, and it wasn't a small one: The girl about to become his wife was pregnant. He wasn't the father, so the law was clear: Honor could be restored to both households by stoning. Regrettable, messy, a bad sort of public excitement, but over quickly. All that would be left is the task of finding another marriageable girl.



This bloody business wasn't really the problem. The trouble was that Joseph was a righteous man. *Righteousness* is a technical term in Judaism. In Hebrew it's a form of measurement. A righteous weight is a true one. A righteous path leads directly to the destination. A righteous sacrifice is performed by the book. Righteousness means meeting the prescribed standard. The opposite of righteousness is dishonesty.

A righteous man, therefore, might well go by the book and stone the girl. But what if "the book" had conflicting standards? On the one hand, faithless women should be stoned. On the other hand, the girl Mary wasn't the faithless kind. Stoning the innocent was murder, and murder was prohibited by *that same book*. Could restoring honor possibly be more important than a potentially innocent girl's life?

In the end Joseph resolves his dilemma by taking the advice of an angel in a dream. Great counsel if you can get it! More of us should pray for such guidance when faced with moral discernment. But the deeper issue of how to be righteous—how to discover the right standard—remains. With so much dishonesty around us, the truth can seem hard to acquire.

Take Job. He claimed to be righteous, yet his friends weighed his great suffering as testimony against him. Whose perspective can you trust? Job called on God to decide. The Servant of the Lord in Isaiah's prophecies is also called righteous yet condemned by his peers. Unlike Job, his vindication is posthumous. Tamar is considered more righteous than Judah—but her avenue to justice is not something we'd recommend to our daughters. Which leads to the question: Is Christian righteousness different from the Jewish kind?

Saint Paul says it is. Bible scholar John McKenzie notes that Paul "found himself with an [Old Testament] vocabulary which had to be expanded to fit the fullness of his insight into the Christian mystery." So Paul stitched together the observation that both Noah and Abraham are deemed righteous by placing their faith in God, not by meeting a standard. Faith rectified the discrepancy between where they were and where they ought to be. We don't have to "know" what's right or make the judgment call by reason alone. If we place our trust in God, like Joseph, we will be led straight to the truth.

– Alice Camille

*The above reflections have been adapted from previously published Exploring the word. Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including This Transforming Word and other titles found at alicecamille.com Reprinted with permission from PrepareTheWord.com*

## 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 for your continued support of Harvest Manitoba. Your generosity is most appreciated!



*"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."*

– Matthew 25.40

### **Saint John XXIII Parish Stewardship of Treasure**

***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.***

If you prefer to donate via e-Transfer, go online and login to your online banking account.

For name of recipient you may use **ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH**

and be sure to use this **new email address: [finance.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:finance.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com)**

Transfers sent to [finance.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:finance.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com) will be automatically deposited to the account of TRUSTEES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINT JOHN XXIII at RBC Royal Bank.

When making your contribution via Interac e-Transfer through your financial institution, please be sure to INDICATE IN THE MESSAGE/MEMO line what your payment is for.

As well, we urge parishioners to continue their regular contributions to our capital campaign to help pay off the debt of the loans our parish has received from the Trustees of the RCAW Inc.

For further information, you may contact staff in the parish office and/or check out information in previous parish bulletins published earlier in the year. Copies are available for viewing on the parish website.

***A sincere THANK YOU for your continued generosity and support of our parish and its ministries!***



Central Winnipeg Deanery  
**SCHEDULE FOR THE  
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Advent 2025

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

TUESDAY, December 2 St. François Xavier Church  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 1049 Highway 26, St. François Xavier

FRIDAY, December 5 Saint John XXIII Church  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm 3390 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

TUESDAY, December 9 Blessed Sacrament Church  
6:30 pm 17 Elie Street West, Elie

WEDNESDAY, December 10 Good Shepherd Church  
10:30 am to 12:00 pm & 1125 Saskatchewan Avenue East,  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Portage la Prairie

WEDNESDAY, December 10 St. Mary's Cathedral  
6:30 pm 353 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg

THURSDAY, December 11 St. Patrick's Church  
6:30 pm 172 Worth Street, Winnipeg

FRIDAY, December 12 St. Edward the Confessor Church  
6:30 pm 836 Arlington Street, Winnipeg

WEDNESDAY, December 17 St. Paul the Apostle Church  
6:30 pm 2400 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

THURSDAY, December 18 Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
6:30 pm 95 MacDonald Avenue, Winnipeg

FRIDAY, December 19 St. Anthony of Padua Church (Hungarian)  
6:30 pm 365 Burnell Street, Winnipeg

FRIDAY, December 19 St. Charles Church  
6:30 pm 320 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg

*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  
For information, go online to [www.stann.ca](http://www.stann.ca)

*"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!"*

—Psalm 122

CHRISTMAS MASSES  
SOLEMNITY OF THE  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Masses at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Mass at 10:00 am

FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN,  
THE FIRST MARTYR

Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>  
Mass at 3:30 pm

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
Masses at 9:00 am and 11:45 am

SIXTH DAY WITH THE OCTAVE  
OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>  
Mass at 12:10 pm

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

Wednesday, December 31, 2025  
Mass at 5:00 pm

Thursday, January 1, 2026  
Mass at 10:00 am

