



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT
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OUR LADY OF VICTORY
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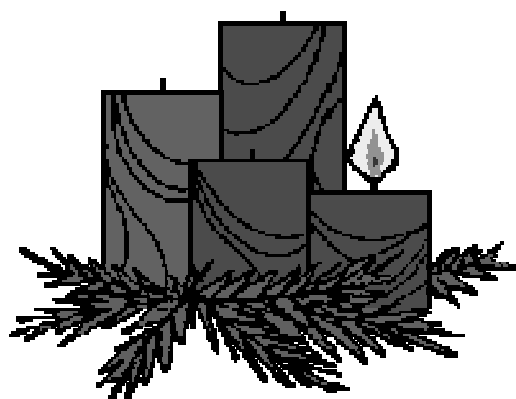
ST. URSULA
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stursula@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-8530

Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca and Facebook: <https://facebook.com/bssaususj>

OFFICE HOURS St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street
Monday & Tuesday 9 am-3 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9 am - 5 pm
Friday - CLOSED
(closed for lunch 12 noon - 1 pm each day)
(if you come to the office, please ring doorbell)

St. Ursula Church
205 Tweedsmuir Avenue West

OFFICE CLOSED
(staff and team are available by phone)



*Restore us, O God;
let your face shine,
that we may be saved.*

Psalm 80

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor - Fr. Jim Higgins
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St. Ursula Custodian
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Readings for December 6

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11. 2 Peter 3: 8-14. Mark 1: 1-8.

November 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

"I am here by extending the dispensation from the Sunday obligation, including the solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord and Mary, Mother of God, until Easter. It seems unlikely that our situation with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic will change in the near future."



DEACON'S PEN

Advent

As we now wait for Jesus in these weeks of Advent
Knowing this church year has been so sadly spent -

Our churches have been one third full or closed
And funerals, weddings and sacraments delayed;
We have to innovate to survive this time of pain
And stay healthy, be spiritual and try to stay sane.
We must as always have faith that God does care
And understand that this life isn't always fair.

But we can survive and gain in our spiritual life
Despite sickness, no income and abject strife.

In these four weeks the things we must do

To grow our Christian spirit are not new -

Pray - Reflect - Give - Love, all unconditionally -

Jesus taught us these in His all too short journey.

But the greatest of all of these or course is love -

A true gift that always comes from God above.

Pray, not for selfish desires but for inner strength

To survive all onslaughts no matter what the length.

Reflect on Bible stories you pick and thoughtfully read

That will help you find a purpose and do a good deed.

Give to the needs of someone lost here on this earth

Who is sad and cannot find hope or an ounce of mirth.

And if you succeed in practicing those first three

There will be **Love** in many lives and yours,

you see.....

The story cannot end with those first three verses

For **Love** does not come from having full purses -

Rather love is earned with blood, sweat and tears

And only happens by loving self over the years -

Not in an arrogant, selfish or demanding way,

But by believing you are good and will grow each day;

Accepting all that comes with patient confidence -

Believing God loves each of us without preference.

Deacon Chris

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday ~ 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church

Sunday ~ 8 am at St. Joseph Church

Sunday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church

(This Mass is live streamed.)

Sunday ~ 10 am at St. Ursula Church

Sunday ~ 11 am at St. Agnes Church

Sunday ~ 11 am at Our Lady of Victory Church (Polish)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES (FIRST COME FIRST SERVE)

Tuesday ~ 9 am at St. Ursula Church

Wednesday ~ 7 pm at Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

Thursday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church

(This Mass is live streamed.)

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 10 - 11 am at Blessed Sacrament



First Sunday of Advent

God's Faithfulness

Reading I Isaiah 63: 16-17, 19, 64: 2-7
(prayer for the return of God's favour)

Reading II 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
(thanksgiving)

Gospel Mark 13: 33-37
(need for watchfulness)

Key Passage: God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1: 9)

Adult: How do you know when you're following Christ and living his teachings faithfully?

Child: What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

ALLIANCE OF THE TWO HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY ALL-NIGHT REPARATION PRAYER VIGIL

Starts with 9 pm Holy Mass on Friday, December 4, continues through the night with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers. Then ends with 8 am Holy Mass on Saturday, December 5 at Blessed Sacrament Church. Come for the whole night or for a few hours to pray for your intentions, for our Parishes and for our Country.



2020/2021 MISSALS

The 2020/2021 Missals are now available for purchase at the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes office, 52 Croydon. The price is \$5 per book. When you come to the office (Monday-Thursday) please ring the doorbell.

Note to all lectors in the Parish Family, you may also pick up your missal at St. Agnes office.



Advent Message from the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Sacrament/St. Agnes Council #1412

A message from the Knights of Columbus will be heard on November 29th. Our Brother Brian Machado will deliver a very special, very personal, perspective on his journey with Christ, his commitment to God, to his family, to his Community and as a new member of the Knights of Columbus. The following is small excerpt from Brian in his own words about this very special, very beautiful journey with Christ:

*My path in "Reconnecting with Jesus Christ"...
finding my true path that Jesus has set out for me,
and with his guidance, becoming the husband,
father, son, brother and friend and "Community
Knight" that He wants me to be. In the words of my
dear friend Dennis Figueiredo, "We are planting our
seeds now to one day relish in your harvest..."*


Join us on November 29th to experience Brian's remarkable journey through his life and the path that Jesus Christ has set out before him. We pray that you will have an opportunity to join us at Blessed Sacrament or view the life stream or YouTube post afterwards to hear this very compelling and Christ filled message from Brother Brian Machado, Knight of Columbus, Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes, Blessed Sacrament/St. Agnes Council #1412 VIVAT JESUS!!



CHURCH CHUCKLE

While shopping for a bathroom scale, I found one that tracks not only weight but also body fat, bone mass, and water percentage. I nixed that one in favor of a low-tech model. As I told the salesperson, "I don't need to be depressed four ways; one is quite enough."

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**Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions
for the week of November 30 - December 5**

Monday, Nov 30 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

**ALL TUESDAY MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE
CELEBRATED AT 9:00 AM MASS AT ST. URSULA**

Tuesday, Dec 1 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Martha Grace ~ Joyce Gavin ~ Olga Wellman

Tuesday, Dec 1 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Timothy Flanagan ~ Anna Doto
~ Intentions of staff & students
of Georges P. Vanier Catholic School

Wednesday, Dec 2 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Antonio Branco ~ Joaquim Borges
~ James McDonnell

Wednesday, Dec 2 - St. Joseph intentions
~ Ivon Pinsonneault ~ Maria Vena
~ Intentions of Andrea Morse

Wednesday, Dec 2 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Henry Koziolk ~ Arkadiusz Stolarek

**ALL THURSDAY MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE
CELEBRATED AT 9:00 AM MASS AT BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Thursday, Dec 3 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Vincenza LeDonne
~ Living & deceased members of the Nguyen family
~ Intentions of staff & students
of Ursuline College Catholic High School

Thursday, Dec 3 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Tony DeCola ~ Stella Halinaty ~ Tony Ferrara

Friday, Dec 4 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Licia Dodok ~ Maria De Couto
~ Sam Robert & living members of Sam's family

Friday, Dec 4 - St. Joseph intentions
~ Tony Kacer

Saturday, Dec 5 - Our Lady of Victory
~ People of the parish

PRAYER CHAIN

We have people who want to pray for whatever request comes to them. If you need prayers, please contact Maureen at 519-352-8530 or Michelle at 519-352-9483.

**CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISH
MASS INTENTIONS**

We are now taking intentions for Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes, St. Joseph, St. Ursula and Our Lady of Victory for January.

We will only be able to accept two Mass Intentions per household for this time frame. Anything above this we can certainly take and send on to the Diocese of London, which are then forwarded to priests that do not have Mass Intentions. We appreciate your cooperation with this. By using this method, the Mass Intentions you request will be said in a more expedient way.



***To Everything there is a Season...
"a time to be healed..."***

**Please pray for those who are currently
sick our parish family....**

Barbara Taylor, Deb Carr

God, grant them your peace.

"a time to die...."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased relatives and parishioners especially Frances Elizabeth Gazarek and Herbert Jackson.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Nov 30 Romans 10: 9-18. Matthew 4: 18-22

Dec 1 Isaiah 11: 1-10. Luke 10: 21-24

Dec 2 Isaiah 25: 6-10 a. Matthew 15: 29-37

Dec 3 Isaiah 26: 1-6. Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

Dec 4 Isaiah 29: 17-24. Matthew 9: 27-31

Dec 5 Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26. Matthew 9: 35

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan ministers: Mrs. Christine Yeomans, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Deacon Fred Truchon; Rev. Louis Mousseau, O.F.M. Cap.; Mrs. Rebecca Bondy, Pastoral Minister/Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Rev. Robert Champagne; Miss Janet Loo, Liturgical Facilitator/Director of Music; Rev. Dwayne Adam.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES

Many of you may have noticed we had a glitch this past Sunday with our live streaming ministry. Please bear with us as sometimes this does happen. We realize this is important to you and we work hard to keep things going.

Christmas Schedule 2020

Christmas Eve Masses ~ Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph and St. Ursula
(Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed.)

9:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes and St. Ursula
(Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed.)

12 midnight - Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

Christmas Day Masses ~ Friday, December 25

9:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament
(This Mass will be live streamed.)

10:00 am ~ St. Ursula

11:00 am ~ St. Agnes

11:00 am ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

12:00 noon ~ St. Joseph

New Year's Eve Mass ~ Thursday, December 31

5:00 pm ~ St. Ursula Church

New Year's Day Mass ~ Friday, January 1

9:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament
(This Mass will be live streamed.)

11:00 am - Our Lady of Victory (Polish)



HOW TO REGISTER

In order to ensure your seat at any of the scheduled Masses

(Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, December 26 and 27, New Years Eve, New Years Day and January 2 and 3)

Registration will be taken on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3

Wednesday, December 9 and Thursday, December 10

Wednesday, December 16 and Thursday, December 17

Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22

RESERVATIONS will NOT be taken after Tuesday, December 22

for the above mentioned Christmas, New Years and regular Sunday Masses up until January 3.

TO REGISTER

Go on line at www.ccfp.dol.ca or

call the parish office at 519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530 on the above specified dates from 9 am until 5 pm.



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

PREPARE AN ADVENT WREATH

You will need: a small evergreen wreath; four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) or four white candles with 3 purple bows and one pink bow; candle holders

Gather around your Advent wreath as a family to pray.
Choose someone to be a leader.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Let us make the sign of our Baptism, † In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, bless us as we gather around our Advent wreath. May
it help us prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts. May the
light of his HOPE shine through each of us. Amen

HEARING GOD'S STORY

Today we begin a special Church season called Advent. The word
advent means 'to come.' It is a time we get ready to prepare for
Christmas. In our gospel story this week, Jesus tells us how to wait:
stay awake, pay attention, be ready. Advent is a time to get ready
to remember when Jesus came to live with us. But it is also a
chance to get our hearts ready for a time when Jesus will come
again. How do you think we can get ready to greet Jesus at
Christmas? Talk about it.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE (PURPLE)

God our Father, during the first week of Advent, we ask you to
fill our hearts with HOPE as we journey toward Christmas. As
we light this purple candle, let us remember that Jesus wants
us to be a light of HOPE to others. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

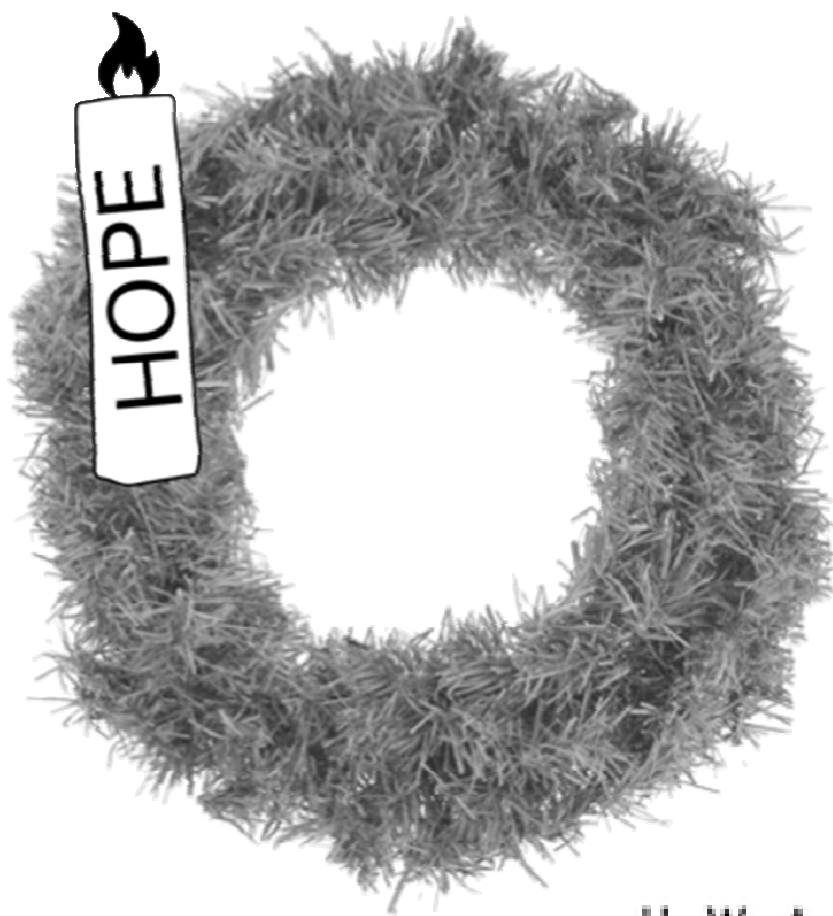
(SUNG TO THE TUNE
OF TWINKLE TWINKLE
LITTLE STAR)

Advent candle shine so bright
Let us see HOPE in your light
Help us chase the dark away
As we wait for Christmas day
Advent candle shine so bright
Let us see HOPE in your light.

LET US PRAY:

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas
All: Come, Jesus, send us your HOPE
As we find ways to help others during Advent
All: Come, Jesus, send us your HOPE
As we remember those who are sick or lonely
All: Come, Jesus, send us your HOPE

As we remember those who have died
All: Come, Jesus, send us your HOPE
As we bring our own needs to you (name them)
All: Come, Jesus, send us your HOPE
Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us: Our
Father, who art in heaven....



Create an
ADVENT TREE
of
PRAYERS

This week, create an Ornament of Prayer for Hopes and Dreams. Use it to begin your Advent Tree of Prayers and to guide you through the first week of Advent.

Advent Word Search

Watch	Dawn
Come	Time
Midnight	Evening
Ready	Morning
Master	

U	W	A	T	H	O	W	Y	S	W	U
M	O	R	N	I	N	G	T	I	E	L
A	T	Y	U	T	K	U	A	G	V	P
S	U	N	H	A	Y	C	O	M	E	Y
T	I	M	E	W	I	H	P	A	N	D
E	C	B	W	U	E	W	I	E	I	A
R	E	A	D	Y	L	A	N	O	N	L
Y	H	O	A	E	I	T	E	H	G	E
S	A	R	W	L	S	C	P	Y	H	W
M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	W	O	R
A	T	E	K	U	A	O	U	S	F	I

Check out the **BROTHER FRANCIS** Advent videos on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/6pxPAIw2abo>



Advent Reflection Week 1: “Honey, we’re pregnant!”

From Loyal Press,
www.loyolapress.com

Few statements carry as much emotion as the one that titles this piece, especially for those who have almost given up after years of disappointment and false hopes. So we can imagine the response of one couple, the biblical Abraham and Sarah, who against all odds not only become pregnant, but models of faith in the process.

It’s both a cliché and an understatement to say that God is a God of surprises, but it’s true. Theologian and novelist Frederick Buechner goes further and says that while we easily see tragedy of the stories of scripture, we must also see their comedy, when, as he says, “What shouldn’t happen, what couldn’t possibly happen . . . happens!”—like the resurrection, like the ne’er-do-well son welcomed home again, like the birth of Abraham and Sarah’s son Isaac, whose name means “Son of Laughter.” Advent should leave our faces streaked with tears of laughter at ourselves for thinking we had figured God out!

But Abraham and Sarah are Advent pillars not only because grace broke into their lives, but also because they trusted the God who made the promise. Saint Paul considers Abraham to be our father in faith not because of any qualifying deeds, but because he trusted that the promises of God would be fulfilled. We find God in surprising moments of grace, and we also find God in the experiences that call for patient waiting and trust.

Waiting is not the strong suit of many of us in our hurry-up culture. Everything is urgent. Hope is foreign to people who expect quick relief, cures, and solutions. We struggle to guard Advent jealously because popular culture short-circuits this season of hope: We are tempted to go directly to celebrating Christmas without getting in touch with the part of ourselves that is longing, hoping, and trusting.

Waiting is also difficult because we’re forced to admit that we are not in control—God is. A friend who recently became pregnant experienced an awed helplessness as the natural process advanced within her body. Her husband also could only wait with her, loving and supporting her and their unborn child, but unable to accelerate the process.

For all their drama, the words “Honey, we’re pregnant,” uttered by a tear-streaked, wrinkle-faced 90-year-old Sarah to wobbly, unbelieving Abraham, or by an amazed, teenaged Mary to an equally confounded Joseph, indicate not the joy of birth—not quite yet—but the amazing surprise of love, and the beginning of a season of waiting, when God-is-with-us.

Advent Waiting by D Todd Williamson, Director of the Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago

Waiting in line can be one of two experiences. See if you identify with the examples below:

First Example: Waiting in Dread

You’re standing in line at the post office or the grocery store, waiting for your turn. You’re tapping your foot and keep looking at your watch. You don’t want to be in this line. Before long, you begin to think, “Oh, I can’t wait for this to be over!” Often times, the other people in line with you feel the same way! No one speaks to anyone else. Clearly few are enjoying the experience; the impatience or irritability you feel might even be visible on your face. Such an experience of waiting in line can seem isolating, almost lonely.

Second Example: Waiting in Excitement

Now think about the times when you waited in line at an amusement park, to buy tickets to see your favorite baseball team, or to hear your favorite band. In these instances, the waiting is much different. People are excited and you might even be talking to some of them about the ride you’re getting ready to experience, the sports team that you love, or the band you’re about to hear. This second example is the kind of waiting we are called to in Advent.

Waiting in Joyful Hope

At Mass, after praying the Lord’s Prayer, we hear “. . . as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” This prayer reminds us that during Advent, we wait in joy, in hope, and in anticipation for the wonderful event we are about to experience—the feast of Christmas, the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. As the Church, we wait during Advent and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son

into the world to save us. This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of the hope that God promises us as we prepare for Christ in the feast of Christmas.

Hmmm, Advent, waiting in Joyful Hope?

What is this About? *From Colleen Keane*

As I ponder the questions, I ask myself, what in the world is this waiting in joyful hope all about? What exactly does it mean in my life? I try to do good, to give to the poor, comfort the sick, to be patient with everyone, to be prayerful and joyful but how am I REALLY doing? My pondering has brought me back to one of my lived experiences, an epiphany moment as it were. I have shared this with you before but it bears repeating in the context of the Advent season.

I was about to begin another week as camp cook. I was in Costco picking up some supplies. As usual, I was in a great big hurry, and I am not even sure why. The campers were not due until tomorrow! None the less I found myself becoming irritated and impatient standing in the long line waiting to check out.

Looking around, my mind began to wander and create the stories of the very diverse group of folks also standing, and waiting. There was no one who looked much like me. The woman ahead of me, heavily pregnant and barking at three small children, pushed a cart that overflowed with sugary cereals and microwave dinners. Behind me, with a load of frozen hors d'oeuvres, were two men who had so many tattoos their skin color looked blue. In the next lane was a family from Africa wearing colorful headgear and speaking to one another in their native language. Behind them, was a very heavy woman in a motorized chair carrying multiple boxes of sugar-free candy. I felt like I was from Mars.

There I stood in my isolation, daring to create in my mind, their stories! I overheard the tattooed men talking behind me. They were talking about a wedding; one was the groom, and the other the best man. I turned a bit toward them, listening. Together they were fussing about how many frozen mini quiches would be enough for the reception. The tattooed groom confessed to being nervous. I smiled to myself. "How much food" was familiar territory for me. So, I leaned over their cart and said: "Congratulations! I heard you say you're getting married!" The two men beamed at me, the groom gushing forth information about his beautiful bride, the best man asking my opinion about the mini quiches.

Soon, the woman in the chair joined the conversation. In a few minutes everyone, the tattooed men, the African family (who spoke very good English), the harried pregnant mother, and the woman in the electric chair, were all happily adding their bit to the wedding plans. We were so engrossed that we all forgot we were in a checkout line, and the clerks had to move us along.

I checked out, no longer feeling frustrated by the long line, but uplifted by the conversation just exchanged with perfect strangers. The rest of the way to camp, I reflected, smiling, on this episode. How easily I had focused first on what separated me from other people: surface things like tattoos and language, costume, disability and food choices. How easily I might have left the store that day with no idea how much I had in common with these people, people with families and dreams and hungers just like me. How easily, one small statement of recognition and friendliness had brought us together. Just a word, a smile, and we were all members of the wedding planning.

"Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." says Jesus in Mark's gospel. Reminded of the words from Fr. Jim in last week's homily about seeking Jesus in EACH person we meet I have to really think about myself. Just what is my default position? Am I at times, a natural enemy, different and separate from others? Or, do I get past myself and search for the common ground? Jesus is there in every person, the same Jesus who was born a long time ago, is with us daily and will come again!

Revisiting this memory now causes me to ask, 'How am I going to live out Advent'? Will I seek the right default position every time? Will I see the common ground, Jesus our Savior and King, in each person I encounter? May I suggest the next time you find yourself in a long line you might simply smile and say hello to the person in front of or behind you? We never know what may happen - the feast of Christmas, the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. I choose to do my very best to live this Advent waiting in joyful hope.



**He is Coming!
Are you ready?**