

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - December 21, 2025
CHRISTMAS * NEW YEAR'S DAY 2025

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel," which means, God with us." (Mt 1:23)

The Gospel of the birth of Jesus reveals the quiet yet profound faith of St. Joseph. He stands before a mystery he does not fully understand, yet he does not reject Mary or God's plan. In silence, he listens to God and allows His will to be more important than his own fears and expectations.

Joseph teaches us that faith does not always mean having all the answers, but trusting in God. By accepting Mary and the Child, he becomes the guardian of the Savior and a witness that God also works through what is fragile and unexpected. Emmanuel - "God with us" - comes into the world wherever a person opens themselves to His presence and allows Him to guide their life.

The final week of Advent is a time when we follow the story of the Birth of Jesus. Today's passage presents the events preceding the Nativity, but seen from the perspective of Saint Joseph.



The miracle of the Incarnation of the Son of God was made possible also through Joseph's obedient faith. When he learned that Mary was with child before they had lived together (they were already betrothed - the first stage of marriage, during which a man and a woman exchanged vows before witnesses and were from that moment considered legally married), Joseph was faced with a great dilemma. He could have suspected Mary of adultery. In that case, he would have been obliged to bring her before a public court and accuse her. However, he did not want to expose her to disgrace. Instead, he resolved to dismiss her quietly. As a righteous man, Joseph planned a divorce, but his righteousness was also expressed in mercy - he intended to separate not through a public trial, but in a more private way.

Joseph, however, was open to the Word of God. He accepted the assurance of the Angel that Mary's pregnancy was not the result of another man, but of the Holy Spirit, confirming the divine origin of the Child. At this moment, although Joseph is not the biological father of Jesus, he has an important role to play: he is to give the Child a name. According to Jewish tradition, naming a child meant acknowledging him as one's son. Thus, through Joseph's openness and courage, Jesus receives royal lineage from the house of David. Joseph is to name the Child Jesus, which in Hebrew means "the Lord is salvation." Jesus Himself is the One who brings salvation. He brings salvation from sin and grants each of us freedom by being Emmanuel - God with us, dwelling among us continually.

On the occasion of the Christmas holidays, we wish all Parishioners and Guests a joyful and blessed time, filled with God's grace, peace, and hope, as well as a fruitful Year 2026.

Let us remember the Sacrament of Confession before Christmas.

Confession is available before every Mass, and additionally on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 1 pm to 2 pm.

Parish News

***Christmas wafers** (oplatek) for the Christmas Eve table are available in the sacristy.

***Christmas visit to the sick** will take place on Monday, Dec. 22.

* **Vigil before the Midnight Mass (Pasterka)** will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 11 pm.

***Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** and the World Day of Peace on Thursday, Jan. 1. Masses at 9, 10:30 am, and 12:30 pm.

***First Thursday** – Jan. 1. Adoration and prayers for vocations begin at 6 pm.

***First Friday** – Jan. 2. After Holy Mass, there will be all-night Eucharistic adoration for reparation concluding on Saturday with Holy Mass at 8 am. Please sign up on the adoration list.

***First Saturday** – Jan. 3. At 7:15, am meditation on the Rosary mysterys and a Rosary of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Holy Mass at 8 am.

***Solemnity of the Epiphany** - Sunday, Jan. 4.

* **Meeting of the Living Rosary** will be held on Sunday, Jan. 4, after the 10:30 am Mass.

***The Conclusion of the Jubilee Year** will take place on Jan. 6.

***Parish Christmas Lunch** will take place on Sunday, Jan. 11

after 12:30 pm Mass. Tickets: \$30 (children \$15), available starting Sunday, Dec. 28 in the parish hall and at the Sisters' convent. Everyone is welcome. Organized by the CLW and the Parish Council.

***Christmas Carol Concert: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace..."** will take place on Saturday, Jan 17. Holy Mass at 5 pm, followed immediately by the concert.



Registration deadline: Jan. 11. Information and registration forms are available from Fr. Stanislaw.

***The last day to make donations** for 2025 is Sunday, Dec. 28. Donations made after this date will be recorded for the following year.

***The 2026 offering envelopes** are available for pick-up in the parish hall, along with the Christmas letter and program.

***We kindly ask parishioners to write their name and address** on their envelopes in January and February. This will help ensure that the envelopes number is correctly assigned to the appropriate person.

***Bulletin Advertisements:** We are accepting paid business ads for 2026. Contact: Mirka: 519-253-5863, htcwindsor@dol.ca

***Donations Dec 14:** W-D \$5,145; B-F \$6,755; Christmas \$230; Flowers \$110; Thanksgiving \$90; Retreat \$1,915. Thank you!

House Blessing

Dear Parishioners, to request a house blessing, please fill out the invitation form and place it in the basket. Forms are available at the back of the church. House blessings will begin after Christmas.

Deceased

***Stanislaw Lukawski.** The funeral took place on December 18.

***Sr. Renee Delisle.** The funeral will take place on December 29. Funeral Mass at 2 pm at St. Dominique Church in Quebec City. We commend the deceased to God's mercy. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the immediate family and to the Ursuline Sisters.

Thanksgiving

***We sincerely thank** everyone involved for their help in organizing the Advent breakfasts, decorating the church and the outdoor Christmas tree, and for their donations for flowers.

***A heartfelt thank you** for the donated food, gift cards, and monetary contributions. From the received donations, 12 care packages were prepared. *Parish Charity Group*



Other Announcements

***The Polish School Nativity Play** will take place today at 2 pm at the Polish Club. After the Nativity Play, Saint Nicholas will visit the children and youth. The gift packages are sponsored by European Market. We sincerely thank them.

***The Scouts' Christmas caroling** will take place on Jan 3. The youth will visit families who have previously expressed their willingness to receive them with carols. You may contact us at: kph.windsor@zhp.ca Czuwaj!

From the Diary of St. Faustina

"And there comes to pass the incomprehensible miracle of Your mercy, O Lord: the Word becomes Flesh, God dwells among us - the Word of God, Incarnate Mercy. Through Your abasement You have raised us to Your divinity; this is the excess of Your love, the abyss of Your mercy. The heavens marvel at this excess of Your love. Now no one fears to draw near to You. You are the God of mercy; You have compassion for our misery. You are our God, and we are Your people. You are our Father, and we are Your children by grace. May Your mercy be praised, for You have deigned to descend to us" (1745).

"O little Jesus, I earnestly beg You, enclose everyone in the ocean of Your incomprehensible mercy. O sweet little Jesus, You have my heart; may it be for You a pleasant and welcoming dwelling." (845)

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Merry Christmas
Joyeux Noel
Błogosławionych
Świąt Bożego Narodzenia
Happy New Year 2026
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku 2026

Christmas Program

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24** - Masses at 8 am & 5 pm
- Midnight, Dec. 24/25** - Prayer at 11pm
- Mass at midnight
- Christmas, Dec. 25** - Masses at 9 & 10:30 am, 12:30 pm
- 2nd day of Christmas, Dec. 26** - Masses at 10:30 am & 7 pm
- Holy Family Sunday, Dec. 28** - Masses at 9 & 10:30 am, 12:30 pm
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1** - Masses at 9 & 10:30 am, 12:30 pm
- Epiphany, Jan. 4** - Masses at 9 & 10:30 am, 12:30 pm