

Advent: The Noise of December

If you walked into a store this week, you probably noticed that Christmas has already happened. The playlists are running, the sales are ticking down, and our calendars are already overbooked with year-end deadlines, travel plans, and holiday parties. We live in an era of instant delivery and constant notifications. We rarely must wait for anything anymore—and when we do, we usually pull out our phones to fill the gap. Yet, right in the middle of this cultural sprint, the Church hands us Advent: a season that stubbornly asks us to slow down, sit in the dark, and wait.

1. Reclaiming Watchfulness

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to "stay awake" and "keep watch." In the ancient world, a watchman stood on the city walls in the pitch black, scanning the horizon for the first hint of dawn or an approaching messenger. Today, our struggle isn't falling asleep on a stone wall; it's spiritual distraction. We are hyper-connected to the news cycle, social media, and our inboxes, yet profoundly disconnected from our own souls. To "stay awake" in 2026 means resisting the autopilot of December busyness. It means choosing intentional quiet putting the phone in another room for ten minutes, breathing deeply, and asking: *Where is God trying to break into my actual, messy life right now?*

2. Hope Is Not Just Optimism

The first candle of Advent represents hope. Advent begins in the dark because it takes seriously the reality of our world: the grief of an empty chair at the holiday table, anxiety about the future, financial strain, and the fractured state of our global community. Advent hope doesn't pretend the darkness isn't there. Instead, it is the quiet, stubborn conviction that the darkness does not get the final word. It is lighting a single flame in a dim room and trusting that the dawn is already on its way.

3. Making Room in a Crowded Inn

We all know the story of Bethlehem having no room for Mary and Joseph. It's easy to judge the innkeeper, until we look at our own schedules and inner lives. Often, we don't reject God out of malice; we just crowd Him out with good, urgent, noisy things. Advent invites us to do a little spiritual decluttering. What resentment, perfectionism, or constant busyness is taking up all the space in your heart? Making room for Christ doesn't require a grand spiritual gesture—it starts with small acts of surrender, reconciliation, and unhurried presence with the people right in front of us.

Advent prayer

Lord, as the world rushes toward the holidays, give us the courage to step off the treadmill. Teach us how to wait without anxiety, how to hope without denial, and how to clear away the noise so that when You arrive, You find a home ready to welcome You. Amen.



Light Up for Christ

Join the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:50pm. At precisely 8:00 pm the lights will be lit in the manger scene and will simultaneously be lit all over Ontario!! Please Join us for refreshments in the parish hall after the lighting.

Everyone is welcome!

FEAST DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF



THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 7:00pm

Parish Advent Confessions

Parish Advent Confessions scheduled for
Wednesday, December 16,2026 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm



CHRISTMAS CAROLS &MUSIC CONCERT
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

Save the date for our Music Ministry celebration concert Saturday, December 12 at 6:30pm in the church. The concert features the different choirs of our parish as well as our cantors and instrumentalists.

As we approach the holy season of Christmas, the music ministry is looking for new members. Do you play piano or another musical instrument? We would love to hear from you too!
For more information, please contact Esteban Cambre at 416-271-3710 or email him at ecambre@gmail.com

Confirmation Prep Schedule

Students enrolled in our Sacrament Preparation Class for Confirmation next preparation class will be on **Saturday, December 5, 2026.** Sign-in at 8:45 am in the Lobby.

First Holy Communion Prep Schedule

Next preparation class is on
Saturday, December 12, 2026.
Sign-in at 8:30 am in the lobby.

Youth Group Meeting

Discover, connect and enrich ourselves in God's teachings with young bright and eager souls like yourself. Activities and meetings held bi-weekly.
Next meeting Sunday, December 6th at 11:00 am

Knights of Columbus - New Years Bash 2027
Thursday, December 31, 2026

$60.00 per person, includes excellent food, good music and great prizes to be won. Tickets are limited, if interested please contact:
Stephen de Souza at 416-418-5987

Please Pray For All The Sick

Rosalyn Francisco, John Arbour, Thelma Varquez, Marco Enriquez, Christian Sychangco, Paul Rodrigues, Lenny Naluz, Annie Hurley, Miyanna Figueroa, Mariana Weglinski, and Aissa Aro.

And we pray for those whose death anniversaries occur about this time that they may live in glory forever with God and all the Saints.

Masses For The Week

8:30 am — Monday, November 30

For the repose of the soul of Denis Noronha;
Requested by the Mascarenhas Family

For the repose of the soul of Maffie De Cunha;
Requested by the Clyne Family

Special Intentions and Birthday Blessings for Callum Phoenix;
Requested by the Couto Family

8:30 am — Tuesday, December 1

For the repose of the soul of Stan Couto;
Requested by the Couto Family

For the repose of the souls of Eliza & Edward Moniz;
Requested by the Rebello Family

Thanksgiving and Special Intentions;
Requested by the Martinez Family

8:30 am — Wednesday, December 2

For the repose of the soul of Guia Reyes;
Requested by Penny Hipolito

For the repose of the soul of Genevive Lobo Pires Andrade;
Requested by Debra Couto & Family

Special Intentions and Birthday Blessings for Shaun Mascarenhas;
Requested by the Family

8:30 am — Thursday, December 3

For the repose of the souls of Joao Sergio Silveira and Virginia Silva;
Requested by Virginia Luis

For the repose of the souls of Joaquim Fernandes and all deceased family members;
Requested by Maria Fernandes and Family

8:30 am — Friday, December 4

For the repose of the soul of Fred Weber;
Requested by Mary, Joseph & Family

Thanksgiving and Special Intentions;
Requested by the Pinto Family

9:00 am — Saturday, December 5

For the repose of the soul of Aramita Norona;
Requested by the Mascarenhas Family

For the repose of the soul of Margaret McMurray;
Requested by Catherine & Dan Kaloutsky

For the repose of the soul of Edgardo Lazaro;
Requested by the Dy Family

5:00 pm

For the repose of the soul of Yvon Monteiro;
Requested by the Thomas Family

For the repose of the soul of Maria Jorgina Pereira;
Requested by the Family

For the repose of the soul of Leticia Halili;
Requested by Rosa & Ivo Villa

8:00 am — Sunday, December 6

For the repose of the soul of Tiago Leite;
Requested by Maria Leite

For the repose of the soul of Bariek Bosek;
Requested by Krzysztof Cop

Special Intentions and Birthday Blessings for Antoinette Muscat;
Requested by the Zammit Family

10:00 am

For the Intentions of the Parishioners.

12:00 pm - Multiple Intentions

+ ***Yolanda & Twistleton Bertrand***
+ ***Joan D'Souza***
+ ***Carlos Amaral & Jose Francisco***
+ ***Victorio Gonzales***
+ ***Josephine Gomes***

Special Intentions and Birthday Blessings for;
Chris Concepcion Hortillo
Luca Andrade

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, November 30

1:30 pm Line Dancing – Carmel Hall
7:00 pm Beginners Line Dancing – Carmel Hall

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus General Meeting – Assisi
7:50 pm Light up for Christ – Outdoors & Carmel Hall

Wednesday, December 2

1:00 pm The Sewing Social – Lisieux Room

Thursday, December 3

7:30 pm Choir Practice - Church

Friday, December 4

6:00 pm God's Family Choir Practice – Assisi Room

Saturday, December 5

8:45 am Confirmation Prep Class – Church
9:30 am Lay Carmelites Advent Retreat – Carmel Hall

Gifts of Flowers

At this time of preparation, we offer parishioners the opportunity to donate funds to our Christmas Altar Flowers. Please use envelope in the donation box or pick one up on the table in front of the parish office. Thank you for your contribution to preparing our altar for this beautiful season.



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to:
Weekly Total: $5,951.25