

**THE 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT – SOME MUSINGS**

*“You must be prepared for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”*

The morning was foggy and damp; fog deadened sound and the birds, normally noisy this time of day, fell silent. My heart was heavy and sad as I made my breakfast and sat to eat. My devotions that morning did little to lift the gloom that seemed to fill my home and the sound of the radio irritated me. Just as I was “screwing my courage to the sticking place,” to face what I thought might be a dreary day, a knock at my door and the sound of a key turning the lock heralded the visit of my eldest son. We sat and had coffee together, chatting about his plans and mine for the day. It was an unexpected visit and one that raised my drooping heart.

Still not all unexpected visits have that same effect. There are those that catch us unaware and unready for a guest of any ilk. So as I sat down to write, I asked myself what my preparedness would be if my Lord came to visit one day. I hope He would find me ready to welcome Him but I wonder if that’s true. There’s a lovely story about a fellow who was told to expect a visit from his Lord that day. He waited, and each time someone knocked at his door he expected to find the Lord; instead on one occasion he was met by a poor fellow who had no food which the man supplied. On another it was an old woman whose threadbare coat didn’t keep her warm in the cold so he gave her his dead wife’s brand new coat. The last visit was from a child who had no shoes and he gave him a pair that he’d kept that had belonged to his son. As he knelt to pray that night, he asked the Lord why He’d not come as He’d promised. A voice from above said to him, “I did come. I was that hungry fellow, that cold old woman and that shoeless child. Each time you met their needs you were serving Me.”

There are wonderful lessons to be learned here. First, the person waiting for the Lord was ready to serve Him. The fact that the Lord appeared in the person in need should keep us mindful that each person we meet during the course of our day is one made in the image and likeness of God and in treating them with love and caring concern we serve our Father and Saviour. There’s also the lesson that we everything we do either helps to make this world a better place or places potholes in the path to salvation.

I’m sure that if we knew absolutely the hour when Jesus will return in glory we’d prepare ourselves for that event by doing all the good that we may have left undone in the past. But since we’ve no idea when that day is, we need to start doing those things right now, right here and right away. No one likes to be taken unaware. Some surprises are lovely but there are those that can leave us a bit shaken and the coming of our Lord when we’re not prepared would leave us as Elvis said, “All shook up!”

Each day our Lord sends us His love in so many different and awe-inspiring ways. The other evening as I was preparing dinner for friends, I glanced out the window and was stunned by the glory of the sun as it set. The last light of day had painted the sky with brilliant crimson, deep cerulean blue and royal purple. I stood silent for a moment in the midst of final preparation and watched in wonder as the sun set and left the world in darkness. Such miracles never cease to amaze me.

Growing up in the foothills of Alberta, I was blessed on cold winter nights with the sight of Northern Lights. I can still see those brilliant colours as they danced across the dark Alberta sky. Our family often stood in wonder as the recital of lights held us spellbound. There was no artificial light and the brilliance was amazing. I wonder now if that display was meant to prepare us for the coming of Lord at the end of time for I’m sure His arrival will be announced with glorious colours and great pageant.

Advent has begun and as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord as an infant in Bethlehem, let’s remember what this time is all about and find ways to prepare to celebrate His birth and prepare ourselves for His second coming. Wishing you a Happy New Year and many small miracles.

Betty Bruch



**DECEMBER 1, 2019**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SACRED HEART PARISH**

Sacred Heart Church  
24 Albert St.  
Langton, ON



St. Michael’s Church  
978 St. John’s Road  
Walsh, ON



**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday – 5:00 pm  
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael’s)  
Sunday – 10:30 am

**Daily Mass**

Tues. – 5:00 pm  
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

**Reconciliation**

20 min. prior to weekday mass  
Sat. 4-4:45 pm  
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael’s)

**Mailing address**

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**Fr. Thomas e-mail:** [tckuriacko@dol.ca](mailto:tckuriacko@dol.ca)

**Parish Clergy**

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor

Jack Grim, Deacon

Brian Hanley, Deacon

**Office Hours:** Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

**Baptisms** – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required

**Schools** – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael’s, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:**

*“What of all things in the world, is the longest and the shortest, the swiftest and the lowest, the most divisible and the most extended, the most neglected and the most regretted, without which nothing can be done, which devours all that is little, and enlivens all that is great?” Question put to Zadig in Voltaire’s ‘Zadig – a Mystery of Fate.’ Zadig replied: ‘Time.’*

St. Paul in today’s Second Reading from the letter to Romans writes, ‘Now is the right moment for you to wake from sleep.’ This is the text that stimulated St. Augustine’s conversion. Paul lays down here a general principle of Christian morality – doing away with bad habits and renewing oneself. In the midst of a world of faithlessness, the relevance of Paul’s words is all the more strong: “Our salvation is near ... let us live decently as people go in the day-time.” Let us make proper use of this given time to make amendments in our personal lives.

During this Advent we are urged to prepare ourselves through prayer and fasting to celebrate worthily the birth of Christ. Jesus ‘comes’ to us and we must be ‘ready’ to welcome him. He comes to his own, and we must accept him with open arms, open hearts and open minds. We do not wait for him, as we do for a friend, at a railway station, or an airport, to receive him in an ordinary way. Jesus wants to find us engaged in doing our duty when he comes. We have to “watch and pray,” we have to “take” time off for our daily prayer and keep a relationship with him lest he should find us wanting when he arrives. Then the “unknown” hour will turn into an hour of joyful reunion with our Lord.

May the advent this year be a time of rethinking, a time of renewal, a time of refreshment and rejuvenation, a time of satisfaction, recommitment and rededication for everyone.

**“GOD BLESS YOU ALL!! HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON!!”**

Fr. Thomas

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

<b>WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON</b>			
DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Dec 3/19	5:00 pm	• Holy Souls in Purgatory	• Suzanne
Wed Dec 4/19	9:30 am	• Dorothy Sanders	• CWL Langton
	7:00 pm	<b>Walsh CWL Meeting</b>	
Thurs Dec 5/19	9:30 am	• Tracey Anseeuw	• Reg & Frances Godelie
Fri Dec 6/19	9:30 am <b>Adoration</b> 11 am - 4 pm	• A special intention  <b>Visiting the house-bound</b>	• Suzanne

<b>DATES TO REMEMBER</b>		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed Dec 4/19	7:00 pm	Walsh CWL Meeting
Mon Dec 9/19	6:30 pm	Langton CWL Christmas Party
Wed Dec 11/19	9:30 am	Advent School Mass for SHS at SHC
	1:45 pm	Advent School Mass for OLFS at OLFS
Thurs Dec 12/19	1:45 pm	Advent School Mass for STMS at STMC
Wed Dec 18/19	6:30 pm	Christmas Concert for SHS at SHC
Thurs Dec 19/19	6:30 pm	Christmas Concert for OLFS at SHC
Tues Dec 24/19	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Children's Mass (All 3 schools) at SHC

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AT CARESSANT CARE AT MASSES**

Volunteers are needed for once a month at Caressant Care Courtland for the year 2020. Working in teams of two people, the volunteers would be required approx. 3 times through the year. The volunteers would assist in setting up the Chapel, bringing the Catholic residents to the Chapel, and returning them after the service. For more information please contact Marguerite DeBackere at 519-875-4777.

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Tues Dec 3/19: St. Francis Xavier  
Sat Dec 7/19: St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

**LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS FOR SACRED HEART, LANGTON**

**DECEMBER 7/8**

*Saturday (5 pm)*

Lector: Jeanette Major  
Eucharistic Minister: Mary DeCloet

*Sunday (10:30 am)*

Lector: Godelieve Townsend  
Eucharistic Ministers: Marg DeBackere, Christine Denn

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY – NOV.23/24, 2019**

**St. Michael's**

Regular Envelope \$ 400.00  
Thanksgiving Appeal \$ 10.00  
Loose \$ 108.60

**Sub-Total \$ 518.60**

**Sacred Heart**

Regular Envelope \$ 1,280.00  
Thanksgiving Appeal \$ 50.00  
Christmas \$ 50.00  
Building Fund \$ 360.00  
Loose \$ 100.00

**Sub-Total \$ 1,840.00**

**Total \$ 2,358.60**



**FARM DUTY 5HP 220 SINGLE PHASE MOTOR FOR SALE**

At Sacred Heart Church, Langton, there is 1 5HP 220 single phase motor for sale, only used for a short time. Cost \$300. Anyone interested, please contact the Parish Office at 519-875-4438.

*Money says earn me. Calendar says turn me. Time says plan me. Future says win me. Beauty says love me. God simply says remember me.*

**ST. MICHAEL'S CWL NEWS**

**COME & MEET SANTA**

We would like to invite all the young children of the parish, to come out and meet Santa on Sunday December 8th after the 8:30 am mass in the basement of the church. The young at heart are also welcome.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Our Christmas Luncheon this year will be held at the Erie Beach cove room on December 8th 2019. Please arrive at 12:15 pm. We will be eating at 12:30 pm. All parishioners, family, friends are welcome. We are ordering the food off the menu. We hope to see you all there. We always have a good time.

**CWL MEETING**

Our next CWL meeting will be on Wednesday December 11th at 7:00 pm in the basement of St. Michael's Church. All women are welcome. Come and enjoy an evening out.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Since Christmas cards will be sent out soon, please remember to save the canceled stamps. We will continue to send them on to the London Diocesan CWL to help prevent leprosy.

**PORT DOVER/ WALSH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - GIVING TREE**

On Sunday Dec. 1st the giving tree will be set up at the back of St. Michael's church. The giving tree will contain tags with food or gifts items needed to fill Christmas baskets for families in our local community. Please feel free to take one or more tags, purchase the items and return them to the giving tree unwrapped with the tag attached, by Sunday December 15th. Our St. Vincent de Paul helps people from all over Norfolk County and last year we distributed approximately 40 Christmas baskets thanks to your contributions. We look forward to your generosity again this year. If anyone would like to donate their time we will be packing the boxes on Saturday December 21st at St. Cecilia's in Port Dover from 9-10:30am, this a great opportunity for high school students to get volunteer hours. Thank you in advance for your generosity and have a Merry Christmas.



**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS DECEMBER 24th**

5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Children's Mass - All 3 Schools

10:00 pm - Mass (Sunday Choir)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:30 am - Christmas Day Mass - St. Michael's

10:30 am - Christmas Day Mass - Sacred Heart

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

December 31st 5:00 pm Mass - Sacred Heart

January 1st 8:30 am Mass - St. Michael's  
10:30 am Mass - Sacred Heart

**2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES BOXED SETS**

The 2020 boxed sets of Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup at the back of the church before and after all weekend Masses.

**SUNDAY MISSALS**

The Living With Christ Sunday Missals for 2019 – 2020 are available for purchase at the back of the Church. The price is \$5.00 each. You may also purchase your copy at the Parish Office during Office Hours.

**LANGTON CWL NEWS**

**"EUROPEAN THEMED" CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The CWL is hosting a special "European Themed" Christmas bake sale at Sacred Heart Church on December 7, 2019 from 9 am to 11 am. If you ordered a pie (s) it will be available for pick up at our bake sale. Please call Liz Deli at 519-875-4738 or 519-429-0771 if you have any questions.

**THE CWL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The CWL Christmas party will be on Monday December 9, 2019 at the Carriage house in Tillsonburg. The cost for tickets are \$20 per person. Supper is at 6:30 pm. For more information, please call Cindy Erdelac at 519-875-2840. The cut off date to purchase tickets is Monday December 2, 2019. Please join us and have a great night!!