

THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT – SOME MUSINGS

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. . .”

The wind was blowing in the pre-dawn of a cool day. The sun had not yet crested the horizon and the world seemed wrapped in the still, slumbering day. As I said my morning devotions, a peace came over me and when I sat at the computer, I found no words to express the great comfort I felt knowing that the Lord had heard my prayer and would answer in His own time and for my best interest. I re-read the readings for the weekend and I asked myself what kind of stock of grain I was. I would like to think that I’m the wheat that will be gathered into the barns and not the chaff that will be burned with unquenchable fire.

I remember harvest time on our ranch. It was a time of celebration, especially when the harvest was good. Dad would hire men to assist and neighbouring men would come as well. Mealtimes were busy and fun as we listened to their stories. We gathered the grain into granaries, baled the straw and watch the chaff blow away in the wind. The image of the chaff being burned in an unquenchable fire tells me that I’d best make sure that I live and grow into the woman He needs to work as His disciple or like that useless chaff I’ll be blown away or burned and forever separated from Him. Perhaps that unquenchable fire will be the burning desire to be with Him but because of my life choices and the things I’ve done, or left undone here, I’ll not ever see His face.

The images in Isaiah and the gospel of building up and tearing down remind me of that passage from the book of Ecclesiastes in which the writer says, “To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, a time to die, a time plant and a time to uproot.” Advent gives us that time to uproot from our lives whatever it is that holds us back from doing His will. It is a time to slow down and focus our lives on those things that will build His kingdom here. It is a time for wonder and awe as we contemplate His coming as an infant so many centuries ago in a manger in Bethlehem. Advent gives us another opportunity to re-commit our lives to Him.

Every year I set up my Nativity set. We’d collected it over the years and it is the one thing that helps me prepare for Christmas in a meaningful way. I set it up with great care so nothing gets broken or chipped. I pray with each piece as I reflect on what each represented character might have thought or said or wondered about. There are some characters that would not have been present. For example; there’s the woman at the well and a mother and her child. But this year as I picked up the innkeeper, I wondered about him. He is kneeling, holding a lamp in his outstretched hand. Was he ashamed that he’d allow his quest for gold to outweigh his compassion for a young husband and his pregnant wife? Was he so shackled to his busy life that he didn’t consider ways in which he might have been of assistance? We’ll never know the answers to those questions but as I asked them, I reminded myself to guard against those things in my own life. I want to be a compassionate person, willing to assist where there is need. I want to set aside my own wants to meet the needs of others.

Advent is a perfect time to re-assess our faith practices. Rather than spending time running about like chickens with no heads, let’s remember that time is not something we find, it’s something we make and let’s make time to ponder the real meaning of this time. Let’s set aside time during the course of our days to seek ways to assist others, to help carry their burdens, to work with others to make this season one of peace, hope, love and joy. Together we can make this world a bit more like the one of which Isaiah visions, one where the lion lies down with lamb and we work toward peace and joy.

Wishing you another week of Advent blessings and many small miracles.

Betty Bruch



DECEMBER 8, 2019

THE 2ND 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

Box 8, Langton, ON N0E 1G0

Phone: 519-875-4438

E-mail: sacredheartlangton@dol.ca

Fr. Thomas e-mail: 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 PASTORS DESK :

St. Paul in today’s Second Reading envisions and speaks of a Kingdom of Christ in which Jews as well as Gentiles, peoples of all nations, will live in harmony, because he is God of all. Just as he welcomes everyone, to partake of the joys of his Kingdom, we must extend a welcome to one another, ‘united in body and mind’ to offer glory to God.

The Advent figure of John the Baptist is the dominating theme of today’s Gospel. John’s attitude was one of self-obliteration, self-giving, self-forgetting; he acknowledged cheerfully his role of path maker - preparing the way for the one who is to come.

John’s aim was to motivate us to observe the celebration of the coming of the Lord in the right way:

- Preparing ourselves for Christmas: This means going beyond just outward preparation and helping to bring the peace and joy of Christmas to the family and the community.
- Preparing the way for the Lord in our hearts: If we ourselves do not possess the Spirit of the Lord, how can we give it to others?
- Preparing the way of the Lord: The infant born in Bethlehem changed the world. So we too have the mission to change ourselves first and invite others to change. We must take to heart the message of Christmas and illuminate the world by the Light that came into the world.

During Advent this year, the season of preparation for the coming of the Lord, let us offer a personal welcome to Christ even as we pray: “O God open our hearts in welcome to Christ even as we pray : “O God, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that prevent us from receiving Christ with joy.”

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!!

Fr. Thomas

Life is too short. So love deeply and forgive quickly. Take the good with the bad. Smile when you’re sad. Love what you got and always remember what you had. People change and things go wrong. But realize no matter what.

LIFE GOES ON

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON

DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Dec 10/19	5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger Spriet Hector & Sandra Verhoeve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Spriet Family Donna Huff
Wed Dec 11/19	9:30 am 1:45 pm	Advent School Mass for SHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorothy Sanders Advent School Mass for OLFS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For vocations to priesthood & religious life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solange & Ricky Fitch
Thurs Dec 12/19	9:30 am 1:45 pm	Advent School Mass for STMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariette Sinnesael Ralph Esbaugh Jeanne DeLeeBeeck Annie Racz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary DeCloet St. Michael's CWL Len & Patti Brinker Armin & Frances Kunkel
Fri Dec 13/19	9:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorothy Sanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stella & Jane Loncke

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon Dec 9/19	6:30 pm	Langton CWL Christmas Party
Wed Dec 11/19	9:30 am 1:45 pm	Advent School Mass for SHS at SHC 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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Mon Dec 9/19:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thurs Dec 12/19:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Fri Dec 13/19:	St. Lucy
Sat Dec 14/19:	St. John of the Cross

I asked a monk how to feel tall. He just smiled and bowed.



LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS FOR SACRED HEART, LANGTON

DECEMBER 14/15

Saturday (5 pm)

Lector: Phil Verhegghe
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Brian

Sunday (10:30 am)

Lector: Marleen Vandewiele
Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Brian & Marg DeBackere

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – NOV.30/DEC 1, 2019

Thanks!

St. Michael's

Regular Envelope	\$ 315.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 30.00
Building Fund	\$ 45.00

Sub-Total \$ 420.00

Sacred Heart

Regular Envelope	\$ 723.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 75.00
Loose	\$ 28.00
Building Fund	\$ 95.00

Sub-Total \$ 921.00

Total \$ 1,341.00

It is impossible to find a Saint- who did not take the two P's seriously- Prayer and Penance. (St. Francis Xavier)

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.

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.

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.



ST. MICHAEL'S CWL NEWS

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.



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

LANGTON CWL NEWS

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!!

SOCKS FOR THE SOUL MISSION CAMPAIGN

Thank you Sacred Heart Church for the success of collection the "Socks for the Soul Mission Campaign". We collected 477 articles. 139 pairs of socks, 240 hats, 57 mittens, 2 headbands, 2 vests, 2 jackets, 1 hoodie and 20 scarves. We are diving them between St. Vincent de Paul Delhi, Walsh, Simcoe and our own Langton Lions Club to be handed out at Christmas. The CWL have added \$100 worth of mittens. A bag of hats, gloves and socks have been sent to the natives in Thunder bay through Larry & Karen Wiebe of Port Rowan. Everyone has been so generous this year in trying to keep warm hands, heads & feet of the needy . On behalf of the CWL, Thank you so much with all your help with this project. Mary Anne Kersten.