

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – SOME MUSINGS

“Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?”

Opposites attract so we’re told. And Isaiah seems to confirm that old adage. Usually, lions and lambs are not lying down together unless, of course, the lamb is in the belly of the lion! Yet Isaiah speaks of a world where there is great peace among all things in God’s creation. He speaks too, of one to come who will heal all the ills of world, those of the people and those of nations and warring factions. He speaks of the coming of the Promised One, whose name shall be called “Wonder, Counsellor, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” It’s a world so unlike the one in which we presently live that it’s hard to imagine. I suspect it’s very unlike the one in which John the Baptist found himself. He’s been thrown into prison because his message of one coming who will rule the world with justice has angered King Herod. It’s no wonder then that he asks his captors to inquire of Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?”

The Israelites had waited centuries for the coming of the Messiah. It’s easy to become impatient. There’s a wonderful book by Shell Silverstein called “The Place You’ll Go” and in it he talks about coming to the “waiting place” where one waits for a train to come or one’s hair to grow. Waiting for an anticipated event can leave us edgy and discouraged. Imagine yourself in John’s place. He’s the one who is the prophet of the Most High and goes before Him to prepare His way, yet still he will die at the hands of Herod. I wonder if Jesus’ answer gives him some peace of mind or would he like to have seen the Lord just one more time.

We aren’t waiting for coming of the Messiah as an infant. That’s already been accomplished. What we’re waiting for is the coming of our Lord in glory. Will it happen in our lifetime? We don’t have the answer to that question: that answer is held closely by the Father. Since we don’t know the exact time we need to prepare for His coming every day of our lives. While we wait, let’s not stand around with our hands in our pockets; let’s spend time with Him and with His people. In doing so, we’ll be ready when He does come. There are those who try to frighten us, telling us that the wars, the floods, the hurricanes and other natural disasters are

signs of the coming of the end. Perhaps they are. But we shouldn’t live in fear. So often throughout Scripture we’re told not to be afraid. Why don’t we just believe that?

We had a period not long ago of freezing rain followed by snow. The trees hung with ice and the table on my deck looked a bit like a slab cake with a lovely lace fringe. I was glad that I didn’t have to go out in that but the view from my windows was stunning. The world was pristine and white, a virtual fairy land, little was moving. I was safe in my home with my fireplace on, and food on the table. These are blessings of a very precious kind. I considered those who live on the streets without the benefit of those comforts and said a fervent prayer for their safety. I reflected on John, lying in a prison; a prison that looked nothing like what we have today. It was unlit, unheated and for the most part, prisoners were unfed.

John knows his mission. When his father first speaks after being struck dumb early in his wife’s pregnancy, he sets before his listeners the blueprint for John’s life. “You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High to go before the Lord, to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.” Therefore it should not surprise us that John asks, “Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?”

Jesus has come to set us free and what we await now is His coming in glory. As we continue our Advent journey we need to ensure that our hearts are ready for Him when He comes to us in His sacraments and His presence in others. Let’s awaken our hearts to the reality that His kingdom is near; we need to cleanse our hearts of all anger and dissension, of quarrelling and hatred. Let’s look out on the white, still world and make that same peace and quiet present in our souls. Let’s welcome Him with open arms, with open eyes, with open ears and with great joy for He truly has come to set us free.

Wishing you a week of Advent peace and many small miracles.

Betty Bruch



DECEMBER 15, 2019

THE 3RD 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

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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 PASTOR’S DESK:

We celebrate Christmas every year and sing the song, “Joy to the world, the Lord has come!” and then we go back to reading the papers after Christmas and ask, “So where is the kingdom?” Is Jesus the one or shall we look for another? Jesus’ answer to them was to tell John about the healing, the transformation, and the power of the Gospel given to the poor they have seen. The message Jesus sends to John and to us is that the power of Christ’s coming is found not in the sound and fury of battle but in the changes within human hearts and lives.

We see the power of Christ’s coming at Christmas most vividly not in the brightness of our lights, the glitter of our decorations, the sound of our choirs, the size of our trees or the number of our gifts. The power of Christ’s coming is shown in his entry into human lives to dwell there as a source of strength, faith and redemption. The real miracles of the Messiah occur every day within human hearts.

The inner change that Jesus came to bring about in the human soul is the necessary condition for any abiding change in our world. A corrupt heart will corrupt everything it touches. A healed heart can heal its environment.

Can the Lord give us inner peace, a healing of the soul and the strength to bring reconciliations to our life and through our life? If He has done it for others, He can do it for you also. Can the Lord help us see in the circumstances of our life - illness, loss and anxiety - a way of discipleship, a way to a deeper life? If He has done it for others, He can do it for you also. Can the Lord give us the courage, vision, and ability to see beyond the present moment in our life to the larger picture of God’s design? If He has done it for others He can do it for you also.

Advent is a good time to identify whatever is keeping us from experiencing this power of the Messiah. Maybe the question we should ask is not “What we want for Christmas?” but “What we want from Christmas?” What do we want the Messiah to do in our life?

Part of the deep joy of Advent and of Christmas comes from our knowledge that the Messiah came to bring life to the dead places in our heart, to help us recover spiritual vitality in our soul, to remove the desert of sin in our lives. Having Christ in our life comes with opening our soul in the sacrament of Penance, to decide to take the teaching of Jesus to heart and to see our neighbour, whether that neighbour is a blessing or a challenge, as still a neighbour.

The Messiah that John awaited did indeed come to do battle not with the Romans but with the power of sin; not on the plains of Palestine but in every human heart; not once but in every generation. Make use of the remaining days of Advent to let the Messiah change your world, your life and your soul. Embrace the Gospel and live in His truth. Then you will know that the Messiah has indeed come to you!

“ HAVE THE JOY OF THE LORD!!” “WISH YOU ALL A GREAT WEEKEND!!”

Fr. Thomas

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON			
DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Dec 17 /19	5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariette Sinnesael Rigole & DeDobbelaer Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lilian Rigole Lilian Rigole
Wed Dec 18/19	9:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria & Joseph Ferriera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jose Ferriera
	6:30 pm	SHS Christmas Concert at SHC	
Thurs Dec 19/19	4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crescent Care 	
	6:30 pm	OLFS Christmas Concert at SHC	
Fri Dec 20/19	9:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monica Boyd Susane & Monica Couture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerarda Maertens Their Mother

DATES TO REMEMBER		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
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
Mon Jan 6/20	7:00 pm	CWL Langton Meeting
Tues Jan 7/20	8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Langton Meeting
Wed Jan 8/20	7:00 pm	CWL Walsh Meeting
Thurs Jan 9/20	1:45 pm	Epiphany School Mass for STMS at STMC
Fri Jan 10/20	9:30 am	Epiphany School Mass for SHS at SHC
Fri Jan 10/20	1:45 pm	Epiphany School Mass for OLFS at OLF Gym
Tues Jan 14/20	7:30 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Wed Jan 15/20	7:00 pm	First Reconciliation

LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS FOR SACRED HEART, LANGTON

DECEMBER 21/22

Saturday (5 pm)

Lector: Rita Weiler
Eucharistic Minister: Wanda Demaiter

Sunday (10:30 am)

Lector: Jenny Zamecnik
Eucharistic Ministers: Erik Dekeyser, Ann Marie Claes

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 7/8, 2019

St. Michael's

Regular Envelope \$ 415.00
Christmas Flowers \$ 30.00
Loose \$ 55.00
Sub-Total \$ 500.00

Sacred Heart

Regular Envelope \$ 3318.00
Christmas Flowers \$ 417.00
Loose \$ 123.00
Building Fund \$ 170.00
Sub-Total \$ 4,028.00

Total \$ 4,528.00



*Feel God in every gentle touch.
See God in every happy face.
Hear God in every caring word.
Receive God's blessings in every day of your life.*

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 CAESSANT CARE AT MASSES

Volunteers are needed for once a month at Caessant 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.



RETROUVAILLE

Retrouvaille ("retro-vi" with a long i) has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels of distress including disillusionment and deep misery. The program is designed to provide the tools to help get marriages back on track. The next Retrouvaille weekend is being planned for January 17 through 19, 2020. The weekend retreat will be held at the Michaelite House in Melrose, Ontario (just North of London) To register, please visit www.helpourmarriage.com or call Greg and Anita Turner at 519-243-0687. In Windsor/Essex, the next weekend will be Windsor/Essex Retrouvaille will be the weekend of Feb. 14 – 16, 2020, at Holy Family Retreat House. To register for the Windsor-area weekend, please call 1-800-705-6356 or email at 1015@retrouvaille.org Retrouvaille is a non-profit organization and the presenting teams are made up of people who have gone through the program themselves and overcome significant obstacles in their own marriages. Everyone involved in organizing and presenting the program are unpaid volunteers.



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

ST. MICHAEL'S CWL NEWS

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.

LANGTON CWL NEWS

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 dividing 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