



The Fourth Sunday of Advent: A Celebration of Love

As we journey through the Advent season, we come to the fourth and final Sunday before Christmas. This Sunday is a celebration of love, a reminder of the incredible gift of God's love that we receive in the person of Jesus Christ. The love that we celebrate on this fourth Sunday of Advent is not just a sentimental or emotional love. It is a deep and abiding love that is rooted in the very nature of God. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and this love is the very foundation of our existence. As we prepare for

Christmas, this theme of love is a powerful reminder of the true meaning of the season. In a world that often celebrates Christmas with material gifts and external trappings, we are reminded that the true gift of Christmas is the gift of God's love.

This love is not just a gift that we receive, but also a gift that we are called to share with others. As St. John reminds us, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another" (1 John 4:11). As we celebrate the love of God on this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us also ask ourselves: How can I share this love with others? How can I be a vessel of God's love in the world?

In a beautiful reflection on the meaning of Christmas, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "The celebration of Christmas is not just a commemoration of a past event, but a living encounter with the mystery of God's love. It is an invitation to enter into the mystery of God's love, to let ourselves be enveloped by it, and to share it with others."

As we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent, let us accept this invitation to enter the mystery of God's love. Let us allow ourselves to be enveloped by this love and let us share it with others. May our celebration of Christmas be a living encounter with the mystery of God's love.

A Call to Bethlehem: On Christmas Eve, we will hear the familiar and cherished Gospel passage from Luke 2:15, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." This sacred passage reminds us of the extraordinary events that unfolded in Bethlehem on that holy night. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we invite you to embark on a spiritual journey with us to Bethlehem. At St. Monica's Church, we warmly welcome you, your family, and friends to join us for our Christmas Mass celebrations. As we gather as a community, we will support one another, celebrate the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, and rediscover the joy, love, and peace that only He can bring. I personally extend an invitation to you to join us for our Christmas Masses:

- Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm
- Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th at 10:30 am

Come, let us journey to Bethlehem together, and allow the radiant light of Christ to guide us on our path. Let us open our hearts to the transformative power of His love.

I eagerly look forward to celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with you!

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL A special thanks to all who came out and made this first Christmas Carnival a huge success. It was so nice to see the young, the not-so young, and the children – all have a great time! A special thank you to the Team that put this event together – to Gen & Mark, Sheila and Ken, as well as the many volunteers who helped make this event a grand success. In addition to everyone having a good time, through your generosity, we raised in total \$2,343.50 at this event. THANK YOU!!

WARDEN'S ELECTION – St. Monica's Parish is blessed in many ways. One of these was to see the largest turnout we have had for a Warden's election at our parish in many, many years. It tells us how deeply you care about our Parish! A sincere thank you to all those who turned out to elect the Warden's as well as those who were nominated for the election of the position of a Warden. Our congratulations to Paul Wong, Nives Degano, and Ursulene Mora Farmer for being elected for a second 3-year term as Wardens. We are confident that with this turnout and experience, we can look forward to having a great team of parishioners serve as future Wardens in the years to come.

THE 2025 REGISTERED ENVELOPE BOXES are now ready at the back of the church. Please find by your registered Box number or use the red binder to search by last name. If you have not as yet registered for a box of envelopes, kindly contact the office after the holidays. Please do not use a box that is not in your name as these envelopes are processed in our data entry for taxation purposes. You can also register for online giving through Canada Helps, please go to our website and click on the **Red Donate Button**.

MASS INTENTIONS – 2025 Kindly contact the Office after January 6th when the Secretary returns to Office for any Mass Intentions requests.

MASS INTENTIONS – December 21 – 29, 2024

Saturday, 4:00pm – December 21, 2024: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Leonard & Terry Winslade

Peter Duffy

Adelaide Fazi Francescangeli

Bob & Do Parsons

Bob & Do Parsons

Gino & Family

Sunday, 9:00am – December 22, 2024: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Anna & Italo Mariani

Pasquale Coccia & Gennarina Tonarelli

Ella Lahaie

Luisa & Angelo Falcone

Argisa Coccia & Family

Lahaie, Belvedere & Taillon Family

Sunday, 11:00am – December 22, 2024: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For All Parishioners Intentions

Tuesday, 5:00pm – December 24, 2024: - Christmas Eve - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

For All Parishioners Intentions

Tuesday, 8:00pm – December 24, 2024: Christmas Eve - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

For All Parishioners Intentions

Wednesday, 10:30am – December 25, 2024: Christmas Day - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

For All Parishioners Intentions

Thursday – 8:30am – December 26, 2024: FEAST – Saint Stephen

Mario Matta

Olga Santini Matta & Son

Thursday – 7:00pm – December 26, 2024: FEAST – Saint Stephen

Phyllis Dillon Gausden

Lisa

Friday, 8:30am – December 27, 2024: FEAST – Saint John

Agostino Di Vittori

Di Vittori Family

Living – Personal Intention Raymond & Hilary Jack

Family

Saturday, 4:00pm – December 28, 2024: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

For All Parishioners Intentions

Sunday, 9:00am – December 29, 2024: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Amelia Brocca

her Daughter

Filomena Di Lella

Sandra Gasparini

Living – Brigitte's Personal Intention

Brigitte

Sunday, 11:00am – December 29, 2024: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Giuseppina Fiori

her Children

Fausto Fazi

Francescangeli Family

Leonilda Francescangeli

Gino & Family