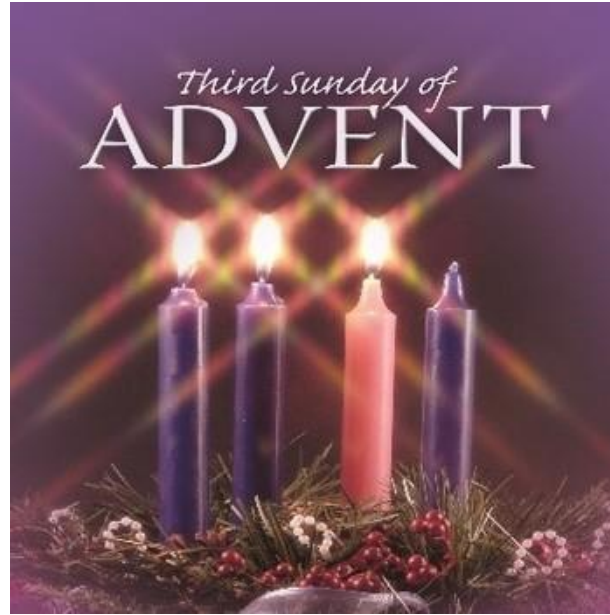


Third Sunday of Advent
December 12th 2021



Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Sentence

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. *Isaiah 61.1*

Collect

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20;

CANTICLE 3 (ISAIAH 12:2-6);

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7;

LUKE 3:7-18

You may have been lighting an Advent Wreath at home or at the Church to mark the four Sundays of Advent. Did you know that the origins of the modern Advent Wreath go back to a missionary Lutheran pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern (1898-1881)? He was working in an urban mission school and the children would ask daily if Christmas had arrived. So, in 1839 he got an old cartwheel and placed 20 small red candles and four white candles. A candle was lit every day in Advent with the white candles signifying the Sunday's. An early Advent Calendar for Children it has been simplified to a small evergreen wreath (evergreen is a symbol of eternal life) and four Sunday Candles and sometimes a central Christmas Candle. In our tradition the first two Sundays of Advent are normally Blue or Purple colours to signify a time of fasting and repentance, with the third being pink as a Sunday of relief or Joy and then the fourth is again Blue or Purple. As with all symbolic things in our Churches there are many levels of understanding about the Advent Wreath. A common understanding is that the first candle represents Hope "the prophecy candle" expectation of a saviour. The second candle represents faith, "the Bethlehem Candle" Mary and Joseph's journey. The third now pink represents Joy, the "shepherd's candle". The final purple candle represents prayer and fasting.

The deeper level of understanding of Advent and this time of preparation for the Birth of Christ in our hearts goes back to the earliest Hebrew understanding of Fasting and Repentance. People fasted for two reasons, the first was to enter into an experience of want or need, to really identify with the poor who have no option about being in need. The second reason was to save money on food and drink. Repentance literally means, having a new mind or understanding. So, at the end of the time of Fasting and Prayer hopefully one would have a new understanding or appreciation for the plight of the poor. Then the money saved would be given to those in need and one would continue to share food and money with those who were in need past the times of "official" fasting.

I find it quite interesting that this week, in our Gospel reading from Luke, John the Baptist is calling for the people to *repent and prepare for the coming Messiah*. When he is asked, "**What shall we do?**" *In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."* (Luke 3: 10-11) He goes on to give specific advice to tax collectors and soldiers but the message is the same, treat people fairly, with respect and as you would want to be treated.

This is the time of Advent our tradition calls for Fasting and Prayer. I am under no illusions that people take this to heart in a literal way. I suspect it is more a time of material excess and indulgence for most of us. However, this doesn't change the message of Advent: Repentance, a change of heart and mind towards others, especially those less fortunate. This is shown by sharing from the heart, because we understand, at a deep level, that we are all God's children, all loved, and all important in God's eyes. May you have a blessed Advent, and cultivate in any way you can your best self. A spiritually renewed self, that sees the world as God does, and as Jesus taught: through eyes of love and compassion.

Prayers of the People from Mary Field

God of Love hear our prayers offered in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ -

O Almighty God, gracious provider and giver of life, we anxiously await the celebration of your birth. Like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we too are in need of light, in need of direction, in need of your Word, to show us the way.

Praying for all Christians that like Mary we may respond to your invitation and allow you to do great things in and through us.

Heavenly Father help us as we pray for peace, that the arrival of the Prince of Peace may enlighten our minds and hearts of one and all around the world to resolve disputes with rational words and deeds of compassion in all troubled places.

Heavenly Father we pray with appreciation for our church leaders who take on the challenge of spreading Your word. We pray for your wisdom & guidance for the Parish of Long Point Bay and all who serve in it.

Heavenly Father we pray with gratitude for all world leaders and all in authority who are trying do it right, may they know and accept your Guidance & wisdom. We pray for your intervention with cruel and oppressive leaders.

We pray for our family & friends and all peoples. Praying for all who travel for work or celebration may they arrive safely. We pray for all who serve. We pray for all in need of the basics may this be a season of renewal for them.

We pray for this safe & bountiful community we call home including in our prayers all communities around the world.

Praying for new and expectant parents, may see God's presence in their child and nurture the gift of life entrusted to them.

Heavenly Father *thank you for your creation*, help us to be strong advocates in caring for this earth and its treasures; as you have planned its bounty, when shared properly, will provide enough for all. Heavenly Father may we use resources wisely to glorify You and in the service of others.

Lord hear our prayers for a world supply of covid19 vaccines to be administered quickly to stop the spread of Covid19 and its new variants now travelling the world in yet another wave of the pandemic. Please Lord heal the sick and take into your arms those who have succumbed to this disease.

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love family & friends whom we have placed in your loving hands, may they rejoice in the presence of Mary's child Jesus.

God of joy and exultation, you strengthen what is weak;
you enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear.
Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation
and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

We now pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

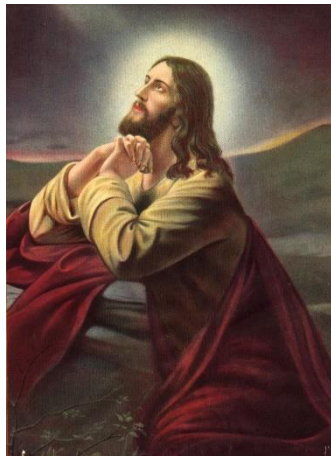
For the week beginning 12 December 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Paul Sherwood** and the people of **Trinity Anglican Church**, Simcoe.

Remembering our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.
June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Barbara S., Carol M., George F., Carol H., and anyone known to you, silently or aloud

It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@gmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list



Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video

<https://youtu.be/ZiH5ZMFHmUU>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday December 12th - Third Sunday of Advent
Memorial at 9:30 and Woodhouse at 11am

Service of Hope and Healing St. John's Woodhouse 7 pm

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19th
St. John's Port Rowan 10:00am
Lessons and Carols



If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on. Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique and he can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in December – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.



Our Parish of Long Point Bay Projects

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. “Matthew 25:35-36

Seasonal Farmer Workers and Greenhouse Project Start





Please, the food bank needs our help. Bring as much food as you can to each service to be blessed and it will be taken to our food bank! Thank you!



Feeding the Community

We are seeking donations of men’s clothing such as pants, sweaters, T-Shirts, warm jackets, socks, gloves and toques. Items should be in the small to large size category, clean and in good condition. Contact Fr. Enrique to arrange drop off

Financial donations are also warmly welcomed and cheques should be made payable to: **The Huron Hispanic & Migrant Farmworkers Outreach Ministry.**

Day care

The aim of St. John’s Day Care is to introduce the Anglican faith to families in Long Point Bay Parish by providing Child Care to their children while teaching them about biblical histories using children’s books and other materials that can attract children’s interest s, puzzles, toys, etc. Also, provide Spanish classes, healthy homemade meals and outdoor activities. Build a bridge between the community and the Anglican Church to encourage families with younger children to acquire knowledge of our Anglican Church.

Greenhouse

This project aims to benefit those less fortunate to have access to fresh vegetables. Families living in a low income, immigrants just arriving to Canada, people who have been negatively impacted due to COVID-19 (job loss)

Population growth and less availability of food material have become global concerns. The world population increases exponentially whereas food production has increased only arithmetically, meaning that the availability of food per capita has decreased. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom by respond to human need by loving service. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion the marks of His kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities in fear and withdraw, or follow Him in responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope.

It is anticipated that funding for these projects will be provided through government grants, support from the diocese of Huron and individual donations. **Donations may be made to the Parish of Long Point Bay.**

I really hope that you will support these outreach projects that put our faith into action.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:14

Sing Along to this week's Hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, December 12th, 2021

103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;
Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come
4. To heal the sick stretch out thins hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

108 – Hark, a Herald Voice Is Sounding

1. Hark, a herald voice is sounding, "Christ is nigh," it seems to say,
"Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"
2. Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us all, with deep repentance, pray that we may be forgiven,
4. that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
With his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@gmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lbbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page