

St. Joseph's Catholic Church



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

Mission Statement

Grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgy, Eucharistic worship and outreach, St. Joseph's Parish calls the faithful to an active involvement in parish life and responsible participation in extending Christ – like values to the wider community.

Liturgy Schedule

Weekend

Saturday: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Weekday

Monday 5:15 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 5:15 p.m.

Holy Hour and Divine Mercy Prayers

Monday and Friday 4:00 p.m.

Sacraments

Baptism

Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass – Registration required, please contact the Parish.

Confession

Monday, Friday & Saturday 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Marriage

Six months' notice is required, as well as a Marriage Preparation Course. Please contact the Parish.

Anointing

Please contact the Parish.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.;
(closed 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.)
Susan Lett, Parish Secretary

Parish Organizations

Catholic Women's League

Kathi Colwell & Susan
Conway Williamson
Patrick Greenwood

Knights of Columbus, 11670

Parish Ministries

Finance Committee

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara
Ben Krasna

Parish Pastoral Council

Carol Kavanaugh

Lectors

Chris Jones & Monna

Eucharistic Ministers

Splinter

Ministry to Sick & Homebound

Judy Saunders

Ministry to Seniors (Cards)

Mary Clancy

Ministry at Extencicare

Ian Stewart

Ushers

Fran Price

Sacristans

Ben Krasna

Culture of Life

Mary Clancy

Parish Engagement

Shirley Kelliher

Funeral Choir

Kelly Canning

Junior Liturgy

Sacramental Preparation

Altar Servers

Kelly Canning

Music Ministry

Theresa Whalen-Witjes

Youth Choir

Sheila Fowler

Parish Schools

St. Thomas More Catholic School - Sandra Fragoso, Principal
234 Norman Rogers Dr., Kingston, ON K7M 2R4
613-542-1575

St. Paul's Catholic School - Chantal Courneyea, Principal
266 McMahon Ave., Kingston, ON K7M 3H2
613-542-6101

392 Palace Road, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4T3 Tel. 613-547-5004
Email: stjoseph.kingston@archkingston.ca

Parish Website: www.stjosephskingston.ca

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara, Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent **December 14, 2025**

Introduction

This Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called “Gaudete Sunday”. “Gaudete”, that is “Rejoice”, is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon and sets a tone of joyful expectation for our celebration. The readings summon us to a joyful hope in the coming of the Lord again who will turn our tears to joy as he enters our wilderness as the servant who saves.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a,10

The wilderness and the dry land will rejoice and blossom at the Lord’s coming.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient and do not grumble for the Lord’s coming is at hand.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus is the one who brings true hope in the midst of our wilderness, bringing healing to all and proclaiming the Kingdom especially to the poor.

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MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, 15 December

5:15 p.m. Amado Marcial – Marieta Kenyon

Tuesday, 16 December

9:00 a.m. Elisa Giacomello – The Family

Wednesday, 17 December

9:00 a.m. Brian, Jane & Catriona McConville – Maria Zielinski

Thursday, 18 December

9:00 a.m. Audrey Lacey (3rd Anniversary)

Friday, 19 December

5:15 p.m. Mary St. Pierre – The Family

Saturday, 20 December

5:15 p.m. Antonio Almeida – The Family

Sunday, 21 December

9:00 a.m. Audrey Lacey

11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

Join our online Mass Sunday at 11:00 a.m. visit www.stjosephskingston.ca.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

You are asked to remember in prayer those recently deceased.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Please remember in your prayers the following: Donna V.; Rob Hearst; Barbara Anne Caron; Doreen Saunders; Brian Begbie; Richard Devette; Kent Hawley; Bruce Johnson; Joan Bryan; Margaret Kennedy; Carol McKeown; Ecarterina Sandu; Gregory Holmes; Mel Kane; Dee Morey; Dee Simpson; Carol White; Olivo Sivilotti.

If there are members of your family or friends who are ill or recently died, and for whom you wish prayers, please contact Susan at the parish office at 613-547-5004.

PENANCE CELEBRATION The Advent Penance Celebration for St. Joseph’s will be held this Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Following a brief liturgy, all will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A number of visiting clergy will be present for this celebration, and all parishioners and visitors are welcome to attend.

Fr. Cosmas Reflection

Rejoice, the Lord is Close at Hand

On this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, the Church invites us to rejoice. The rose candle is lit to remind us that even in a season marked by repentance and quiet preparation, joy is not something we wait for at the end. Joy is already present because the Lord is near. Advent waiting is not idle or passive; it is active, hopeful waiting, the kind that believes something is growing even when we cannot see it. Like a farmer who plants seeds and trusts the hidden work of the soil, Advent calls us to trust that God is at work in the hidden places of our lives.

Joy begins to grow when we open our eyes to what God is already doing. We may be waiting for a big breakthrough, but God often moves in small, gentle ways—strengthening a heart that was weak, restoring someone who had lost hope, guiding us when we felt blind, lifting us when we were weary. If we look closely, grace is always blooming somewhere in the desert of our lives.

This week, let us carry the spirit of Gaudete Sunday into our daily lives. A simple act of kindness, a word of encouragement, a moment of forgiveness, or a small gesture of love can become a doorway for God’s joy to enter our hearts. These small actions prepare the way of the Lord more than we realize.

So today, as we move closer to Christmas, let your heart rest in the truth that God is near. Even in your waiting, Christ is coming. Even in your struggles, He is working. Even in your questions, He is faithful. Rejoice, for the Lord is close at hand, and His light is already shining in the quiet places of your life.

2025 DONATIONS St. Joseph’s Parish Year-End occurs on 31 December; therefore, we ask that all 2025 donations be forwarded to the parish office by 31 December 2025. Donations received after this date will need to be recorded in 2026. If you wish to have a donation appear on your 2025 Tax Receipt, please ensure that the office has received it prior to 1 January. All special collections for 2025 have been forwarded to the Archdiocese for distribution to the various charities.

BIRDS AND FLOWERS is a parish initiative that started by a group of parishioners organizing food hampers for the needy in our community in time for Christmas. If you are able to help, food items will be collected this weekend, December 13-14. If you would prefer to make donation by cash/cheque please indicate on your donation or envelope ‘Birds and Flowers’. Thank you to all parishioners who generously donate!

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve 5:15 p.m. Children’s Mass with the Pageant

Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Year’s Eve 5:15 p.m. Mass

New Year’s Day 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass



This week’s bulletin is sponsored by:

St. Joseph's Parish Jubilee Year 2025

December – Month of the Family

"Pilgrims of Hope" is a great opportunity for families to deepen their faith and experience God's mercy together.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS. Our first CWL Book Club which took place on December 8th, was well attended. Refreshments were served and our chosen book, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World", by Joanna Weaver, created much interest, and was well dissected, with many viewpoints being shared. Attendees valued the synodal experience, so we will be planning another Book Talk in the new year! • Our CWL Membership Drive takes place on the weekends of January 3/4 and 10/11 in 2026. Be sure to join again to help continue our focus on Faith, Service and Social and Ecological Justice within our Parish and with our Kingston local communities and charities.

During this 3rd week of Advent, as the candle of Joy is light, let us wait and reflect, in anticipation, of the wonder of Jesus' birth.

CHRISTMAS PAGAENT Our family Christmas Mass is quickly approaching. If your child is interested in being a part of telling the Christmas story, please join us after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Children participating in the telling of the Christmas story will be given a role (a part or a reading) for the 5:15 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will take place: December 14th at 10:00 a.m. and December 21st at 10:00 a.m.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE PACKAGES for 2026 will be available for pickup at the main entrance of the church this weekend. If you notice that your address is wrong or you are missing your package, please fill out your information on the sheet beside the packages. Anyone who signed up last week, your packages have been added. Thank you.

COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS EVENING OF REFLECTION Preparing our hearts for Christ with the teachings of St. Josemaria. All welcome. Come and go as you need during this busy season. Women's Evening: Tues. Dec. 16 at St. Joseph's Church 7-9pm
Men's Evening: Wed. Dec. 17 at Holy Family Church 7-9 pm.
Learn more at opusdei.ca.

ADVENT TRANSFORMATION NIGHT Join us for a prayerful evening of Eucharistic adoration, liturgical beauty, transformation and personal reflection, as we ponder the ancient O Antiphons of the Church, led by Fr. Jude Thusiar at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 1111 Taylor-Kidd Blvd, Kingston on Friday. **Dec. 19, 2025 - 6:30 – 9:30 pm.** Hosted by the Encounter School of Ministry – Kingston Campus. No charge.

MELOS CHOIR JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM 1 Hour Concert followed by optional Carol Sing, Sunday, **December 14th 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Apostle.** Reflective Advent chants, joyful Christmas carols, music for the Persian Festival of Yalda. Tickets are **\$25**; at the door, or in advance at Novel Idea; or online at: www.melos-earlymusic.org

GENTLEMEN, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Veronica's Veil Overnight Winter Shelter for Homeless Men is preparing to open for the season — but we cannot do it without more

volunteers. Coverage needed: **January 1st – April 30th.** Could you give just four hours once a week? Shifts: **8 pm–12 am, 12 am–4 am, 4 am–8 am.** There is a list of shift we are looking for coverage posted at the main entrance bulletin board. If you are willing to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Ann Lyng at veronicasveil@stmarys.ca.

GATHER & GROW: Our Hall's Next Chapter

– Donate today. Please look into the simple giving options, and consider scanning the QR code, fill one of the marked envelopes in the pews, or send an e-transfer to stjosephskingston900@gmail.com. Together we can advance into our next Chapter.



RETROUVAILLE: A LIFELINE FOR TROUBLED

MARRIAGE This program is designed to support marriages in crisis and can be of assistance to couples who have separated, but are willing to work on their relationship to help repair the difficulties that exist. Further information can be found on the main entrance bulletin board.

Upcoming in-person weekends:

- Toronto Community - English weekend **Jan 30 to Feb 1 2026** (Mississauga)
- Hamilton Community - English weekend **Mar 13 to Mar 15 2026** (Niagara Falls)
- Toronto Community - Spanish weekend **Mar 20 to Mar 22 2026** (Mississauga)

Schedule for the weekends of December 20-21, 2025

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers	Music
Sat. 20 Dec 5:15pm	J. Saunders H. Couto	B. Oliveira M. McLaughlin	I. Stewart D. Mazzolin R. Lachance S. Harrigan	Tim
Sun. 21 Dec 9:00am	C. Charbonneau C. Purcell	M. Tudin A. MacKinnon	I. Stewart F. Cuvelier R. Audet P. Oliquano	Theresa & Annette
Sun. 21 Dec 11:00am	R. McDonald S. Boisvert	R. McLaren F. Levesque	B. Krasna J. Ferreira D. Fernandes F. Asuncion	Choir

Streaming of 11:00 a.m. Mass: D. Eardley

Junior Liturgy:



KNIGHTS CORNER: Your Knights recognize that the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, is a mid-Advent celebration of joy, marking the nearing arrival of Christmas, symbolized by lighting a pink candle on the Advent wreath instead of the usual purple one. It isn't just an excuse for our Chaplain Fr. Ajawara to rock the pink vestments because he feels like it. This day brings a shift from penitence to rejoicing, with themes of gladness, hope, and God's presence, focusing on the joy found in salvation and God's love, often featuring readings from about rejoicing and patience. Let us allow joy into our hearts, not just this week, but always. This joy in turn can be visited upon others, as we live Christ's promise and bring light to the darkness.



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