

# ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

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## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Deacon Daniel McPhee

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor

Aloysius Chan, Organist

*prepare the way...*



# ADVENT


**Mass Intentions for Week**

\*\* THIS IS A TWO-WEEK BULLETIN \*\*

**Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Iona D'Silva

Requested by Christopher, Aubrey & Melanie D'Silva

**Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Freeman D'Silva

Requested by Christopher, Aubrey & Melanie D'Silva

**Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Mateja Clifford

Requested by the Family



Please join EcoAnselm and other parishioners for a shared "MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER FOR PEACE". It is fitting to hold this Moment of Peace as the 4th candle of Advent is lit and we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace. "As Saint Francis of Assisi said: "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle" ([www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-candles](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-candles)). We will gather in front of "Our Lady of Peace" following the Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 11:00 a.m. mass.

**Giving the Gift of a Sustainable Future.**

Please see the Eco-Wall in the Millwood lobby for ideas on how to celebrate a festive and GREEN Christmas.

EcoAnselm wishes you a joyous, peace-filled Christmas and a sustainable 2026.

**IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION**

Any donations received in the parish office by noon on December 31, 2025 will be credited toward your 2025 charitable donation tax receipt.

Donations received after that time (*including at the 5pm Vigil Mass* that evening) will be considered 2026 donations. In accordance with CRA regulations, donations submitted by mail must be postmarked by Canada Post by December 31, 2025 to be eligible for a 2025 tax receipt.

**New to St. Anselm's Parish?** We invite you to register with us by completing a green parish registration card from the glass table at the entrance to the church.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Nativity of the Lord**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

(6:30 p.m. Carols with the Choir)

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

5:00pm

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am

11:00am

**Mary, Mother of God**

**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

11:00 a.m.

**\*\* There is no 8:15am morning Mass on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**ST. ANSELM'S NEEDS YOU & WE NEED**

**ST. ANSELM'S!**

Our Current Donations are not enough to keep the lights on!

Making Monthly Online donations gives St. Anselm's stable income to maintain our place of Faith. **After Mass**, join our Volunteers at the tables at the back of the Church. They will show you how easy it is to sign up for **MONTHLY GIVING** by credit card or automatic bank withdrawals. This is the **BEST** way to help our Parish **NOW!**



SCAN ME

**NEW ONE-TIME DONATION OPTION - TIPTAP**

Register in the Millwood lobby after Mass this weekend to receive your **TAX RECEIPT**.

**The parish staff would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and good wishes. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated!**

**The parish office will be closed over the holidays but voicemail, letter mail and email will be checked regularly for urgent issues.**

**The office will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Isa 7:10-14**

**Ps 24**

**Rom 1:1-7**

**Matt 1:18-24**

## RISKING THE ADVENTURE



We tend to hear Isaiah's prediction of the birth of "Emmanuel" as a wondrous announcement, the astounding prediction of a birth to take place 700 years after it was spoken. Indeed, it is a marvelous quote, but in its original context, it had nothing at all to do with Jesus. In reality, the birth announcement was made as a serious warning to a wicked king. Facing the danger of an invasion, King Ahaz had chosen to rely on the military might of Assyria to protect him, and in the process, he abandoned his fidelity to the God of his ancestors. Ahaz "piously" refused to ask for a sign because he did not want confirmation that Isaiah was speaking for God - a backhanded affirmation that he did believe, but refused to heed, the prophet's words. Ahaz understood as clearly as Herod would later that the coming of "Emmanuel," the active presence of God, could be very bad news. It was true then and remains so for anyone who chooses coercive power or material security over trust and fidelity to God. We hear the reading from Isaiah because Matthew chose it as the first of his prophecy-fulfillment statements about Jesus. It is also an invitation to reconsider our own anticipation of Emmanuel, God with us. What does the advent of Emmanuel imply? When we come to the Gospel, Matthew recounts the real-life scandal and the potentially tragic dimensions of Emmanuel's advent. Joseph plays the central role here, and he is the opposite of his ancestor Ahaz. When Joseph was confronted with what had to be interpreted as very unexpected and bad news, he did what any prudent person does: he slept on it before coming to a decision. That may be a key to understanding his character; a less humble, less self-confident man would have made a priority of protecting his reputation. Where Ahaz opted for salvation through military might, Joseph, like his father Abraham, entertained an angel and discovered an alternative. Joseph accepted the risk of faith. All the evidence, except what he heard in the vision, weighed against his decision. Nevertheless, Joseph took to heart the angel's primary message: "Do not be afraid." Where does this lead us today? What do our readings tell us about Emmanuel and our anticipation of his

presence? Isaiah reminds us that the coming of Emmanuel will expose our deepest motivations and priorities. In reality, like Ahaz, we will expose ourselves by the type of power we put our faith in and the signs we choose to believe in. It is up to us whether or not Emmanuel's coming is good news for us. Matthew offers us the model of Joseph as one whose faith made him unafraid. Would it be any wonder if, as he slept on his decision, he asked God for a sign about what to do? Whether or not he begged for a sign, Joseph risked everything on his faith in God's quiet messages to him. Joseph, as no one before or after him, welcomed Emmanuel and claimed him as his own. Now, just days before Christmas, as we end our Advent season, we are invited to look to the deeper meaning of our pretty Christmas scenes and question ourselves. Do we want to be open to new signs of God's presence? Are we willing to centre our entire lives on Christ and to live in the freedom he offers us? Will we, with Joseph, risk the adventure of faith in spite of its unexpectedness and insecurity? If we can offer God even a hesitating "Yes" to those questions, the coming and the presence of Emmanuel will be good news for us. He did come and has promised to remain.

*Emmanuel, God-With-Us arrived poor, vulnerable, homeless, exiled, unwelcome at the inn. We know the story well, but the implications of that story go deep. Scripture makes it clear that God is invested in humanity, taking on our flesh, seeing our wounds up close, fully inhabiting our life. Christmas is the feast of the Incarnation. It is the celebration of the Word of God becoming flesh. When divinity assumed humanity, it was more than a gesture of goodwill, more than a sign of approval or even redemption. It was a new reality in the world. Now the Son of God is interconnected with the world, not just by spirit, but by molecules. God-in-the-flesh opened the horizons of our human hope. May the love, peace, joy and hope of this Christmas season surround each and every one of you. May you and your families be surrounded with the blessings of this holy season. Happy Christmas from the priests who serve you faithfully, the deacon who shares his ministry with you, the office staff and myself, the pastor of this parish community of faith.*

## BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR...

As snow accumulates in the area, we once again bring to your attention the **"NO PARKING"** signs on the east (church) side of Macnaughton Rd. Not only is it illegal to park on this side of the road (without a disabled permit), it is also an inconvenience and danger for our neighbours on the west side of the street, who often cannot safely back out of their own driveway. The snow that piles up all winter can make it that much harder. Please leave enough time to arrive and park on the signed side of the streets surrounding the church or in the adjacent school yard.

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