

[Happy Anniversary Archbishop Mancini:](#)

[November 29](#)



*Happy Anniversary  
Archbishop  
Anthony Mancini  
November 29*

On Thursday, November 29 Archbishop Mancini celebrated the anniversary of his installation as our Chief Shepherd, by presiding at the 12:15pm Mass at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica. .

Please keep Archbishop Mancini in your prayers as he seeks to faithfully lead the people God has entrusted to his care.

### ***Do you have a Cathedral Story?***



Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica is an important part of life of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and has played an important part in the lives of many of the people in the diocese and beyond. In 2020, the Cathedral will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we would like to know what part the Cathedral has played in people's lives.

In preparation to celebrate this milestone anniversary we're looking for your Cathedral stories. Have generations of your family been baptized in the Cathedral? Did you meet your spouse at the Cathedral? Did a

particular ministry or person associated with the Cathedral make a positive impact on your life? Did you encounter Christ in a particular way at the Cathedral? Were you welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Cathedral? Did someone in your family take part in the construction of the Cathedral?

If you have a story to share we'd love to hear from you! Please email stories to: [info@halifaxyarmouth.org](mailto:info@halifaxyarmouth.org) Please note "Cathedral Story" in the subject line. of your email. Your stories should be 1500 words or less and can include one or two high resolution photos.

### **GivingTuesday**



Join the Giving Tuesday movement. Millions of Canadians are joining the global Giving Tuesday movement. If you haven't already made your donation to the Community Collection, now is your chance.

There are three ways for you to give:

- Fill out the Community Collection donor card you received in the mail and using the included return envelope, place it in your parish's Sunday Collection basket.
- Fill out the Community Collection donor card and use the included return envelope and mail it directly to the Archdiocese: Community Collection, 1531 Grafton St., Halifax, NS B3J 2B9
- Make a donation online through the Archdiocesan website by visiting [www.halifaxyarmouth.org/donate](http://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/donate)



## *St. Agnes Parish December 2nd, 2018 1st Sunday of Advent*

St. Agnes Council



Council 16817

Apart from Ordinary Time, there are 4 special liturgical seasons in the Church - Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Unfortunately, without question, the one that is overlooked most is Advent. The reason is simple: it is a very busy time of year preparing for Christmas, and in this way, the unique spirituality of the Advent season is easily overlooked. This is too bad, since the season offer us some of the most beautiful music, imagery, and scripture passages of any time in the liturgical calendar. In the secular culture, we are very much in a "countdown mode" to Christmas, but the Church "counts up" from Christmas as a proper liturgical season unto itself. Christmas Day is simply the beginning of an entire liturgical season, whereas the secular culture restricts Christmas to a single 24 hour time period. The two "views" are at opposites to one another and cannot be reconciled. In this sense, if Advent is to have much of any expression in our lives, we need to make room for it by being very intentional about marking and celebrating it. Advent is a liturgical season of watching and waiting in joyful expectation for the 2 comings of Christ: the first, his birth (what we call the Incarnation) but also, his final return as the Lord of history and creation - the Final Judgement. It is these "beginnings and ends" that Advent holds in tension and presents to us as something far more distinct than simply a countdown to Christmas.

Practically, how can we live Advent spirituality? I offer these suggestions:

1. Have an Advent wreath in your home. Light the weekly candle (the rose coloured candle is the 3rd Sunday) before the main family meal and give thanks to God as a family for the food you are about to share together. Prayer is not about formality, either in lexicon or syntax. It is about talking to God from the heart with the joys and cares of your life. But there are also many online resources for family grace before meals, including those specifically tailored to the Advent season. This may be the first time you have ever prayed together as a family but it may be the beginning of a lasting practice. Praying in front of others may feel strange at the beginning, akin to singing in front of someone. Over time it gets easier and it will become something we look forward to.

2. Ask one person to join you at Christmas Mass who is not connected with the parish or Church. Many people would return to a practice of their faith if they were spurred on by someone they trust simply asking them. Do it! And remember the "math" of Jesus - he goes looking for the single sheep that has gone away from the group, leaving (for a moment) the other 99.

As a parish community, that needs to be our math too.

100 asks will yield a single positive response. If that equation is good enough for the Lord, it is good enough for us! It these asks were regular and repetitive, over time, it would bring many people back to the practice of what they would (did) enjoy - faith, community, belonging, joy, and most importantly, receiving Holy Communion, which is deeply experiential and meaningful for us. It is the Lord Himself.

3. Go to confession before Christmas. It is often hard, true, and I don't find it any easier to go than you, but I also know this: I feel much better after I've gone. It's really that simple. We are busy cleaning and decorating our houses as we prepare to welcome guests over the next month. Isn't it a little strange how we expend much energy and effort this way but we would not do so to "decorate", clean and prepare our hearts and souls to receive the Gift of Jesus at Christmas? Take advantage of the Advent season to rid your life and past of what was never meant to have power over you. Nothing is beyond the forgiveness of Jesus - absolutely nothing! But we cannot absolve ourselves, no more than we can save ourselves. Hearing that we are forgiven spoken by another person (the priest) brings a recognition and healing we can't create for ourselves. Peace of mind that comes from a conscience reconciled with God is the most amazing present one could receive during the holy time of year!

4. An act of charity, done with as much anonymity as possible. In our parish, one thinks of the Giving Tree, St. Vincent de Paul, or one of the international missions supported by our "little church". Give, then go. It's not about "me" nor a latent temptation to sometimes seek recognition; it's about the need to give as a tangible sign of seeking peace and proper relationships, both in our hearts but also in the social order. The scriptures of Advent offer long excerpts from the Prophet Isaiah who speaks of the coming Messiah as a time of restored relationships, justice, and "making things right" - at least as God understands them.

Finally, a simple observation that sums up the bigger issue and vision. We live in a post-Christian, secular world and culture. We are all affected by it to greater or lesser degrees. At the end of the day, we must make a conscious, deliberate effort to keep sacred what deserves to be. Ultimately this will only come about in our lives by a personal decision .

.....Fr. Paul Morris



**" Adult Faith with Fr. Paul " series this fall.**

Please come out and join us for our Adult Faith final sessions with Fr. Paul concluding **Robert Barron's "The Mass"**. The final two sessions are :

There will be no Dec 4 session—5th & 6th Session - Dec 11 combined with small reception.

Everyone is invited!! Bring a friend - this is a great way to set our hearts upon Advent and Christmas.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Don't forget to come out to our **Family Advent Wreath Making** this Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:30am. This is a wonderful opportunity to kick off Advent with a beautiful wreath and joyful heart. Boughs, wreath forms, decorations and refreshments will be on hand. Cash Donations accepted towards the Little Church Mission and / or Non-perishable food items for FEED Nova Scotia



**DROP & SHOP Register by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and qualify for a Early Bird Special \*\* \$5.00 per hour for 1 child / \$10.00 per hour for 2 or more children.** – Need some time for Christmas shopping, baking, wrapping or napping ? Bring your littles to our Drop & Shop for some supervised fun, games, crafts and snacks - food and supplies will be provided. Times are Friday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm-9:30pm and Saturday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-6:00pm. To register please contact Tanya [stagnes-dre@eastlink.ca](mailto:stagnes-dre@eastlink.ca)



**Blessing of the Crèche:** Our Crèche will be blessed by Fr. Paul on December 9th following the 10:30am Mass. All are welcome to join us.



**St. Agnes Council Knights of Columbus**

invite you to their pre Christmas Bazaar and Chilli Lunch!. Mark your calendars for **Saturday December 1st from 9am to 3pm** and come on out and enjoy a Great Chili Lunch while you browse through our bake table , new to you and Christmas table and others. The Knights will also be selling their Cash Calendars—time is running out to purchase these calendars **the deadline is Dec 31. We are looking for gently used Christmas ornament etc for our New to You Christmas table - if you have any that are not in use anymore, please contact Tanya or bring them in to the office next week.**

**Upcoming Event**

**Our St. Agnes Council KOC**



will be hosting a Family Movie Night on Saturday December 22nd. Feature film "The Star". Come on out, bring the kids, a friend and enjoy an enjoyable time of entertainment with your faith community—We will even have popcorn!! All are welcome.



**Christmas Flowers for the Altar:**

Once again this year we are offering our parishioners the opportunity to contribute towards the purchase of poinsettias which will be placed on the Altar for our Christmas Decorations. Your donation of \$20.00 will be acknowledged by list in the church and Fr. Paul will say a special Mass for those who the flowers were purchased in memory of on December 22nd. Beginning next week there will be special envelopes at the back of the church with a donor card inside. If you wish to donate, please complete the information on the donor card and put your donation in the envelope with the card and place them in the collection baskets, or bring them to the Parish office. Deadline is December 19th.



**St. Agnes Parish - Christmas Schedule 2018**

**Christmas Eve**

Monday December 24th 5:00pm, 7:30pm  
Carols 1/2 hour prior

**Christmas Day**

Tuesday December 25th 10:30am

\*\* December 26, 27 & 28 No Weekday Mass

**Anticipated Mass—Holy Family**

Saturday December 29th 4:00pm

**Holy Family**

Sunday December 30th 8:30am, 10:30am

**Anticipated Mass Mary, Mother of God**

Monday December 31st 4:00pm

**Mary, Mother of God (Holy day of Obligation)**

Tuesday January 1st 10:00am

**Please join Fr. Paul in the Auditorium following this mass for our parish levee.**

*Note: the parish office will be closed from noon on the 21st of December through to January 2, 2019*



Our Giving Tree will be up until the 3rd Sunday of Advent which is the 16th of December. Please take a moment and pick one or more of the tags off the tree and participate in this very special ministry of caring for those who have so little. Gifts should be returned not later than Dec 16th. **Please do not wrap gifts.**

**Week at a Glance**

**Saturday December 1**

KOC Bazaar & Chili Lunch—auditorium 9am-3pm  
St. Bede's Ordinariate Mass 11am

**Sunday December 2**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

Family Advent Wreath Event—Auditorium 11:30am  
Private Function—auditorium 7-9pm

**Monday December 3**

Bingo—auditorium 6:50pm

**Tuesday December 4**

Finance Meeting—St. Agnes Rm 12noon  
Halifax Concert Band 7-10pm

**Wednesday December 5**

Chebucto Links—Campbell Centre 10am  
Playgroup—Auditorium 10am

**Thursday December 6**

**NO MASS**

Prayer Shawl Ministry Campbell Cnt. 1:30pm

**Friday December 7**

Quilting—Campbell Centre 9-12  
Indoor Walking—Auditorium 10am  
Drop & shop —auditorium-5:30pm—9:30pm

**Saturday December 8**

Maintenance Committee Mtg—St. Agnes Rm  
Drop & Shop—Auditorium 9-6pm

**Sunday December 9**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

Blessing of the crèche following the 10:30am Mass  
Private function—auditorium 7-9pm

**Monday December 10**

Turkey Bingo Auditorium—6:50pm



**Halifax Concert Band Halifax**

**Concert Band** will be performing their Annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday December 4th starting at 7pm. This is an

annual event that always creates an uplifting sense of joy in everyone who attends. Come on out and join in a magical Christmas concert with Carol sing-alongs. Admission is a donation at the door .