

## Advent



The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. The word **Advent** means "coming" and refers to the coming of Jesus Christ.

The season emphasizes a threefold coming of Christ:

**Theme:** Preparing for the Coming of the Lord

**Dates:** Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on the day before Christmas. It begins on 29 November 2009 and ends on 24 December at sundown.

**Colors:** In most churches, the decorations are purple or blue; royal colors to welcome the King. (Ken Collins)

**1st Sunday in Advent:** Jesus explains that no one knows the time of the Second Coming, therefore we should always be prepared.

**2nd Sunday in Advent:** John the Baptist preaches repentance to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

**3rd Sunday in Advent:** In Year A, John's disciples ask Jesus who He is. In Year B, John explains that he is not the Messiah. In Year C, John explains how people should repent.

**4th Sunday in Advent:** In Year A, Joseph learns that Mary is a virgin, even though she is pregnant. In Year B, Gabriel explains to Mary that even though she is a virgin, she will give birth to the Son of God. In Year C, Mary goes to Elizabeth and expresses her joy (the passage known as the Magnificat).

*Advent is a preparation, and the best way to start preparing is with a thankful heart.* (catholic.org)

*If you have any Christmas article that you would like published in the December issue of the bulletin, please forward to the Toronto Word group at your earliest opportunity.*



**Email to:** BLD\_Toronto\_Word@googlegroups.com  
**Submit by:** As soon as possible  
**Format:** Word Document



# Living Water



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November 27, 2009

**BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS • OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD**  
Toronto District

**First Sunday of Advent**



### ORDER:

"Be on guard, and be alert at all times, praying that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life." Luke 21:35

### REFLECTION:

Advent is the time when we prepare ourselves and look with utmost expectation toward the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world. It is the time of preparation that is marked by prayer. It is the time when we prepare our hearts and our minds to truly give God our praise, our adoration and thanksgiving for all that He has done for us. The Season of Advent is also the time when we prepare ourselves for the glorious return of our Lord as our Judge either at death or at the end times.

This week's readings tell us the awesome reality of the return of the Lord at the end of time. In the first reading from the Book of Jeremiah,

### THEME:

We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when we abound in love for one another.

### WORD:

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14; 1Thes 3:12-4:2;  
Lk 21:25-28,34-36

we are promised that the days are surely coming when God will restore justice and righteousness in the land.

In the Gospel, the Lord calls us to be on guard and to be alert at all times and that we should continuously pray so that our hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life. The Gospel also tells that no one knows when our time comes, the time when we appear before God and be judged for what we have done during our mortal life.

St Paul advises us in this 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Thessalonians on how we can prepare ourselves for His coming. He tells us that we should abound in love for one another and for all. Paul also reminds us that the greatest gift is to increase our love for others. Boundless love means not limiting our love to our friends but also for our enemies and to those we have difficulty forgiving. We should also strive and please God at all times by persevering in our faith and maintaining pure minds. We should regularly exercise during this season the disciplines of Advent by going to confession and repentance, fervent prayer, immersion in Scripture, and fasting.

The Lord's paths are kindness and constancy towards those who keep His covenant and His decrees. This Advent Season let us not focus so much from the pleasures of Christmas but instead strive to be vigilant and fervently pray to the Father to strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may be blameless before Him at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

#### DIRECTION:

- ❖ As members of a community, we must increase and abound in love for one another and for all.
- ❖ Strive to please God at all times.

#### GOD'S PROMISE:

"All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees." (Ps 25:10)

## YOUTH



## MINISTRY

### KORNER

The *BLD Toronto Youth Ministry* is pleased to announce the upcoming **TORONTO YLSS #11** (open to all Youths 13 years and above)

Please register for one of the following **Orientation Sessions**  
(Our Lady of Assumption Church, Bathurst)

\* *Friday, December 4, 2009 (after the Healing Mass)*

\* *Friday, January 8, 2010 (after the Mass)*

\* *Friday, January 15, 2010 (after the Youth Praise & Worship (PNW))*  
(Registration forms will be given to the candidates at the Orientation)

**Shepherding Sessions** (after the Youth PNW, Our Lady of Assumption Church)

*Friday, January 29, 2010 \* Friday, February 12, 2010*

*Friday, February 19, 2010 \* Friday, February 26, 2010 (One-on-one)*

#### *Invocation Mass*

*Friday, March 12, 2010 @ Our Lady of Assumption Church*

#### *YLSS Weekend Proper:*

*Sat-Sun, March 13 & 14, 2010 @ Cardinal Leger Catholic School, Scarborough*

**Post Shepherding Sessions** (after the Youth PNW, Our Lady of Assumption Church)

\* *Friday, March 19, 2010*

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#### YOUTH Teachings

(Registration for both teachings starts at 8:30 a.m.)

**Shepherding** (must have taken both YE & YLSS), *Saturday, November 28, 2009 @ OLA*

**BBS** (all Youths), *Saturday, December 5, 2009 @ OLA*

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#### *November 20th PARENTS NIGHT*

Praise God for a good turnout. **Thanks to all the parents who participated.**

*In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit:  
on the one hand, they raise their eyes  
towards the final destination of their pilgrimage through history,  
which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus;  
on the other, remembering with emotion his birth in Bethlehem,  
they kneel before the Crib.  
(Pope Benedict XVI)*

