

## Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate

## Advent and Christmas 2025



### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

We invite you to take part in some of the events happening in our parish this Advent season. We will honour the Lord's coming with music, Scripture, and Prayer. Please take advantage of the extra time for confession, as the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

### **May God Bless You and Your Families During The Advent and Christmas Seasons,**

*Bishop Ustrzycki, Father Jan, Father Bill, Father Paul,  
Deacon Quinto, and all the Parish Team*

### **Parish Office Closures During the Christmas Holidays**

The Parish Office will close at 4:30pm on Tuesday, December 23, and open again at 9:00am on Monday, December 29. It will also close at 12:00pm on Wednesday, December 31, and open at 9:00am on Friday, January 2.

## Advent 2025

### **An Advent Scripture Challenge**

This Advent, you are invited to join fellow parishioners in reading the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In various parts of Isaiah, we read many of the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, which feature so prominently in the Scriptures read at Mass during Advent. Consider reading it as a family during Advent, and then read the account of the Nativity from St. Luke's Gospel on Christmas Eve.

### **Continue your Scripture Journey**

On the following days of the Christmas Season, sit before your Christmas Tree, or your Nativity scene, and take a few minutes alone, or as a family, to reflect upon the following passages of Scripture:

Christmas Eve	St. Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day	St. John 1:1-14
Epiphany (Sunday January 4)	St. Matthew 2:1-12

### **Advent Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, November 30 at 4:00pm at St. George's Anglican Church**

Plan to attend our annual *Advent Service of Lessons and Carols*, as a way to begin this season in prayer and recollection. This year's service will be an ecumenical endeavour with St. George's Anglican Church. The Service will be held at 4:00pm on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at St. George's Church, 99 Woolwich Street, Guelph.

### **Holy Hour and Mass on Saturday Mornings**

On Saturday, December 13 and Saturday, December 20, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am. These Masses will be preceded by a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 8:00am, with Confessions from 8:00-8:45, and the Office of Lauds (*Morning Prayer*) at 8:30am.

### **Novena of Masses for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Once again, this year we will celebrate a Novena (*nine days*) of Masses leading to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our Parish's Patronal Feast Day. Novena Masses will be held at 7:30 each morning from November 29 to December 7, with reflections and the Novena Prayers each day.

### **John B Miller Advent Concert**

**Wednesday, December 3**

Again, this year we are pleased to welcome John B Miller and friends to the Basilica of Our Lady for an evening of Advent music. Please join us on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00pm for an evening of beautiful music. Admission is free but a freewill donation would be much appreciated.

### **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception    Monday, December 8**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our parish Patronal Feast Day is celebrated on Monday, December 8. This year, we are pleased to welcome His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, to preside at the Solemn Mass. Our Parish Feast Day will be celebrated as follows:

8:30am        Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Morning Prayer and Rosary  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all Day

6:15pm      Vespers (*Evening Prayer*)  
 6:30pm      Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament  
 7:00pm      Solemn Mass for the Immaculate Conception.  
                  Reception in the Parish Hall after Mass

**Bambinelli Sunday**

**Sunday, December 14**

On the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, you are invited to take part in one of the newer traditions in our Catholic life. Please bring the Baby Jesus statues from your home nativity set(s). The images will be blessed at all of the Masses on “*Bambinelli Sunday*” before you place them in your home’s Nativity.

**Advent Evening of Reflection**

**Wednesday, December 17**

On Wednesday, December 17, you are all welcome to an Advent Evening of Reflection. We will begin with a Holy Hour in the Church, with a reflection by Father Ian entitled, “Advent Every Day”. After Night Prayer and Benediction, we will continue the evening with a social in the Parish Hall. Please bring some Christmas sweets to share. Wine, coffee, tea and cider will be available.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation During Advent**

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be celebrated:*

Saturday, December 6	4:00pm – 5:00pm
Saturday, December 13 and 20	8:00am – 8:45am 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Tuesday, December 16	4:00pm – 7:00pm

**Christmas 2025 Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve**

**Wednesday, December, 24**

Final Mass of Advent	9:00am
<i>The Basilica will open at 4:00pm</i>	
Vigil Masses of Christmas	5:00pm and 7:00pm

**Solemn Mass of Christmas**

<i>The Basilica will open at 11:00pm</i>	<i>Carols begin at 11:30pm</i>
Solemn Midnight Mass	12:00 Midnight

**Christmas Day**

**Thursday, December 25**

<i>The Basilica will open at 8:00am</i>	
Masses of Christmas Day	9:00am and 11:00am

<i>Feast of St. Stephen</i>	<i>Fri. Dec. 26</i>	<i>9:00am</i>
<i>Feast of St. John the Evangelist</i>	<i>Sat. Dec. 27</i>	<i>9:00am</i>

**The Feast of the Holy Family**

Regular Masses      Saturday  
   Sunday

**Sunday, December 28**

Confessions 4:00pm – 5:00pm  
Mass at 5:15  
Masses at 9:00am and 11:00am

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God      Dec. 31/Jan. 1**

December 31      Vigil Mass      5:15pm  
January 1      One Mass Only      10:00am

*Please Note that January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation*