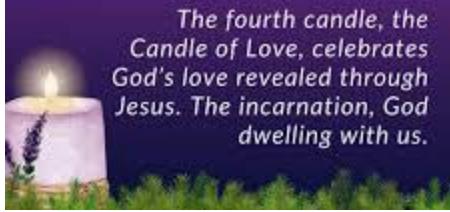


December 21, 2025

# 4th Sunday of Advent

## The Candle of Love



The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*. In today's prophecy, Isaiah gives us the most important detail concerning the Messiah, Christ. He was to be God as well as man. This is what Christ was, as he claimed and as he proved by his miracles and by his resurrection. What a stunning, and at the same time, what an inspiring fact this knowledge is for us! We call the Incarnation, the coming of the Son of God among us in human nature, a mystery. It is one of the basic mysteries of our Christian religion, but the mystery lies not so much in how it was done ("with God all things are possible"), but rather in the infinite, mysterious love of God for us, who are so much below him and so unworthy of his love.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*. In today's reading, we have the opening verses of that Epistles. In it, he calls himself a servant of Christ, an Apostle, set apart (chosen) to preach the gospel of God. This gospel is the news of the Incarnation, through which and by which, all men are called to follow Christ, and become his brothers, and thus sons of God destined to be saints in heaven.

## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

**Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday**  
**Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei**  
**(902) 535-2053**



December 21, 2025

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

The **Gospel** of this Sunday, from the *Gospel of Matthew 1:18-24* begins in a typical Hebrew fashion, by giving the genealogical table of Jesus, who was born of Mary. He does not mention the Annunciation, nor Mary's problem of preserving virginity while becoming a mother. But the revelation given to Joseph, Mary's betrothed, which Matthew here describes, brings out the fact of the virginal conception of Jesus, and his messianic mission of salvation. Matthew then adds that Christ was the Messiah, to be born of a virgin, of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke, seven centuries later.

This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's birth. Like Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honor of welcoming him into our hearts and our homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in God's goodness. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

The feast of Christmas should draw the hearts of every child of God towards the furnace of divine love. In the manger, the infinite love of God for us miserable sinners is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby, represented by a statue, we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

"Unsearchable indeed are the judgements of God, and inscrutable his ways." But though we are unworthy of his infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the Incarnation. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love, but let us imitate Joseph and accept the honor which God is giving us, as we trust that he will continue to make us daily less unworthy.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Collection December 14, 2025

Envelopes	<b>\$365.00</b>
Loose	<b>\$25.00</b>
Donation for Heat	<b>\$50.00</b>
	<b>\$440.00</b>

## Notices:

**1: The 2026 Envelopes:** The 2026 envelopes are at the front of the church. Please pick up your box. **NOTE: We ordered less envelopes this year, so if your number was from 41 – 50 you will have a new number.**

**1: A children's Christmas Concert** will be held at Lakeside Community Centre, 8598 West Bay Hwy. on Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 2:00 PM with tea & coffee, light lunch, goodwill offering and tickets on Christmas basket. Will be open to the public.

**2: Church Decorating:** All are welcome to come help us decorate the church for Christmas on Monday December 22nd at 1:00 pm

**3: Christmas Day Mass** will be on Thursday December 25th at 9:00 am. We will not have a Christmas Eve Mass

**4: New Year's Day Mass** will be on Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9:00 am.

**5: Fire Hall/Community Hall update:** Great news, the migration for the land has been completed and we just need the deed signed over, which should happen in the next week. In the new year the steering committee will meet and planning will move ahead.

### **6: Garbage collection for Christmas/New Years**

Solid Waste Curbside Collection Changes

ZONE 3 - Lynch's River, Grand River Falls, Loch Lomond, Corbett's Cove Rd (east), Route 4 from Irish Cove to St. Peter's Canal, Smith's Road and Lewis Cove Rd.

- Thursday, December 25th will be done on Saturday, December 27th
- Thursday, January 1st will be done on Friday, January 2nd.

**7: The St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Car Draw is back!** You could drive away with a brand new car and help out our parish in the process! Tickets are \$50.00 each or 3 for \$125.00! You could win a NEW Chevrolet TRAX 2RS. The draw will take place on Dec. 31st. If we sell out before New Year's Eve the draw will take place earlier. Only 2000 tickets.

### **8: Do you receive our diocesan newsletters?**

Seven Ears of Grain is emailed each Monday morning, with news and events from our diocese and parishes, plus news and resources from the Vatican and national offices.

Witness of Hope is our seasonal newsletter.

To subscribe, visit <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/newsletter/>  
or email [jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca)

### **9: Christmas Eve:**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)

SJB- River Bourgeois 4:00 PM

SP – St. Peters 5:30 PM