



November 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The day has arrived when we begin our frantic preparation to welcome the New-Born Baby, the Branch of David, the Shepherd, God has promised us. This day is the beginning of Advent. The beginning of our liturgical year.

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which we as Christians make ourselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord. Celebrating Advent involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy.

We celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of the age.

Advent is both a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ and a preparatory period of repentance, meditation, and penance. Let us remember Lord's call to us to be our brother's and sister's keeper. Until we see Him in person, let us keep being Christ to others. Let them be Christ to us. We walk in His footsteps and look out for each other. Be ready at all times to meet Him because He will come unexpectedly. **BE ALWAYS PREPARED.**

Let us revive the spirit of the season through serious reflection, joyful expectation, and through observing Advent traditions. As we light the Advent candles, I pray that you will feel God's hope, peace, joy and love this season!

May the Season of Advent fill your hearts with Peace and Happiness forever.

Reverend Nash Smith

## **Advent and Christmas at St. James Leitrim**

St. James continues our commitment to serve others, to be our brother's and sister's keeper. This Advent, we welcome your donations towards the **Primate's World Relief and Development**, and the **Rotary Respite Home** (our neighbours). We are also collecting donations of warm socks, gloves, mitts, hats, and scarves for our '**Mitten Tree**' and for those less fortunate.

**Thursday, December 1, 2022 7:00 p.m.** – The Lighting of the Church and grounds with carols and a reception. Please join us with family and friends.

**Sunday, December 4, 2022 10:30 a.m.** – Advent 2 (Love) Holy Eucharist. We are collecting 'White Gifts' (**non-perishable food**) for the Pavilion Food Bank, Greenboro.

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 10:30 a.m.** – Advent 3 (Joy) Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, December 18, 2022 10:30 a.m.** – Advent 4 (Peace) Carols and Lessons Service, pageant, and pot luck lunch. Our Christmas tree will be decorated following this service.

**Saturday, December 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Family Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, December 25, 2022** – There will be **no service** at St. James. You are welcome at Holy Trinity Metcalfe at 9:00 a.m. or St. James Manotick at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to attend church on Christmas Day.

**Sunday, January 1, 2023 10:30 a.m.** – Morning Prayer. We will enjoy a toast together in celebration of Christ's arrival and the New Year.