

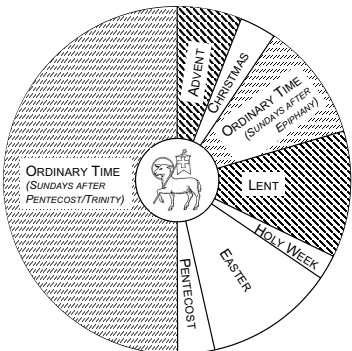
From the Priest in Charge

Believe it or not, the last Sunday of the Church year has snuck up on us once again. It's hard to believe that we're already here because it feels like just a few weeks ago was Trinity Sunday. So, whether we are prepared or not, this weekend is the last of the Trinity/Pentecost season and next week is, *really*, Advent. (*What is Advent all about? Come to our Children's Advent event on December 16th at St. Mary's to find out!*)

'Tis the season for buying a new Church calendar! Depending on which version you have, this Sunday, the 26th of November, might be called something different. In the BCP calendar, this Sunday is called the "*Sunday next before Advent*" – which is self-explanatory. In the BAS and other more recent calendars, though, this Sunday has taken on a different name: "*The Reign of Christ*". Here is where I want to direct our focus in this article.

Unlike the calendars that we are used to seeing, the Church year, or the "Liturgical Year", is not a straight line marching into the future. The Liturgical year, instead, is often depicted as a circle, something like what I've included with this article. Year after year, it revolves and we do the same thing, over and over again. The First Sunday in Advent is the "New Year's Day" equivalent of this calendar: this is the day when we turn back to the beginning of the prayer books and lectionary schedules.

In this calendar I've included, there are a few things to note. First, as you may have noticed, we spent a long time being in "Sundays after Trinity/Pentecost". It is, really, just about half of the year: anywhere from 23 to 27 weeks (out of a total of 52). We are now finishing off this lengthy section, having been only occasionally taken off this path my major saints' days or Holy Days. But what about the other half of the year, that "first half" we are about to begin anew? That half is marked by the retelling of the story of the life of Christ, from the prophecies foretelling him, to his birth, his life, his passion, his death and resurrection, his ascension, and his sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. It may feel like a whirlwind every year, with so many big events happening in such proximity to each other, and it is. But it does



have a purpose. After the dramatic season remembering the events of Christ's life, we then have time to breathe, to grow in our faith, and take in the lessons of what we have experienced – year after year.

So, that brings me to this name: "The Reign of Christ". What is it, and why does it appear here, at the end of the year? The feast day bearing this name first appeared on the Roman calendar in 1925, when it was kept on the last Sunday in October. With the liturgical renewal of the 1960s and 70s, it was moved to be the last Sunday of the Church Year before Advent – a position soon adopted by the Anglican Communion as well. This place gives it a special *eschatological* meaning – it points us towards the end of all time when Christ is Lord over all.

Indeed, the very placement of this feast day is a signal to the Church not just about something yet to come, but something that is: Jesus is Lord over all time *now*. As our Church year comes to a close, we refocus on the one for whom it exists in the first place. We recall all that we have learned about Christ in the last year and look forward to his second coming – both in our liturgical life and in the life of the world. It is Christ who reigns over all, and the Church year allows us to remember that all of our time – all of our life – is sanctified and made holy by his eternal presence. This is why the second thing I wanted to point to in this picture is the depiction of the Lamb of God, the *agnus dei*, in the centre. All our time is centred around Christ, the true lamb.

So, as we prepare to restart the lectionaries, flip the calendars, and prepare for the preparation that is Advent, we recall that Christ is Lord and he reigns over us yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). We have learned and will continue to learn about him all the days of our life in the hope that our hearts will be changed by him. And if they're not? Well, there's always next year...



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



Parish Notices and Updates _____

COPIES OF THE 2024 CHURCH CALENDARS, prepared by our friends at St. Peter Publications in Charlottetown, are now available in the Narthex. The cost is \$9.00. These lovely calendars are a great way to keep track of the Church Year as we try to grow in grace. We would be very happy to drop off copies to those who are not able to pick one up, please let Fr. Nicholas know how many you would like.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL will be hosting a service of **Advent Carols and Lessons next Sunday, December 3, at 4pm**. Fr. Nicholas will be reading one of the lessons and encourages you to attend if you're able. If you've never been to one before, you are especially encouraged!

God willing, we're hoping to have an **ADVENT CHILDREN'S GATHERING** in the Parish Hall on Saturday, **December 16th, from 10am to 1am**. This will involve crafts, Bible stories, and lunch. We will have activities that suit a wide age range, so we hope you can make it and invite a friend!

THE ST. MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION is collecting donations for **Women in Transition House** here in Devon. A list of possible donation items is in the Narthex, and includes specific items and/or sizes. Please speak to Adele Knox for more information.

CLERGY: Fr. Nicholas will be unavailable Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. As such, Bible Study will be cancelled this week.

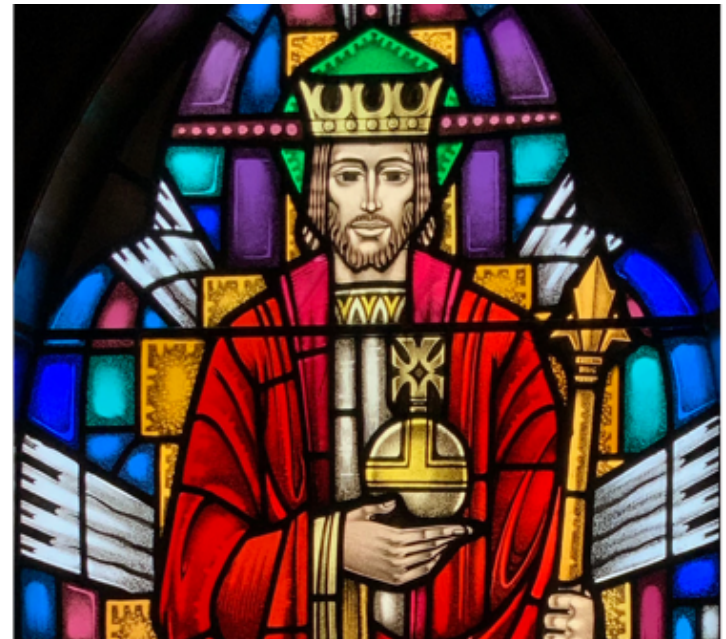
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those who wish to place memorial flowers may do so by including a donation through the collection plate. Please ensure the outside of the envelope is clearly marked "*Christmas Flowers*" and includes the name(s) of those in whose memory the flowers are being placed, as well as complete information regarding the donor(s). To ensure this information is included in the Christmas bulletin, please submit by **Monday, December 18th**.



*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 11:00 a.m. Celebration
for Coffee and Conversation.*

*The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Isaac Watts (Hymn 388)

EVE OF THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE

ADVENT

Saturday, November 25, 2023

*The Lord God omnipotent reigneth:
O come, let us worship!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 119, parts 9, 10 | Sirach 10.6-8, 12-24 | Acts 15.1-21

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 85.1-7:	<i>page 438</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 259</i>
The Lesson:	<i>page 259</i>
The Epistle:	Colossians 1.13-20
Gradual Psalm 85.8-13:	<i>page 439</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 259</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Intercessions:	∇. Lord, in thy mercy R. Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NOVEMBER 27: FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

NOVEMBER 28: FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, *Neill Hall*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

NOVEMBER 29: FERIA

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist (*Eve of St. Andrew*)

NOVEMBER 30: ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

No scheduled services

DECEMBER 1: FERIA

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

DECEMBER 2: EVE OF ADVENT I

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 3: THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *All Saints, Marysville*

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Parish Shared Meal in the Hall

4:00 p.m. – Advent Carols & Lessons,

Christ Church Cathedral



PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev'd. Nicholas Saulnier
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THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

November 26, 2023

*The Lord God omnipotent reigneth:
O come, let us worship!*

11:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	432 (HERMON)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 259</i>
The Lesson:	<i>page 259</i>
♫ PSALM 85.8-13	<i>page 439</i>
The Epistle:	Colossians 1.13-20
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	284 (MOSCOW)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 259</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	♫ Alleluia ♫
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	539 (DOMINUS REGIT ME)
The Intercessions:	∇. Lord, in thy mercy R. Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
♫ HYMN AFTER COMMUNION:	250 (RHOSYMEDRE)
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	388 (DUKE STREET)

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