



Newsletter – Issue 118: December, 2022

**Prepared by members of the *Una Voce Vancouver Island Association (U.V.V.I.A.)*,
for the Traditional Latin Mass community,
in the Diocese of Victoria, B.C., Canada.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish 849 Old Esquimalt Road, Victoria B.,C., V9A 4W9 Parish Priest: Fr. John Domotor, C.D. Phone: 384-3884; E-mail: office@gop.ca Website: www.gop.ca</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U.V.V.I.A. Traditional Latin Mass Community Website: http://latinmassvictoria.com/ Email: info@latinmassvictoria.com Newsletter Editor: UVVIA.NL@shaw.ca</p>
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Latin Masses & Devotions in December; For latest update see our web-site.		Time	Celebrant
Friday, 2 nd December	Privileged Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus + commem. privileged Advent Feria + commem. St. Bibiana, V. M.	8.30 a.m.	Fr. Domotor
Sunday, 4 th December	Second Sunday of Advent	Noon	
Thursday, 8 th December	(Sung Mass): Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary + commem. privileged Advent Feria.	8.30 a.m.	
Sunday, 11 th December	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	Noon	
Friday, 16 th December	Advent Ember Friday + commem. St. Eusebius, Bishop & Martyr.	8.30 a.m.	
Sunday, 18 th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Rorate Sunday)	Noon	
Friday, 23 th December	Greater Feria of Advent	8.30 a.m.	
Sunday, 25 th December	Christmas Middy Mass.	Noon	
Monday, 26 th December	Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr + commem. in the Octave of the Nativity.	8.30 a.m.	

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

<u>For the sick and suffering (see also Parish Bulletin):</u>		<u>Miscellaneous Intentions:</u>
Mrs. Doreen Kitchen	Mrs. Agnes Berard	For our Priest, Bishop and the Holy Father.
Mrs. Christine Stornebrink	Fr. Donald Malins	For vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life.

R.I.P. Please remember in your prayers the faithful departed: Michael Birch, Irene Domotor, Roger Brown, Earl & Elsa Morrison, Bernard & Nova Wauthy, Louis Berard, Marcellina Baldauf, Patricia Gould, Mary Lawson and Lorna Cue.

NEWS

1. More members to be inducted into the Guild of St. Stephen.

Following Holy Mass on St. Stephen Day, 26th December, Father Domotor will induct three of our Altar servers into the **Servers' Guild of St. Stephen**; namely, Tyler Spaven, Kyle Cotton and Lucas Cotton.

Members of the Guild can be recognised by their oval medals and their red sashes. To become a member of the **Servers' Guild of St. Stephen**, a server must have fulfilled the required qualifications for the rank he holds.

Mr. Robert McBride also wears a silver merit award on his cotta. He received this from the Guild for his many years of serving Mass in the Catholic Church.

2. The history of the St. Stephen's Guild

The Guild of St. Stephen is an international organisation of Altar Servers which was founded in England in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he constituted a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London. In 1905, Pope St. Pius X granted approbation for the canonical establishment of the Guild at Westminster Cathedral, and, in 1906, the Sacred Congregation of Rites made the Guild an Archconfraternity *prima primaria*, enabling all the parish branches to be linked to it. The Guild became widespread, and, in 1934, Pope Pius XI enabled all guilds of Altar servers throughout the Commonwealth to be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at Westminster.

The objectives of the Guild are

- to encourage, positively and practically, the highest standards of serving at the Church's Sacred Liturgy, and thus to contribute to the whole community's participation in a more fruitful worship of God.
- to provide altar servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing, so that they may serve with an increased reverence and prayerfulness, and thereby be led to a deeper understanding of their vocation in life.
- to unite servers of different parishes and dioceses for their mutual support and encouragement.

The name *Stephen* means *crown*, and St Stephen was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The Apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of them.

3. Christmas gifts for the Seminarian Fund

On Sunday, 11th December, immediately following the Latin Mass, there will be a Christmas bake sale and also the sale of religious books and articles. Donations for both are accepted. Baked goods must be dropped off downstairs before the Mass begins. All proceeds will go into our seminarian fund

4. The next Newsletter will be available, as usual, on the last Sunday of the month. Sunday 25th December.

LITURGY

The month of December is entirely dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is especially observed for a devotional octave. Much or all of Advent lies in December as well, as does the Octave of Christmas. The two main feasts of the month are Christmas (25th December) and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th December). Christmas is also preceded by the 'Golden Octave' as well as a Novena. After 16th December, only the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle is admitted to the calendar.

The Advent season is a penitential period of abstinence and penitence in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.. It marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year and includes four consecutive Sundays before Christmas, ending on Christmas Eve. The singing of the Ordinaries of Mass also changes from Mass XI to Mass XVII and is unaccompanied by the organ.

Since Christmas can occur on any day of the week, the first Sunday of Advent can fall anywhere between 27th November and 3rd December. The Advent seasonal colour of the vestments is violet, except it is white on the feastday of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and rose on Gaudete Sunday. We have dressed this newsletter in a violet border to mark this season.

The term *advent*, in normal parlance, means a coming into being or the start of something. In Sacred Scripture (Genesis 3.15), a Redeemer was promised to Adam and Eve after their expulsion from Paradise. Their descendants had to wait some four thousand years before the advent of the Redeemer, Who was born in a humble stable near Bethlehem, because there was no room for them anywhere in the little Town of Bethlehem. Advent corresponds to that long waiting period of the Israelites.

By the time that Jesus, the Redeemer, was finally born, many Jews had forgotten the true meaning of God's promise. They expected a martial king who would come to free them from the yoke of the Roman occupation. But the Saviour of mankind did not come into the world as a triumphant and charismatic leader who would expel the hated Romans. No, He came into the world as a humble Child. The birth of that humble Babe, Who was actually the powerful Creator of Heaven and earth, was announced by an angel to nearby shepherds. These simple men became the first people, after His parents, to adore Jesus, while a choir of Angels sang *Gloria in excelsis Deo*. It was a simple but majestic appearance of the Son of God in His human nature.

Advent is the season in which we do not only remember Jesus' first coming but also wait in joyful hope and expectation for His second coming. The current conditions in the Church, and in the world, seem to make the need for God's intervention in human affairs ever more urgent.

DEVOTION

We have a beautiful devotion entitled “**Advent and Preparatory Christmas Devotions**” which we highly recommend meditation and prayer during the Advent season. It will be posted on our website and can be downloaded from there. For the devotional octave of the Immaculate Conception, we have a booklet entitled "Devotions to the Immaculate Conception".

A DEVOTION IN ADVENT SEASON

There exists a pious custom amongst many Catholics to pray the following popular novena in preparation for Christmas. It reminds them every day in Advent of the coming of Our Lord into the world. To be effective as a meditation, it should be recited with great recollection and attention.



Christmas Anticipation Prayer

Recite piously 15 times a day,
from 30th November
(feastday of St. Andrew the Apostle)
until Christmas

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
in which the Son of God was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.
In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God!
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
(Here mention your personal intention)
through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and of His Blessed Mother. Amen

