



Parish of the Lower Laurentians Newsletter - November 2015 – Vol. 3

A Message Archdeacon Ralph Leavitt:

Happy All Saints Day! What an exciting time in our church. The 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Montreal was consecrated in Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal on September 29th, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. Our Primate Fred Hiltz, our Metropolitan, Percy Coffin, and 10 other Bishops were there to consecrate our very own Mary Irwin Gibson as Bishop in the Church of God. Mary was consecrated and then installed in her seat in the Cathedral. Holy Trinity in Ste. Agathe was very pleased to have Bishop +Mary come to us on her first Pastoral Visit as Bishop. May God bless her new episcopal ministry.

The Laurentian Regional Ministry is now in full swing. Recently the Lay Committee met to plan for the future. There will be a Lay Committee that will "vision" for our future, a Communications Committee that will co-ordinate news in the Region as well as set up a Facebook page and Website, a Finance Committee will oversee finances in the region, and finally a Worship Committee will look at bilingual services for the region.

As Saints in the Church of God, let us all truly give thanks for our changing church; may it always be centered in Christ, and may we always be working to bring about the kingdom of God right here and right now.

God bless you as we head towards a new Christian year and the Advent season. Ralph +



PLL Project to Reach Out to Our Neighbours



The Parish of the Lower Laurentians consist of four churches covering at least three municipalities.

Our desire to provide for anyone in need in the PLL area, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year, has fuelled a new initiative. A project, a new fund, has been created to meet this need and fulfil this dream.

The PLL Outreach Project offers those in need a gift card to a grocery store and a more general store instead of providing a food basket. The recipients are able to make their own choices. The flexibility, independence and dignity of this approach all appeal to us.

Donations may be made out to St. Paul's Church, and mailed to 1176 Dunany, Wentworth, Quebec, J8H 3W8. Please write "**PLL Outreach**" on the subject line.

There has been, and continues to be, a Christmas Food Basket project, serving the Municipality of Gore. These two projects complement each other and are not in competition. Of course we continue to support the Gore /Holy Trinity Church Christmas Basket Project and encourage you to support it as well.

Service Schedule

HC = Holy Communion MP = Morning Prayer

November 1

St. Paul's, Dunany **Joint Service – 11 am**
Collection of non- perishable food
for Gore Food Basket Project and funds
for PLL Community Support Project

November 8

Christ Church, Mille Isles – **11 am – MP**

November 15

St. Aidan's, Louisa – **11 am – HC**

November 22

Holy Trinity, Lakefield – **11 am – MP**

November 29

Christ Church, Mille Isles – **Joint Service**
11 am – HC

December 6

St. Aidan's, Louisa, **11 am-** Lessons & Carols

December 13

Holy Trinity, Lakefield, **11 am - MP**

December 20 - Christmas Service

Christ Church, Mille Isles – **11 am - HC**

December 24

Holy Trinity, Lakefield – **4 pm - HC** Christmas Ever Service

St. Paul's, Dunany – **4 pm – Family Service**

St. Aidan's, Louisa – **7 pm – HC –**

Christmas Eve Service

St. Paul's – **8 pm – Lessons & Carols**

December 27

NO SERVICE IN THE PLL

LAURENTIAN REGIONAL MINISTRY: We are over four months into this new Regional Ministry. We welcome your questions and comments. Please speak to the clergy or any of the leaders of your church; or contact the PLL representatives on the Regional Ministry Lay and Worship Committees: Hugh Mitchell 450-562-9249, Robert Percy 450-562-2700 or Wendy Crooks 450-562-6381. Your feelings and concerns will be discussed at the next meeting of the Regional Ministry.



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Shedding

Light on

Advent

Advent is a season observed in many western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Purple is historically the color used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). There is also an element of waiting for the Second Coming. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming".

The **Advent wreath** is an increasingly popular symbol of the beginning of the Church year in many churches as well as homes. It is a circular evergreen wreath (real or artificial) with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. The concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th Century. However, it is not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape.

The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. **Candles** symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent.

The **lighting of the candles** itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6).

The **first candle** lit is traditionally a purple candle representing **Expectation** or **Hope**.

The **second purple candle** is lit on the second Sunday of Advent and typically represents **Love**.

The third candle, the **rose candle**, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, represents **Joy**.

The fourth and **last purple candle** represents **Peace** and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On **Christmas Eve** traditionally the **white center candle** is lit.

This candle is called the "**Christ Candle**" and represents the **life of Christ that has come into the world**.

Participate in the full candle-lighting experience of Advent by attending each of the Sunday Services throughout the PLL from November 29th at Christ Church, followed on Dec. 6th at St. Aidan's, Dec. 13th at Holy Trinity, Dec. 20th at Christ Church and finally Christmas Eve in the church of your choice.



JOIN US DURING ADVENT



Come and be part of our Advent Discussion Group – warm fellowship and engaging discussion. What more could we ask for as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour?

Tuesday evenings beginning Nov. 3rd at Wentworth Community Center. Time to be announced.

To indicate your interest in attending or for more information, call Wendy at 450-562-6381