

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The frenzy of last minute shopping has begun. Christmas is rapidly approaching and time for preparation is running out. There is an excitement in the air as we stroll amongst the crowds and listen to the carols playing in the background.



All this as we await the arrival of a small baby whose birth has been anticipated for 4000 years. What joy, what peace this birth has promised. Christmas tells us many things about humankind. It embodies a world that could be if we all took the time to see those around us every day and together built a world that included everyone regardless of our differences. We often stand by and justify our inaction to be the Good News because we are “only one person.” We neglect our ability to act and to do the right thing because, if truth be told, being “good” is hard. Yet that is what we are called to be.

The coming of this child is the beginning of the Christmas story. It is a story of a tiny baby, born into difficult times and circumstances, who will one day grow into the promised Messiah. His message will be one of peace and simplicity, showing us how to live life to the fullest by being God’s messengers of love and acceptance on earth. May we bring Christ each moment of each day to all we meet. Christmas reminds us of the impact one person can have on this world. “I am only one person, what can I do?” Be Christmas!

OTIP’s Feeling Better Now

Not feeling yourself? Take [this anonymous mental health assessment](#) to discover your risk for a mental health issue so you can take immediate action to stay healthy and productive.

Indigenous Cultural Awareness Workshop

Head to North Bay for Saturday January 21 and attend this workshop to engage in meaningful dialogue and to help create safe spaces for all learners. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ontario NDP Leadership

The Ontario NDP leadership contest has one candidate deemed eligible who has met the registration requirements. NDP MPP for Davenport and former education critic Marit Stiles will become the next leader. Details have yet to be provided but there will still be a “confirmation vote,” which will occur before the New Leader Announcement Event scheduled for March 4. Should you be interested in participating in that “confirmation vote” and you are not currently a member of the ONDP, you have until January 3, 2023, to sign up. Details are available [here](#).

Ontario Liberal Party

The Ontario Liberal Party will be electing its new party executive at its Annual General Meeting at the Hamilton Convention Centre on March 3 to 5. Members will be voting on motions that among other things, will determine how the next party leader will be elected. Once the new executive is elected, they will set the date and the rules for the leadership contest to replace Steven Del Duca who stepped down following the June 2 provincial election. Early bird registration rates expire on Friday, January 27. If you are interested in attending as a delegate or becoming a party member you can do so [here](#).

Enjoy the snow and one week to go,
Michele Pierce, President, Ottawa Catholic Teachers