



Holy Trinity Anglican Church  
8140 Victoria St.,  
Metcalfe, Ont.  
K0A 2P0

Advent – Christmas 2023

My dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord -

As I write this, Sharon and I are anticipating a great gift – the birth of our first grandchild. It is a time of hope and joy as we seem to constantly look at our phones, waiting for the call which would signal for Sharon to hop in the car and drive to Toronto! While she will not be a Christmas baby, our granddaughter will be a constant reminder to us that this pre – Christmas time of Advent is truly a time of preparation and excitement!

But...we are living in a world beset with so much pain and darkness, aren't we? . Humanity's propensity for violence as a solution to disagreements is so visible in so many corners of this fragile planet – Ukraine, The Middle East, The Sudan and in so many unnoticed episodes of nations “taking up arms against a sea of troubles” as William Shakespeare once wrote. In the midst of such reality, for some the message of the nativity, that “God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son so that all who believe in Him should not die but have eternal life” rings hollow and indeed causes some to turn away from their faith in search of what they seek as more logical and rational ways out of the darkness which surrounds them.

On a smaller scale, this season of hope and joy is, for many, a time of deep distress. For some, they have suffered the loss of loved ones and see the Yule gatherings as a reminder of that loss; for some, the empty chair at the table is an ache which hurts beyond words; for many who have no place to lay their heads, no rooms in the inn in their lives, this is a time of wondering who loves them, who cares that they even exist; for others, this season is a reminder that their resources are meagre and a painful reality check that they live lives of desperation and poverty. In the heart of this darkness, they call out, “Where is God in all this pain, all this hurting?” and hear – nothing in response... Except – except in a small corner of each of us we hear a newborn gurgle and cry from a cave near an obscure village in the hills of Galilee, assuring us that in the midst of what seems like overwhelming darkness and despair, there is hope, there is light, there is life!

God promised his children that they would never be left alone, left to their own devices. Through his prophets, he calls his children over and over again with a love song, a lullaby of compassion and care. He promises, “the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned...for to us a child is born, to us a son is given...” This promise has been shared through the millennia and confront us in our own times of darkness and sorrow. To make sense of this, I think often of sitting on the boathouse roof very early in the morning, hoping and waiting for sunrise, knowing that even though I cannot see it, there is light just peeking through the trees on the far shore which soon will spin across the waters and enter my soul, making me want to dance in celebration that, just as it is recorded in Genesis, “God said, ‘Let there be light’ and there was light. And God saw the light and God said, ‘It is good.’”

As we prepare to welcome Christ in our homes and communities this year, may we hear the angel choirs that sing, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests” and know that there is light in the darkness and love in a manger reaching out to each of us and saying to our very soul, “Shalom...God loves you with His All.” Alleluia!

With deepest prayers for you and yours, I am  
Father Michael Fleming +





## Holy Trinity Service Schedule

### December 3

- Advent 1 10:30 AM

### December 10

- Advent 2 10:30 AM
- White Gift Sunday in support of Naomi's Family Resource Centre
- Gifts and donations do not need to be wrapped. A wish list is at the bottom of this email.

### December 17

- Advent 3 10:30 AM
- Fellowship following the service

### December 24

- Christmas Eve Service 2:30 PM
- **NO 10:30 AM SERVICE**

### December 25

- **NO SERVICE**

### December 31

- New Year's Eve 10:30 AM

### January 7, 2024

- Feast of the Epiphany Lessons and Carols Service 10:30 AM



### Advent Study

Each Sunday in the Advent season, the homily will be published on the Parish website [holytrinitymetcalfe.com](http://holytrinitymetcalfe.com) . I will offer some questions for you to think about week by week. Your feedback would be appreciated at

[flemingmichael@rogers.com](mailto:flemingmichael@rogers.com)

Image by pikisuperstar on Freepik

## Naomi's Family Resource Centre Gift Suggestions

Chocolate  
New magazines - Cosmo, National Enquirer, etc  
Body lotion  
Nail polish for the holidays - something with a bit of sparkle or holiday colours  
Maple Syrup  
Warm socks  
Word searches, diaries, quiet activity books  
Pj's, Robes, Lap blankets  
Gift Cards

Size small for a 22 year old  
Large for a 30 year old (6 ft tall)  
Med - mid 50's  
Small - late 20's

### Year Round Needs

#### Primary Needs

#### New Clothing & Household Items

Toilet Paper  
New Twin/double sheet sets  
Pillows  
New Women's Pajamas (top and bottom)  
New towels/washcloths  
Travel mugs/water bottles  
Cleaning products (Lysol, Dish-washing Soap, Paper Towels, etc)  
Copier paper, white  
Unscented dryer sheets  
Antibacterial Clorox wipes  
Batteries all sizes  
Unscented HE Laundry detergent  
Personal Care Items  
Sanitary products  
Kleenex  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Adult briefs (Female)

#### Children's Needs

Wipes  
Diaper Genie refills  
Pull ups/Overnights  
Baby Monitors  
New teething soothers

#### Gift Cards

Grocery stores (Foodland, Walmart, etc)  
Gas Cards (Pioneer, Esso, Shell, etc)  
Drugstores (Shoppers, Rexall, etc)

Household (Walmart, Home Depot, Canadian Tire)  
Chapters  
Restaurants  
Clothing stores  
Calling cards(with Ottawa local # preferably)  
Movie passes

**Food Items**

Coffee/specialty teas  
Non-perishable food (apple juice, peanut butter, condiments, soup, crackers, cheese whiz, honey, pickles, jam, lunch snacks, baking supplies, juice boxes....)

**Secondary Needs**

**Personal Care Items**

Shaving cream  
Lip gloss/balm

**Children's Needs**

Colouring books  
Pencil crayons  
Pencil sharpeners  
New story books  
Children underwear and socks ages 0-12  
Craft Items  
Paint and Canvasses  
glitter, glue sticks, feathers  
foam sheets or shapes, stickers  
ribbon  
craft kits  
Gift wrap, bags, bows, coloured tissue paper, and scotch tape (not Christmas)