



# Merry Christmas



Dear fellow pilgrims:

One impressive aspect of Advent is the fact that so many Scriptural characters are not that impressive: normal folks, going about daily chores, activities, duties, business, and work. They would not be noticed by the important people of their day. Yet God dramatically intervenes in their lives, such that world history itself is affected.

You and I still benefit from the choices made by those regular folks – Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph and John the Baptizer. While Zechariah met God’s messenger as he went about religious duties, as far as we can tell Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth encountered God’s messengers during their routine activities. John the Baptizer, of course, led a dramatic and exceptional life, but did not call others to be like him; he asked people to live faithfully where they were already located.

Christians believe that life is not divided into sacred (religious duties) and ordinary (daily life). As L. Colin Owens says: “today is the only place we can encounter Christ” (*Abba, Give me a word, Paraclete* 2012, p. 129)

God can meet us always and everywhere. Advent is about waiting for God to take on human flesh (“incarnation”) and joining in our routine realities – inside and beyond the home.

The end of the calendar year approaches and we have beautiful Advent and Christmas observances planned. So much going on right now at church. Our Sunday attendance is not only holding steady but inching upward. We have an amazing roster of young people lined up for Confirmation. With that group, I look forward to learning, laughing, doing service, hearing the amazing group Sweet Honey in the Rock, and celebrating when Bishop Peter Fenty comes to celebrate Holy Confirmation on 27 April.

Other church plans are also in the works.

We’re ordinary people, you and I, and God can use us – through our households all the households of the earth can be blessed, especially when we join our efforts together. As the calendar year end approaches and as we show gratitude for all that God has generously done for us, I invite you and your household to contribute to the ministry and life of Christ Church Brampton.

Pax,

Arthur Boers+  
Interim Priest-in-Charge



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## Christmas Services

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While our Christmas traditions remain and adapt, and new traditions emerge, we are honoured that you include Christ Church in your Christmas celebrations. We have been busy planning for the most wondrous time of the year and are excited to bring the glory of Christmas either In-Person or Online. In new ways, we are able to celebrate the beauty of the season and to shine a light into the darkness around us. Please join us as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord

### In-Person

- Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm
- Christmas Day at 10:00 am

### Online

- Christmas Day at 10:00 am

Online services can be watched at any time once they have been premiered. Slip over to our website at [www.christchurchbrampton.ca](http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca) and click the YouTube icon.

We hope you'll join us—whether you are near or far, online or in-person, seeking a quiet moment of holiday solitude or safely gathering with your family or friends.

**All are invited | All are welcome | No experience required**

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## 2025 Confirmation Preparation | Starts January 5, 2025

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We are pleased to be offering confirmation preparation starting Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. With a wonderful crew of 14 young people already committed and a couple of "field trips" planned, we couldn't be more excited! While the full schedule will be available after Christmas, please note that most classes will be Sunday mornings following the 10:00 service from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Confirmation will take place at Christ Church on Sunday, April 27 with Bishop Peter Fenty presiding. This program is ideally suited for young persons who are in Grade 7 and up.

Confirmant families are invited to prayerfully consider making an offering of \$100 towards the Confirmation Program. To register or for more information, candidates and/or their parents/guardians should contact Shumaila Desrochers at: [cyf.christchurchbrampton@gmail.com](mailto:cyf.christchurchbrampton@gmail.com)

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## Impact Canada Post Strike & Interim Tax Receipts

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For many years, it has been our practice to provide Parish Households with a mailing in late November that included interim tax receipts representing the period January 1 – October 31 of the current year. With the Canada Post strike beginning on November 15, **this mailing did not get released.** We have found that this mailing ensures that our annual tax receipting goes smoothly and provides an opportunity to review your offerings to Christ Church.

Prior to the strike, our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson, prepared interim statements. Included in this mailing, if applicable, is an interim statement. **Please note that Tax Receipts are prepared confidentially.** You are most welcome to contact our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson, at 905-453-8323 or email at: [cdatak26@gmail.com](mailto:cdatak26@gmail.com) should you require more information. Additionally, should you wish to convert to Pre-Authorized Giving ("PAG") or amend an existing monthly donation, Carolynne would be happy to help. PAG forms are available on the website [www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give](http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give)

As a self-sustaining church, your donations are gratefully received and used for the mission of God right in our neighbourhood and beyond.