



# St. Timothy Church

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**St. Andrew School**

50 Meadow Drive  
Orangeville

**St. Benedict School**

345 Blind Line  
Orangeville

**St. Peter School**

46 Dawson Road  
Orangeville

## ADVENT

How sharp is your axe? Not the usual question you might get in a school newsletter, but metaphorically speaking, as we prepare for the onset of winter, our sights become set on Christmas!

“Ah! Sharpen the axe for tree cutting you mean?” you might say. No, not really. Some bad paraphrasing here, but I’m pretty sure it was George Washington who said, “If I had one hour to chop down a tree, I’d spend 50 minutes sharpening my axe.”

As Catholics, we can easily ‘skip’ over the liturgical season of Advent in our race to get things done for Christmas. Yet, **Advent is about “preparing” for Christmas.** Is there a difference in “preparing” and “getting things done?” On the surface perhaps not – but in the heart – absolutely! We know when a meal has been prepared and when its been done.

Advent began on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> this year. Consider preparing for Christmas – alongside getting things done. Where in our hustle and bustle are our hearts really preparing for the birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ? If that is an area that has been perhaps ‘lacking’ in your home over the years, why not take some steps to help “prepare” for Christmas this year. As Catholic parents, if our children - whom we promised at baptism to form and teach in the Catholic faith - asked us how we were experiencing Advent in our homes, what would we say? Here are some thoughts:

- 1) Do you have an Advent wreath with candles in your home? Are the candles lit at family meal time during these weeks before Christmas? It is easy to find copies of Advent prayers – even short simple ones to say as a family preparing for Christmas.
- 2) Set time aside to get together as a family. Have everyone pray one thing they are thankful for, and one thing that they would like to ask of God, no matter how big or small. Or, read a passage out of the Gospel of Mark to keep the focus on Jesus.
- 3) Pick one night a week during Advent to do a family activity. The Holy Family is never more focused on together than in the time leading up to and during the Christmas season. Spend some quality family time together – just to be with each other.
- 4) Finally – **ATTEND MASS!** Enter into the universal prayer of the Church with the rest of the Catholic family and ensure that our Sabbath days are truly incorporating in the most perfect way – our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!