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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Mabel Mendes, Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



prepare the way...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016

Pope Francis – Mercy from the Manger – Reflections for Advent

COMFORT, JOY AND OBEDIENCE

Pardoning offenses becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive!

Misericordiae Vultus

Dear God, how stiff-necked I can be. I find it difficult to show mercy to those I believe have wronged me, sometimes even in the smallest, the most unintentional of ways. I condemn rather than love, judge rather than forgive. Let me learn from the example of Zechariah, whom you left speechless to consider his disrespect to the angel Gabriel. Help me to remain silent to my persecutors until my words are words of forgiveness and mercy. **AMEN.**

No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh.

Misericordiae Vultus

Lord, it can be difficult to wrap my mind around the coming of your Son in human form, coming to live and love and laugh and suffer and die in the same ways we do. How much more difficult must it have been for the Blessed Mother to understand and accept, especially after finding herself impregnated by the Holy Spirit and being warned early on that her Son's public ministry would include pain for them both? And yet, she forged on. I ask for your help in living and serving you as she did, strong in faith and love and obedience. **AMEN.**

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. *Misericordiae Vultus*

Father God, I thank you for the blessing of this Advent season. As I gather with family and community today and tomorrow, I will offer up prayers of gratitude for the innumerable gifts you have bestowed upon us all. Your mercy is great, always guiding us back to your light whenever we stray and rejoicing in us when we reflect your face to others in our actions and words. I may not understand all the mysteries and intricacies of our faith, but in you, I grow in my understanding of love. Thank you. **AMEN.**



ADVENT WREATH:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

All four candles lighted.

Prayer: God, the Father of Light, bless this Advent Candle. O Jesus, you are the Light of the World. You have come to strengthen the weary, to guide the lost, to walk with the lonely. You are the hope of all people. Help us see your will in us. Always be with us so that we will know you in many ways. We recognize the glory of your Light when we see a smile on a little child's face. Teach us to always realize your presence among us. "Marana Tha, come, Lord Jesus".



RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Please remember to pray for the young people of our parish who will be receiving God's love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time

Christ the King School - December 17th.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

6:00 p.m. (Children's Christmas Pageant),
8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

December 30 – 7:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 31st – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.,

9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

There will be no Confessions from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24th.



Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 8:00 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Ajoy & Maureen Colaco

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 8:00 A.M.

In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

- 6:00 P.M.** + Lionel De Souza
 + Douglas Steele
 + Siegmund Grohotolowski
- 8:00 P.M.** + Tom & Dean McMillen & Scarlett Johnston
- 10:00 P.M.** + Martina Hatch
 + Mary & Tony Proska

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

- 9:30 A.M.** + Jack Staton
 + Christopher Staton
 + Jan Heini
- 11:00 A.M.** + Martina Hatch
 S.I. Special Intention for a Parishioner
- 12:30 P.M.** S.I. Parish Community

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION UPDATE.....

Baptized Catholics in Grade Seven and up are invited to consider receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament completes one's Christian initiation, empowers him/her to witness to Jesus Christ, and presumes a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, kindly attend ONE of the following meetings with your parent(s): **SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 at 10 a.m.** OR **SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 at 10 a.m.**

In order to register for Confirmation, please bring the following with you to the meeting:

1. **PHOTOCOPY OF THE CANDIDATE'S CATHOLIC BAPTISM CERTIFICATE**
2. \$20 for the Confirmation resource fee
3. The name of your Confirmation Sponsor. A Confirmation Sponsor must fulfill the following conditions:
 - a. Confirmed Catholic
 - b. 16 years of age or older
 - c. Practising Catholic
 - d. Not be the parent of the Candidate

Each meeting will be held in St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall (Basement).

These are the only 2 registration sessions being held for Confirmation in January 2017. If you miss these sessions, you are most welcome to register for Confirmation in 2018.

PARKING REGULATIONS – CHRISTMAS SEASON

During the Christmas Season, the church typically experiences an increase in attendance. Parishioners are reminded to observe all parking regulations when attending St. Francis of Assisi Church. The Parish will not be responsible for any tickets received for parking violations.



Archdiocese of Toronto Celebrates 175th Anniversary

December 17 marks the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto, kicking off a year-long celebration of this historic milestone. Originally part of the Diocese of Kingston, on December 17, 1841, Pope Gregory XVI formally created the Diocese of Toronto and named Michael Power its first bishop. The Archdiocese of Toronto is planning numerous historical and spiritual activities to commemorate the 175th anniversary, including a large-scale celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on May 30, 2017. In acknowledging this significant anniversary, Cardinal Thomas Collins remarked:

"It is a tremendous blessing to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto. It is always a joy to express my gratitude to those, past and present, who have made incredible contributions to our city, province and country, inspired by their faith. Over the next year, we will honour the past, energize our present faith community and look forward to an exciting future."

More information on the Archdiocese of Toronto 175th celebrations can be accessed by visiting: www.archtoronto.org.



Knights of Columbus - December 17 and 18

Poinsettias Pick-Up – Parish Hall - after all Masses this weekend.



**Becoming Experts in Humanity
 January 7, 2017 - 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto**

Dr. Josephine Lombardi will explore some of the facts that frustrate freedom and our ability to do God's Will. Register online: www.staugustines.on.ca
 Phone: 416.261.7207, Ext. 235



Registration Dates for Kindergarten

January 24 - 27, 2017 - 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 January 24, 2017* - 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

***Snow Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

If your child was born in 2012 or 2013, he or she can start Kindergarten in September 2017.



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