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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Emily Nail, Youth Coordinator Ann Overment Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



*May the Blessings of this
Holy Season be with you Always.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2015

"Joyful Anticipation of the Messiah"



Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

God gives us supernatural joy with hope in his promises

There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?

They were filled with the Holy Spirit

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born.

The Lord wants to fill each of us with his Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do you live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?

"Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more earnestly. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All."

ADVENT WREATH: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Light the first and second purple candles and the rose candle (repeat first, second & third week's prayers). Light the 4th purple candle. Prayer: Pour forth your power, O Lord, and come. Assist us by your mighty power so that by your grace and merciful kindness, we may swiftly receive the salvation that our sins impede. Amen.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24:

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

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25:

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

Feast of the Holy Family, December 26 & 27:

Sat. at 5:00 p.m., Sun. at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (Holy day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 31st at 5:00 p.m. and Friday, January 1, 2016 at 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.



Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 7:00 P.M

+ Hector Sarmiento

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 8:00 A.M.

INTENTION AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 7:00 P.M.

+ Hector Sarmiento

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24 AT

6:00 A.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE

8:00 A.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE

10:00 A.M. + Martina Hatch
+ The Luciano Family
+ The Johnson Family

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 A.M. + Mable Morris
+ Wyke & DiTrani Families
S.I. Jan Heini

11:00 A.M. + Martina Hatch

12:30 P.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 – Feast of the Holy Family

5:00 P.M. + Martina Hatch
+ Dr. George Zacal
S.I. 25th Wedding Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27: Feast of the Holy Family

8.00 a.m. S.I. Parish Community

9:30 a.m. + Sigmund Groho
+ Douglas Steele

11:00 a.m. INTENTION AVAILABLE

12:30 p.m. INTENTION AVAILABLE

Please call the parish office, 905-822-8132, Ext. 3, to arrange a Mass Intention.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

The St. Francis of Assisi Refugee Committee has been working through Project Hope, run by the Office of Refugees for the Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT), TO SPONSOR A FAMILY AFFECTED BY THE Syrian crisis. We have been assigned a family of five, the parents and three children ranging in age from 11 to 20, set to arrive in the next few months.

However, we have just received notification that the timetable has been moved up and we need to be prepared for their arrival at any time. The biggest challenge we face is finding temporary accommodation until we secure permanent accommodation once they are here. We are therefore asking parishioners to contact us if they are aware of any rental accommodation, in a house or building, with at least 3 bedrooms. Please contact Dolores Wielgus through the parish office if you can help us.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Corporal Works of Mercy



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous –
Matthew 25:35-40

1. Feed the hungry

"Feed the hungry (cf. Mt 25:

35, 37, 42) is an ethical imperative for the universal Church, as she responds to the teachings of her Founder, the Lord Jesus, concerning solidarity and the sharing of goods. The right to food, like the right to water, has an important place within the pursuit of other rights, beginning with the fundamental right to life. It is therefore necessary to cultivate a public conscience that considers food and access to water as universal rights of all human beings, without distinction or discrimination." – Pope Benedict, Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth), 27.

Lived out in the Archdiocese of Toronto:

Good Shepherd Centre – Check out our feature on Brother Tom Liss, OH Director of Shelter and Hospitality at the Good Shepherd Centre. St. Francis Table – Check out our feature on Brother John Frampton, OFM Cap animator of St. Francis Table. St. Felix Centre, Out of the Cold. Canadian Food for Children

Follow this series on the Corporal Works of Mercy in our subsequent bulletins.

For more information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, please check the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org

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

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Mark your calendars: Beginning Thursday, January 28, 2016, our St. Francis of Assisi Charismatic Prayer Group will be holding a Life in the Spirit Seminar. The Seminar will run for 6 weeks. All are welcome. Watch the bulletin for more information.



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