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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



*Feast of the Holy Family*

# THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

December 27, 2015



## "I must be in my Father's house"

celebrations, and customs.

### ***Jesus was born into a family devoted to the word of God***

When God sent his only begotten Son into the world, Jesus was born into a human family as a Jew who was raised according to scriptural teaching and customs of his people. Jesus was born under the law of Moses (Galatians 4:4) and was circumcised (the sign of being a covenanted member of Israel) on the eighth day and given his name, *Yeshua* in Hebrew (*Jesus* in English) which means "God saves."

### ***Jesus' journey to the Father's house***

Jews were expected to travel to Jerusalem for the high feasts each year (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles). Jesus undoubtedly traveled with his parents every year from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. This eighty mile journey normally took three days. So families often traveled in large groups for safety and comfort.

Luke records a remarkable incident which happened when Jesus went up to the temple at Jerusalem for his first Passover at the dawn of his manhood (usually the age of twelve for Jewish males). It was at this key turning point in his earthly life that Jesus took the name "father" from Joseph and addressed it to God his Father in heaven. His answer to his mother's anxious inquiry reveals his confident determination to pursue his heavenly Father's will. *Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? (Luke 2:49)*

### ***Jesus obeyed and served his family at Nazareth***

While Jesus identified himself as Son of the eternal Father in heaven, he, nonetheless, submitted himself with love and obedience to Mary and Joseph. Like all godly parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear (Godly respect) and wisdom of God. Luke tells us that Jesus grew as a man in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and with the people of Nazareth, his home town. He remained at Nazareth until the age of 30 when he was baptized by John at the River Jordan and anointed by the Spirit for his mission as the Messiah and Savior of the world.

God the Father reveals his rich favor, blessing, and joy to all who listen to his word and who follow his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you follow and obey the Son who shows us the way to the our Father's house and family in heaven?

*"Lord Jesus, you came to restore us to peace and friendship with the Father in heaven. Where there is division, bring healing and restoration. Where there is strife bring peace and forgiveness. May all families and nations on the earth find peace, harmony, and unity in you, the Prince of Peace and Savior of the world."*

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### **New Year Mass Schedule (Holy day of Obligation)**

#### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**Thursday, December 31, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Friday, January 1, 2016 at 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**

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## Mass Intentions for the Week

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 7:00 P.M.**

+ Nora Scarabello

S.I. Rocca & Gabriel Mansour

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT 8:00 A.M.**

**INTENTION AVAILABLE**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**INTENTION AVAILABLE**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, VIGIL MASS:**

**5:00 P.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016**

**11:00 A.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE**

**12:30 P.M. INTENTION AVAILABLE**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2016**

**Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass**

**5:00 P.M. + Leela Jacob**

**+ Graham Marr**

**+ Angelo Nazareth + James Dowd**

**SUNDAY, January 3: Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**8:00 a.m. S.I. Parish Community**

**9:30 a.m. + 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.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, December 28, 2015 until January 4, 2016**

## 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. 'Matthew 25: 35-40.*

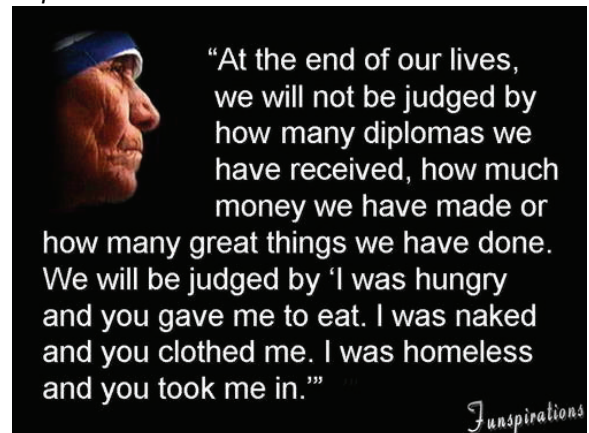
### 2. GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

Water plays an important role in Scripture, representing Jesus' desire to return to the Father "O God...my soul thirsts for you" (Ps 63:1). Water also serves as an important symbol in the New Testament, reminding us of the hope of freedom ("They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; / the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat" (Rev 7:16)) and as a means of purification, through the waters of baptism. As Christians, we have a responsibility to ensure access to safe drinking water is a priority: "Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity." – Laudato Si', 30.

**Lived out in the Archdiocese of Toronto:**

[Canadian Organization for Development and Peace](#)

*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](http://www.archtoronto.org)

### 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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