



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor  
Deacon Don Roberts  
Deacon Richard Te  
Emily Nail, Youth Coordinator  
Ann Overment, Parish Secretary  
Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper

## New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Please register by filling out a form available at the back of the church or online.

## Sacrament of Baptism

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a very serious commitment to raise the child within the Catholic faith community and to educate the child in the truths of the church. An essential part of the commitment is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of every month. Please contact the parish office for a Baptismal package.

## Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to be married should contact the parish one year in advance. They must also attend a Marriage Preparation Course prior to entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil divorce or religious marriage with another person, please notify the priest as soon as possible as the priest is not permitted to set a wedding date until the Bishop's Office has been contacted.

## Sacrament of the Sick

In this Sacrament we celebrate Christ's healing presence among us today. If you, a relative or friend, require this Sacrament at home or nursing home, please call the parish office. For your spiritual needs during a hospital stay, the Archdiocese of Toronto has assigned a full time Roman Catholic Chaplain to each of the two Mississauga hospitals. For the Chaplain, speak to the Nurses' Desk or call the Spiritual Care Office.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM  
Every 2nd & 4th Friday: 7:30 PM  
(or by appointment)

## MASS

Sunday Eucharist  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (fulfills the Sunday obligation)  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM & 12:30 PM  
*Children's Liturgy at: 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM Mass*

*Weekday Eucharist*  
Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 7:00 PM  
Tuesdays / Thursdays 8:00 AM

\* Morning Prayer / Evening Prayer  
(One half hour before Mass)

## DEVOTIONS

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*  
First Fridays (excluding holidays) 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

*Holy Hour*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

*Rosary & Our Lady of Perpetual Help*  
Mondays 6:30 PM

*Divine Mercy*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 3:00 PM

## PARISH LIFE

Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM)	905-822-8132
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua)	416-804-3457
Social Committee	905-822-8132
Ministry of Consolation & Hope	905-822-8132 ext. 3
RCIA	905-822-8132 ext. 4
St. Vincent de Paul	905-822-8132 ext. 5
Club 55	club55@st-ignatius-loyola.com
Youth Group	905-822-8132 ext. 6
Catholic Cemeteries	416-733-8544
Charismatic Prayer Group	905-822-8132 Ext. 3
(Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.)	

## SCHOOLS

St. Francis of Assisi	905-822-3183
St. Margaret of Scotland	905-820-5115
Christ the King	905-569-0220
Iona Catholic Secondary	905-823-0136

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2015

## "The Word of God came to John"

Do you recognize the voice of the Lord speaking to you when you listen to the word of God in Scripture? Luke the evangelist tells us that the "word of God came to John in the wilderness" (Luke 3:2). Who was John the Baptist and what is the significance of the word which he received and delivered to the people of his day? Luke tells us that John was the son of Zechariah, a priest who served in the temple at Jerusalem. John stood at a pivotal juncture in the history of God's dealing with his people. He bridged the Old and New Testaments, also known as the Old and New Covenants which God made with his people.

### ***John was filled and led by the Spirit***

John's prophetic calling and mission preceded his conception and birth. The angel had announced to Zechariah that his barren wife will conceive a son, and "you shall call his name John," and "he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:13, 15). When John received his name shortly after birth, his father prophesied that he would be "called the prophet of the Most High who will go before the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1:76). John was called to be a prophet, a spokesman for God.

### ***John was a servant of God's Word***

How did John prepare for the coming of the Anointed (Messiah) King and Savior of the world? Luke tells us that "the word of God came to John" when he was dwelling in the wilderness of Judea (Luke 3:2). John was called from an early age to devote himself to prayer and to the word of God. John not only took the Scriptures to heart, he molded his life according to them, and made himself a servant of the Word of God. John was led by the Spirit into a barren and lonely place away from the noise and distractions of everyday life. There God taught John in the solitude of the desert and prepared him for a prophetic ministry that would turn the hearts of his people to receive their long-awaited Messiah.

### ***Do you allow God's Word to transform your life?***

How can we, like John the Baptist, prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ - today and every day and when he comes again to bring us fully into his everlasting kingdom? John the Baptist tells us that the first step is conversion and repentance (Matthew 3:2; Luke 3:7). Conversion involves receiving God's word into our heart and mind and allowing his Word to change our attitudes and wrong ways of thinking and judging. Repentance is the deliberate turning away from sin (wrong-doing) and turning to God to receive his pardon, healing, and strength to do what is good and reject what is wrong.

John saw from a distance what Jesus the Messiah would accomplish through his death and resurrection - pardon for our sins, healing and restoration, and eternal life for all who would believe in the Lord Jesus. Are you hungry for the Word of God and do you allow God's word to transform the way you think, speak, and live your life?

**ADVENT WREATH: Second Sunday of Advent.** Light the first purple candle (repeat first week's prayer). Light the 2<sup>nd</sup> purple candle. Prayer: *Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the path of your Only-begotten Son: that we may worthily serve you with hearts purified by His coming: who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, world without end. Amen.*



### **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24:** 6:00 p.m. (Children's Christmas Pageant), 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 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 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and Friday, January 1, 2016 at 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**



### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Calling boys and girls in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 4, would you like to be in our Christmas Pageant at the 6 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. If you are interested, please ask your parents to call the parish office as soon as possible. (905-822-8132, Ext. 3.)

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**MONDAY, December 7 AT 7:00 P.M.** St. Ambrose

**INTENTION AVAILABLE**

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

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

+ Mary & Bill Pippy

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 7:00 P.M. Confirmation**

S.I. For Confirmandi

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 8:00 A.M.**

**INTENTIONS AVAILABLE**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**INTENTIONS AVAILABLE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 5:00 P.M.**

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Vigil Mass for 3rd Sunday of Advent**

+ Olga Verbowski

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. **INTENTION AVAILABLE**

9:30 a.m. + Des Somers

11:00 a.m. **INTENTION AVAILABLE**

12:30 p.m. S.I. Parish Community

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

### "PROJECT HOPE"

This 100-day campaign aims to raise \$3 million in order to settle 100 refugee families in the Archdiocese of Toronto as soon as possible. To make a donation to support the appeal, visit:



[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) or call (416) 934-3411. You may also donate through our parish with a cheque made payable to ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH – PROJECT HOPE – REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP. Those interested in assisting with volunteer committees should contact the Office for Refugees at (647) 780-0827.

### SUPPORT FOR RECENTLY SEPARATED OR DIVORCED CATHOLICS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is offering a 6-week group program for adult men and women coping with the many struggles involved in the process of separation and divorce. Group participants will receive support and guidance as they move through this difficult period of transition. The group will run on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 beginning January 5 to February 9, 2016 at their Central Office, 1155 Yonge St. (Summerhill Subway Station). For further information, please contact Alex Lopechuk, 416-921-1163.

### SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank you most sincerely for your generosity to their Christmas Collection taken up last weekend for those in need at Christmas.

### THE JUBILEE OF MERCY



The Jubilee of Mercy was announced by Pope Francis as a year to be lived intensely in each local Church throughout the world, allowing every person to encounter the mercy of God. The most evident sign of this pastoral care is the chance to open a Door of Mercy in every diocese. These doors, analogous to the Holy Doors of the Papal Basilicas in Rome, will allow people who cannot travel to Rome to make a Jubilee

pilgrimage.

The Holy Doors of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Toronto open on **Sunday, December 13, 2015.**

For those able to make a pilgrimage to one of the Jubilee churches in Rome, that is certainly an option. Otherwise, Cardinal Collins has designated seven churches within the Archdiocese of Toronto as Jubilee Churches, each with a Holy Door of Mercy. Going through one of these Holy Doors is a spiritual journey that shows, as the Holy Father said, "the deep desire for true conversion."

#### Designated churches for the Jubilee with a Holy Door of Mercy:

St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power Street, Toronto; St. Patrick's Parish, 131 McCaul St., Toronto; **MERCIFUL REDEEMER PARISH, 2775 ERIN CENTRE BLVD., MISSISSAUGA;**

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 940 North Park Dr., Bramalea; St. Patrick's Parish, 11873 The Gore Rd., Brampton; St. Theresa's Parish, 2559 Kingston Rd., Scarborough; The Martyrs' Shrine, 16163 Highway 12 West, Midland; Marylake Shrine, 13760 Keele St., King City; St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish (Chapel Doors), 4260 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga.

After the solemn inauguration of the Holy Year – marked by the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on December 8, 2015 – all locally-designated Churches throughout the world will open their own Doors of Mercy in communion with the Church of Rome as part of the Eucharistic celebration of the Third Sunday of Advent or *Gaudete Sunday*.

The Holy Father has asked that special indulgences be available for the Faithful throughout the Year of Mercy (December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016).

For more information, please check the Archdiocese of Toronto website: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

### CONFIRMATION MASSES

**Please note that on Wednesday, December 9 and Wednesday, December 16, our daily Mass at 7:00 p.m. will be celebrated as a Confirmation Mass.**

### 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



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