

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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Prepare the way...



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CULMINATION OF ADVENT

We are now at the culmination of Advent. During these days of grace, the Church has made us reflect, through her liturgy, on the mystery of the twofold coming of Christ: in the lowliness of our human nature and in the final coming of His Parousia.

We Christians are called to meditate during this period on the Incarnation of the Son of Man... on the moving reality of a Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

But it is exactly this Child who guides, orients, marks the behavior, the choices and the lives of persons standing by Him and involved in His appearance among them. There is the aged Elizabeth. She has felt the life of a child flower miraculously in her womb, after having been awaited for years as a grace of the Lord; John the Baptist, he who was to be the precursor of the Messiah. There is her husband Zachary, whose tongue was loosed for him to sing the great deeds of God toward His people. There are the shepherds, who are enabled to contemplate the Saviour. There are the Wise Men, the Magi, who had been searching for years for the secret of the skies and the stars and who prostrated themselves in adoration before the Newborn. There is old Simeon, who had also long awaited the Messiah, "a revealing light to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel (Lk 2:32). There is Anne, the venerable prophetess, who jubilated for "the silent, vigilant, attentive, tender, paternal custodian and protector of the Child's frailty.

And, above all, there is the Mother, Mary Most Holy. In the face of God's inexpressible design, she sank into her insufficiency, called herself the "servant" of the Lord, and entered into the divine project with full readiness.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As we celebrate the Holy Feast of Christmas, we extend to each and everyone of you prayerful wishes for a fruitful commemoration of this great feast. We celebrate this Solemnity of Our Saviour's birth with gratitude and hope. May our religious observance make us more aware of God's loving presence and more attentive to the needs of the poor in our midst.

Devotedly Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
Fr. Bob, Fr. Steven, Fr. Silvio, Fr. Andrea, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Marco

ADVENT SCHEDULE OF CONFESSIONS

Sunday, Dec. 19th – 3-5 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20th – 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 21st – 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 22nd – 10-12 noon, 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 23rd – 6-8 p.m.

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT on Dec. 24th and 31st are cancelled.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24

6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m. (Italian), 12 Midnight

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Italian), 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

There is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass this day.

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 26

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (It.), 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,

Eve (Friday, Dec. 31): 5 p.m., 8 p.m. (Italian)

Day (Saturday, Jan. 1): 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Italian), 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. There is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass this day.

Please note that January 1st is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES during the holidays are at 9:00 a.m. Please see the Mass intentions for more details.

ALTAR SERVERS, USHERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

are asked to sign up for service for the Christmas, Christmas weekends, and January 1st and 2nd Masses.

'VOCATION SEEDS' Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? If so, please visit www.vocationstoronto.ca or call Fr. Hansoo Park at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@vocations.ca.

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2010 must be given by Sunday, Dec. 26th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your support.

2011 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES As announced last week, envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized alphabetically. For the parishioners who put their donations in previous year's envelopes, plain envelope and/or use loose cheques week after week, please help us record your donation in our accounting system by getting a box of envelopes which will be your envelope number to use. If your box is not there, or if you are new to the parish and wish to use envelopes, please call the Parish Office. Please do not use your 2011 envelopes until 2011. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

SMI YOUTH GROUP will be holding a Christmas Bake Sale at the main entrance of the church this weekend to help raise money for their 2011 World Youth Day pilgrimage! Thank you for buying out the Saint Bracelets last weekend.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will be giving away "Christ is Christmas" buttons after all the Masses this weekend in exchange for any donation.

Truth has arisen from the earth and justice has looked down from heaven

Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. *Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you.* I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had He not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had He not taken on Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had He not shared your death. You would have been lost if He had not hastened 'to your aid. You would have perished, had He not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which He who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: *Let him who glories glory in the Lord. Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I Am the Truth, was born of the Virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.*

Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but of God's glory: for justice has not come out of us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will.*

For how could there be peace on earth unless *Truth has arisen from the earth*, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And *He is our peace who made the two into one*: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: *He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head.* For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make His only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

(St. Augustine)

4^a di Avvento - 19 dicembre 2010

“Giuseppe dalle labbra chiuse è l'uomo dell'interno... Ha un senso enorme di Dio, della dismisura del suo Essere e della sua pazzia d'amore. Non lo vedo proprio chiedere spiegazioni all'Inesplicabile. L'unica volta che è stato veramente scavalcato ha voluto unicamente scomparire, senza una parola: 'Va', mia amata'. L'angelo di Dio lo ha semplicemente scosso.. Dopo tutto Giuseppe è un uomo: *non temere di prendere Maria... Dopo il ritorno dall'Egitto, Giuseppe scompare. Credetemi. Questa morte, questo transitus del beato Giuseppe non ha nulla di triste. Non ci fu nessuna dichiarazione, niente 'ultime parole', dal momento che non c'erano state neanche le 'prime'. Il suo silenzio è lo stesso di Dio. È riempito dalla violenza dell'Amore (A. Lassus, *Pregare è una festa* p. 82).”*

“Il profeta Isaia ci chiede perché domandiamo sempre al Signore nuovi segni, quando nemmeno riusciamo ad interpretare quelli che già ci dà. I simboli, i segni che il Signore ci mette lungo il percorso sono come piccole lampade alle pareti di un cammino buio e passare oltre senza raccogliarli è come ripiombare nell'oscurità. Abbiamo, infatti, la responsabilità di compiere la scelta di custodire la luce che viene da Dio, anche quando questa ci porta segni che ci paiono incomprensibili. I segni, infatti, sono strumenti di profezia; essi non spiegano nulla, ma tracciano il solco delle nostre scelte. Così Maria e Giuseppe sono richiesti di accogliere il mistero di quella strana predilezione: essere i genitori del figlio di Dio. Un segno che complica e compromette le loro vite, non un segno che “risolve i problemi”. Come per ogni genitore, accogliere un figlio chiede una forte assunzione di responsabilità, chiede di puntare tutto sul disegno di Dio, chiede di essere gli strumenti del progetto di salvezza che Dio ha per ogni figlio (Gruppo O.P.G.).”

Ave, o Giuseppe, uomo giusto, sposo vergine di Maria e padre davidico del Messia;

tu sei benedetto fra gli uomini e benedetto è il Figlio di Dio a te affidato: Gesù.

San Giuseppe, patrono della Chiesa universale, custodisci le nostre famiglie nella pace e nella grazia divina, e soccorrici nell'ora della nostra morte. Amen.

AVVISI

1. Sia il 23 dicembre che il giorno di Natale, si benediranno le figure del Bambino Gesù dei vostri presepi.
2. Per la celebrazione della Vigilia di Natale, vi si incoraggia a portare campanelle per “suonare” insieme la nascita del Redentore.
3. Si organizza la festa della famiglia per l'8 gennaio 2011. Per iscriversi, chiamate Antonietta Miniaci (905-737-3210) o Rosa Marsella (905-731-9175).
4. Don Andrea sarà a disposizione per chi volesse confessarsi mercoledì e giovedì dalle 6 alle 8pm.

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 19-25**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta +Angelo Mignardi +Bruno Sposato +Deceased Memb. of the Morra family +Giuseppe Iacobelli +Lino Ferro +Sergio Totolo +Filippo Velocci +Carmine & Maria Canale +James McFarlane +Elena Paiano
MON.	8:00 a.m.	+Milan Grm
	7:00 p.m.	+Giovanni Di Gaetano
TUE.	8:00 a.m.	+Maria Ferreira
	7:00 p.m.	+ Deceased of the Mar & Ho Families
WED.	8:00 a.m.	+John LeClaire
	7:00 p.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta +Maria Pia Pagliaroli +Virgilia Virgioni
THURS.	8:00 a.m.	+Roland Stephen Xavier Martin
	7:00 p.m.	+Rocvco Colarossi
FRI.		<i>Christmas Schedule</i>
SAT.		<i>Christmas Schedule</i>

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK

Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Esmey, Peter Christoff, Manuela Clement, James Davidson, Caterina & Dominic De Grano, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Godfrey Gosein, Gertiudes Henriques, Theresa Hogan, Margaret Kelly, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Margaret McConnell, Paul Melotte, Anthony Morse, Susan, Myola Nunes, Michael & Michelle Osborne, Domenico Pileggi, Louis Pomeroy, Todd Santaguida, Vincenzo Sorbara, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whelan, Ted Zygmunt.

MASS FOR THE UNBORN. The Feast of the Holy Innocents at St. Michael's Cathedral, 65 Bond Street (at Shuter Street), Toronto. 5:30 p.m. on December 28th. Main Celebrant: Reverend Edward McGovern. All are Welcome. Archbishop Collins thanks all those active in the cause of life.

22nd ANNUAL BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT on Sunday, December 19th at 4 p.m. at Unionville Alliance Church. Featuring Michael Burgess, Jackalyn Short, Toronto Mass Choir and the St. Michael's Boys Choir. For tickets, please call 905-887-5896 or 905-294-5230 (evenings).

RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY at Holy Cross Cemetery is cancelled for this month. Please join us every Wednesday at Our Lady's Chapel at 5:30 p.m. in the Church.

BEREAVEMENT RETREAT A retreat for those grieving a recent or earlier death. All are welcome. Retreat at St. Mary of Egypt Refuge. For info or to register, please call (416) 629-8264.

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