

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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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. Kris, Fr. Andrea, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Marco

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 26th, St. Stephen, Martyr. St. Stephen was head of the seven disciples whom the Apostles appointed deacons. He is the first Christian martyr. His death was the signal for a great Christian persecution in Jerusalem, spurred on by Saul, who had approved his death.

'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 you feel God is calling you to a Church vocation, please call Fr. Hansoo at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@vocations.ca.

ADVENT CONFESSION TIMES

- Sunday, Dec. 20 – 3-6 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 21 – 9 a.m. -12 noon
- Tuesday, Dec. 22 – 6-9 p.m.

Please note that confession is also available 15 minutes before each Sunday Mass.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24

6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Italian), Midnight

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Italian), 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Please note that there is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass.

Feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 27

5:00 p.m. (Saturday, Dec. 26), 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Italian), 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Fri., Jan. 1,

5:00 p.m. (Wed, Dec. 31), 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.

(Italian), 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Please note that there is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass this day. Please note that January 1st is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**.

PLEASE NOTE that the Parish Office will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 24th at noon until Monday, January 4th.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES during the holidays are

at 9:00 a.m. Please see the Mass intentions for more details.

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2009 must be given by Sunday Dec. 27th. We are unable to back date any donations. Thank you for your continued support.

ALL DAY ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT on the January 1st is cancelled.

CHRIST IS CHRISTMAS Christmas buttons will be given out by the Knights of Columbus after all the Masses this weekend in exchange for donations for the Martyrs Shrine and the Wheelchair Foundation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION for

Gr. 2 children in Catholic schools outside our church boundary. Classes start Dec. 14th. Please call the parish office to register your child.

REMEMBER OUR DEAD

Loretta Lombardi

2010 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 sign the sheet located near the envelopes and a box will be prepared for you the following week. Please do not use your 2010 envelopes until 2010. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

SMI YOUTH GROUP will be selling delicious Christmas goodies, religious gifts and Catholic calendars after all the Masses this weekend in support of their 2011 WYD pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain. Please help us achieve our goal by supporting your parish youth group.

MOVIE NIGHT we will be showing the movie, *The 13th Day* on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The movie is a retelling of the experiences of Lucia, Jacinta, and Francesco, the three shepherd children, and Our Lady of Fatima. *The 13th Day* is based on the memoirs of Sister Maria Lucia and thousands of independent eyewitness accounts. Tickets are \$3.00 per person to cover the licensing fees. Children under the age of 16 are free. Popcorn and drinks will be made available by the Youth Group. Please call the Parish Office for tickets. Space is limited.

ALTAR SERVERS, USHERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION are asked to sign up for service for the Christmas, Christmas weekends, and January 1st Masses.

WE WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Audrey Arlette Phillips, Vanessa Michela Rizzo

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Mary, humble servant of God Most High, the Son to whom you gave birth has made you the servant of humanity. Your life was a humble and generous service.

Let the young people of the third millennium look to you, young daughter of Israel, who have known the agitation of a young heart when faced with the plan of the Eternal God.

Make them able to accept the invitation of your Son to give their lives wholly for the glory of God. Make them understand that to serve God satisfies the heart, and that only in the service of God and of His kingdom do we realize ourselves in accordance with the divine plan, and life becomes a hymn of glory to the Most Holy Trinity. Amen.

20 dicembre 2009 - 4^a di Avvento

“Se un re affida il suo tesoro a un povero, chi l’ha ricevuto in consegna non lo considera come suo, ma riconosce sempre la sua povertà e non osa dissipare un tesoro altrui. Questi non solo pensa sempre: “È un tesoro altrui”, ma pensa anche: “Me l’ha affidato un re potente e quando vuole me lo richiede”. Così devono pensare di se stessi anche quelli che possiedono la grazia di Dio, devono umiliarsi e riconoscere la propria povertà. Se il povero che ha ricevuto in deposito dal re il tesoro, fa assegnamento su un tesoro altrui come se fosse il proprio e se ne vanta, e il suo cuore diviene orgoglioso, il re si riprende il suo tesoro e chi l’aveva in deposito si ritrova povero come prima. Così anche quanti hanno la grazia, se si insuperbiscono e i loro cuori divengono orgogliosi, il Signore sottrae loro la sua grazia ed essi rimangono tali e quali erano prima di ricevere la grazia del Signore (Pseudo Macario, *Spirito e fuoco*, Omelia 15,27).”

“Non trovate tutto difficile. C’è una regola d’oro: camminate sempre alla presenza di Dio, allora avrete la gioia e la sollecitudine che ebbe la Madonna quando andò da Elisabetta: il Verbo appena entrato nel mondo (in Lei) ha subito bisogno di santificare, e continuerà così per tutta la vita, nella sua morte, nella sua Risurrezione, nella sua Ascensione, e anche ora sta alla presenza del Padre sempre interpellando per noi! (M. Prandi, *Lettera alle novizie* 11.4.81).”

“Quando giungiamo, nella nostra vita, al punto di vergognarci dinanzi a noi stessi e dinanzi a Dio, quando arriviamo a pensare che è Dio stesso a vergognarsi di noi, quando sentiamo Dio lontano come non mai nella nostra vita, ebbene, proprio allora Dio ci è vicino come non mai; allora vuole irrompere nella nostra vita, allora ci fa percepire in modo tangibile il suo farsi vicino, così che possiamo comprendere il miracolo del suo amore, della sua prossimità, della sua grazia (D. Bonhoeffer, *Memoria e fedeltà*, pp. 57-58).”

AVVISI

1. Il 31 dicembre daremo grazie per l’anno che finisce di scorrere con Adorazione (7-8pm), seguita da S. Messa e Te Deum; seguirà una celebrazione in sala con champagne e panettone. Per assicurare scorte sufficienti, vi si prega di informare Antonietta (905-737-3210) del vostro intento di partecipare all’evento.
2. La tradizionale festa della famiglia si terrà il 9 gennaio; per ulteriori informazioni, telefonate ad Antonietta (905-737-3210).
3. A tutti, auguri di un buono e santo Natale.

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 20-26**

- SUN. 9:30 a.m.** +Deceased Members of the
Morra Family
+Giovanni & Giuseppina
Monaco
+Gina Pellegrini
+Deceased Members of the
Trotta Family
+Deceased Members of the
Tocco Family
+Corrado Frasca
- MON. 8:00 a.m.** +Dominic Francis Lobo
- TUE. 8:00 a.m.** +Holy Souls in Purgatory
- WED. 8:00 a.m.** +Holy Souls in Purgatory
7:00 p.m. +Carmine Vittorio
+Iolanda Ianni
+Rocco Fazzolari
+Gaspare & Norina Bruno
Members of the Naughton
Family
- THURS. 8:00 a.m.** In Honour of His Sacred Name
Christmas Schedule
- FRI.** ***Christmas Schedule***
- SAT. 9:00 a.m.** +Yolanda Taricani
+Beatrice Antonucci
+Tim Byrne
+Deceased Members of the
Naughton Family

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Daniella Ballan, Henry Bisnath, Zalina Bisnath, Stephanie Byrne, David Canivet, Peter Christoff, Manuela Clement, Antonio Cosentino, Aldo Dell'erba, Nicole Ferrier, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Godfrey Gosein, Gertiudes Henriques, Theresa Hogan, Giselle Imbrogno, Margaret Kelly, Ioannis Kourkoulakos, John LeClaire, Irma Leskowsky, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Anthony Morse, Susan, Myola Nunes, Paul Melotte, Francis Morris, Michael & Michelle Osborne, Esmey, Domenico Pileggi, Harry Rynhold, Lana Ricci, Todd Santaguida, Pat Sexton, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whealan, Ted Zygmunt.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL PRAYER

God of endless ages, Father of all goodness, we keep vigil for the dawn of salvation and the birth of Your Son. With gratitude we recall His humanity, the life He shared with the sons of men. May the power of His divinity help us answer His call to forgiveness and life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR MISSIONARY PRIESTS AND
RELIGIOUS ORDER PRIESTS**

O Jesus, by Your most loving Heart, I implore You to inflame with zeal for Your Love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries, religious order priests, and all those whose office it is to preach Your Word, that, on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Your Heart, where forever they may glorify You. Amen.

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