

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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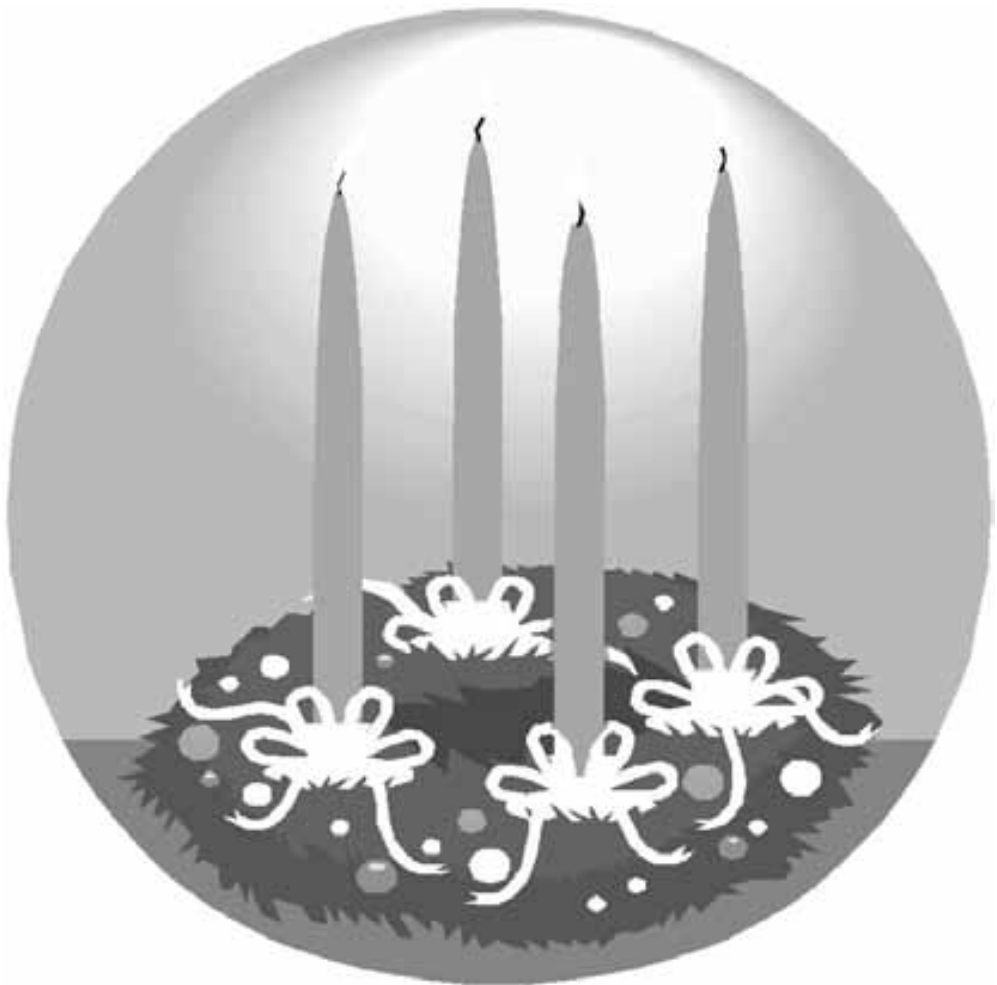
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In Residence: Rev. Fr. Jim Adams

Deacon: Deacon Joseph D'Amico

Pastoral Worker: Michelle Gregory

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

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. Marco, Fr. Pietro Paolo, Fr. Jim, and Deacon Joseph

ADVENT SCHEDULE OF CONFESSIONS

Sunday, Dec. 23 - 3-5 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24

5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:00 p.m. (Italian), 12 Midnight

Christmas Day, Tuesday, 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.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,

Eve (Monday, Dec. 31): 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Italian)

Day (Tuesday, 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**.

CHRISTIAN, REMEMBER YOUR DIGNITY

Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and *when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.
(Sermon by Pope St. Leo the Great)

The Sanctuary Lamps this week burn for:

+Gabriele Magnotta

PARISH HYMNALS The readings for Sunday Mass are found in these books. **Please note that these have been dedicated to the service and glory of God in the Sacred Liturgy. They should not be given to children as toys. Some books have been defaced; used as scribbled by little children. This is highly disrespectful to the memory of the person(s) to whom these books were dedicated.**

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

on Dec. 28th is cancelled.

TWO HEARTS ROSARY PRAYER GROUP invites everyone to pray the 4 mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Church starting Jan. 2nd. The First Psalter taken from Our Lady's Psalter will be included that day. Rosary is cancelled on Dec. 26th.

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2012 must be given by Sunday, Dec. 30th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your support.

2012 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized numerically. 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 old envelopes as they may have been reassigned. Please use 2013 envelopes in 2013. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings. If you would like a box of envelopes or cannot find your box, please call the parish office.**

RIGHT TO LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES are available in the Parish Office during Office hours.

OUR LADY'S PSALTER: The Rosary of the Mystery of Christ. A More Ancient Way of Praying the Rosary by Fr. Marco Testa is available at the Parish Office. This is reminiscent of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, contains the oldest rosary clausulae in Latin and their English counterparts. This ancient form of the Rosary is eminently suited to the observance of the Year of Faith.

PHILIPPINE TYPHOON RELIEF the Archdiocese is now accepting funds to support the work taking place in the affected areas. The human toll has been catastrophic and continues to rise. In total, more than 5 million people have been affected by the situation. There is an urgent need to distribute food, shelter, and medicine to the affected population. Those wishing to help through a financial contribution may do so through the parish, making cheques payable to: SMI - Philippines Typhoon Relief.

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. Celebrant: Fr. Edward McGovern. All are welcome.

HANDMADE ROSARIES (Brigittine or Dominican) are available for order from the Parish Office.

FRIARS' STUDENT WRITING AWARD Students aged 14 - 18 are invited to write a 500-word essay on the theme "**What does God require of us?**" (cf. *Micah 6:6-8*) for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated January 18-25. 1st prize is an iPad mini (16 GB), 2nd prize is a Kobo Arc and 3rd to 6th prizes are a 1-year subscription to The Catholic Register + other prizes. Essays will be published in the Catholic Register. Deadline: **Jan. 18**. E-mail your essay to editor@catholicregister.org or FAX to 416-934-3409. For further information call 416-934-3400, ext. 344 or 416-934-3410, ext. 404.

23 dicembre 2012- 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).

"Non temere. Maria; hai trovato grazia presso Dio. Quanta grazia? Una grazia piena, grazia singolare. Singolare o universale? L'una e l'altra, certo; perché piena e in tanto singolare, perché universale; ricevesti, infatti, tu sola la grazia universale. Grazia singolare, dico, la tua, perché tu sola, più di tutti, hai trovato grazia. Tu sola trovasti una tale pienezza; pienezza universale, perché tutti attingessero a questa pienezza. Benedetta tu fra le donne e benedetto il frutto del tuo seno. E in modo singolare frutto del tuo seno; ma per tuo mezzo è giunto alle menti di tutti. Così una volta la rugiada fu tutta sul vello e tutta sull'aia ma in nessuna parte dell'aia fu tutta, come sul vello (Giud 6, 37-40). Solo in te quel Re ricco e straricco, s'è ridotto a niente, eccelso s'è miliato, immenso s'è fatto piccolo e inferiore angeli: vero Dio e Figlio di Dio incarnato. Ma per quale scopo? Perché tutti fossimo arricchiti con la sua povertà, innalzati dalla sua umiltà, accresciuti dal suo abbassamento e, unendoci a Dio attraverso la sua incarnazione, potessimo essere un solo spirito con lui (S. Bernardo di Chiaravalle, Omelia sull'annunciazione, 3, 9)."

AVVISI

1. La Santa Messa della Vigilia di Natale si celebra in italiano alle 9pm

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 23-29**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta +Dario Iacobelli +Filomena Lippa Special Intention +Deceased of the Bernardo Family +Albert Colavecchia +Massimo & Vincenza Colavecchia +Alessandro Maiola +Vincenzo Maiola +Aurelia Serpa +Benedetto Di Panio
MON.	8:00 a.m. evening	Holy Souls in Purgatory CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
TUE.		CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
WED.	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	+Angela Armenio In honour of St. Joseph +Saverio Giusti
THURS	9:00 a.m.	+Ana Grah
FRI.	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	+Josefa & Krystyna In reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus +Lionel Ignatius Silva Deceased of the Ho & Mar Families +Michael Vincent Sy Members of the Paxton Family Special Intention
SAT.	8:30 a.m.	In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary +Deceased of the Madden & Winton Families Intentions of Thomas & Sabina D'Souza In Thanksgiving of Rhoda A Gumacal +Antonio & Maria Scianitti +Lucia Manginelli-Scianitti

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK: Ursula Addesi, Doris Anderson, Eugene Bomba, Mateo Burbano, Rory Burke, Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Enrico Carusi, Bruno Cassara, Andrea Cavallin, Joe Cinno, Manuela Clement, Moira Davidson, Caterina De Grano, Thomas De Souza, Harry Dekharmenjan, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Jessica Gonzales, Godfrey Gosein, Carmela Harrison, Gertiudes Henriques, Andy Heutehaus, Theresa Hogan, Lawrence Howe, Elena Iacobelli, Rogelia Infante, Maria Iudiciani, Anna Jedlicsek, Terry Jennings, Margaret Kelly, Derek Lai, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Veronica Martin, Margaret McConnell, Paul Melotte, Rachelle (Joy Ann) Mendoza, George Morgan, Anthony Morse, Susan, Michelle Antoinette Nedvedskaya, Myola Nunes, Rosemary Palmieri, Domenico Pileggi, Kaliopi & Eugenia Pandelopoulou, Giuseppe Racco, Rosa Rostirolla, Todd Santaguida, Wolfgang Saul, Werner & Lucienne Schachatsiek, Joan Scott, Vincenzo Sorbara, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Nora Waldherr, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Ted Zygmunt, Helen & Catherine.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES during the holidays are at 9 a.m.

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