

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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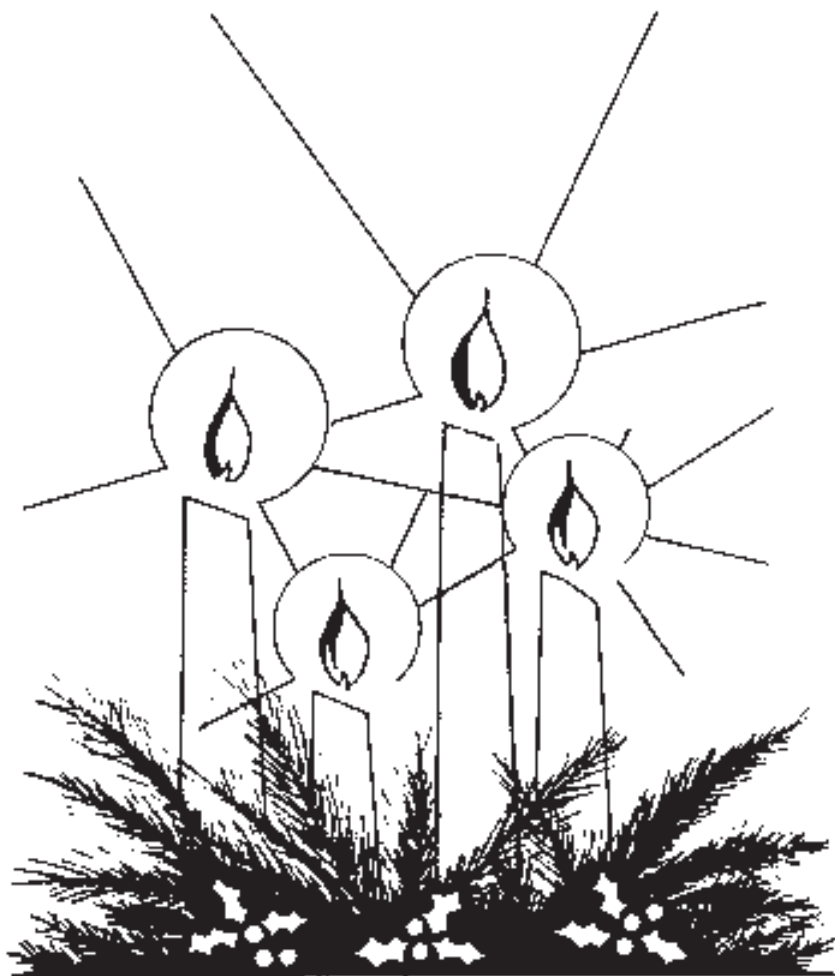
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Advent

MANIFESTATION OF THE HIDDEN MYSTERY

There is only one God, brethren, and we learn about Him only from sacred Scripture. It is therefore our duty to become acquainted with what Scripture proclaims and to investigate its teachings thoroughly. We should believe them in the sense that the Father wills, thinking of the Son in the way the Father wills, and accepting the teaching He wills to give us with regard to the Holy Spirit. Sacred Scripture is God's gift to us and it should be understood in the way that He intends: we should not do violence to it by interpreting it according to our own preconceived ideas.

God was all alone and nothing existed but Himself when He determined to create the world. He thought of it, willed it, spoke the word and so made it. It came into being instantaneously, exactly as He had willed. It is enough then for us to be aware of a single fact: **nothing is coeternal with God.** Apart from God there was simply nothing else. Yet although He was alone, He was manifold because He lacked neither reason, wisdom, power, nor counsel. All things were in Him and He Himself was all. At a moment of His own choosing and in a manner determined by Himself, God manifested His Word, and through Him He made the whole universe.

When the Word was hidden within God Himself He was invisible to the created world, but God made Him visible. First God gave utterance to His voice, engendering light from light, and then He sent His own mind into the world as its Lord. Visible before to God alone and not to the world, God made Him visible so that the world could be saved by seeing Him. This mind that entered our world was made known as the Son of God. All things came into being through Him; but He alone is begotten by the Father.

The Son gave us the law and the prophets, and He filled the prophets with the Holy Spirit to compel them to speak out. Inspired by the Father's power, they were to proclaim the Father's purpose and His will.

So the Word was made manifest, as Saint John declares when, summing up all the sayings of the prophets, he announces that this is the Word through whom the whole universe was made. He says: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through Him all things came into being; not one thing was created without Him.* And further on he adds: *The world was made through Him, and yet the world did not know Him. He entered His own creation, and His own did not receive Him.*

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS THIS WEEK BURN FOR:

+Gabriele Magnotta

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

on 27th is cancelled.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES on Dec. 26th, Dec. 27th, Dec. 30th and Dec. 31st are at **9 a.m.**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24

6 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 12 Midnight (11:30, Carols)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 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 (Tuesday, Dec. 31): 5 p.m., **Day (Wednesday,**

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.**

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. Jim, and Deacon Joseph

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.

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, ... I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that He is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned Your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with You. I need You. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into Your redeeming embrace

-Pope Francis

CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES are available for purchase from the Parish Office.

2013-2014 SUNDAY MISSALS are available from the parish office. Cost: \$5.00. The Missals will also be on sale next weekend at the Church entrance.

PREPARATION Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in His friendship and His life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.

-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

2014 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 2014 envelopes in 2014. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2013 must be given by Sunday, Dec. 29th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your continued support.

AVVISI

1. Celebreremo la Festa della Famiglia il 4 gennaio 2014. Per informazioni circa questo tradizionale evento chiamate Antonietta Miniaci (905-737-3210) o Rosa Marsella (905-731-9175).

It is Jesus in fact that you seek when you dream of happiness, He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal. - **Bl. John Paul II**

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK: Ursula Addesi, Doris Anderson, Eugene Bomba, Matteo Burbano, Patrick Burke, Rory Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, Victoria Carli, Bruno Cassara, Andrea Cavallin, Joe Cinno, Alan & Carol Cook, Manuela Clement, Caterina De Grano, Thomas De Souza, Harry Dekharmenjan, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Margaret Gardiner, Jessica Gonzales, Godfrey Gosein, Carmela Harrison, Gertiudes Henriques, Andy Heutehaus, Theresa Hogan, Lawrence Howe, Elena Iacobelli, Rogelia Infante, Maria Iudiciani, Terry Jennings, Jolanta Karabowicz, Margaret Kelly, Derek Lai, Olivera Lambeta, Mary Malandrino, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Veronica Martin, Marguerite McRae, Paul Melotte, Rachele (Joy Ann) Mendoza, George Morgan, Anthony Morse, Susan, Nino Naccarato, Lydia, Michelle Antoinette Nedvedskaya, Helen & Catherine, Myola Nunes, Rosemary Palmieri, Lisa, Domenico Pileggi, Kaliopi & Eugenia Pandelopoulou, Esther Reyes, Todd Santaguida, Werner & Lucienne Schachatsiek, Claire Schickedanz, Vincenzo Sorbara, Pat Sullivan, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Nora Waldherr, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Kayla Whelan.

BE SOMEONE'S HOLIDAY MIRACLE It can take 8 donors a week to treat 1 person with Leukemia. Holiday hours for Hillcrest Mall Blood Donor Clinic Entrance #3: Dec. 24, 26, 31 – 11am – 3 pm. Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: CLOSED. Jan. 2: 4-8 pm. Want to book a group donation and save even more lives? Please call Mary at 905-301-4991 (text messages welcome). Book your appointment to save a life. Online: www.blood.ca; phone: 1-888-236-6283.

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

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 22-28**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Deceased of the Morra Family +Giuseppe Iacobelli +Antonietta e Saverino Mercuriano +Eugenio e Filomena Tiano +Luigia e Bartolo Cipollone +Thomas Anthony Trotto +Alberina Volpentesta +Lucia e Roberto Querin +Maria e Elena Berblo +Angelo Mignardi +Elsa Baldassara +Fancesco e defunti famiglia Toffi +Maria Antonio & Lucia Scianitti
MON.	8:00 a.m.	Intentions of the Scarpino Family
TUE.	8:00 a.m.	CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
WED.	8:00 a.m.	CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
THURS	9:00 a.m.	+Saverio Giusti
FRI.	9:00 a.m.	+Antoney Cellinie
	7:00 p.m.	In Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Members of the Madden & Winton Families +Domenico Malizia +Carmelo & Linda Millimaci +Joan Scott +Belinda Wong
SAT.	8:30 a.m.	In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary +Raji Fernandopulle Intentions of Anne Roman & Ronald Wood +Michael Vincent Sy +Belinda Wong +Antonio Telotta +Vito Millimaci Rhoda Gumacal

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.... 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**

25th ANNUAL & FAREWELL CHRISTMAS CONCERT on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 4:00 p.m. at Unionville Alliance Church, Unionville. Special guests: Michael Burgess, Jackalyn Short, Toronto Mass Choir. For tickets, please call 905-887-5896 or 905-294-5230. Tickets from \$20.

PRAISE ADONAI A New Year Celebration Hosted by Sts. Peter & Paul Prayer Group on Tuesday, Dec. 31st from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. A night of Praise & worship, Teaching & Scriptures, Skit & Celebration of the Holy Mass at Don Bosco Secondary School, 2 St. Andrews Blvd., Etobicoke. Parking & entrance at St. George's Blvd. \$15 each (dinner included). For tickets or info, visit stspeterandpaulprayergroup.com

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