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THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH

The birth of the Child in the night of Bethlehem gave rise to the Family. Hence, the Sunday during the Octave of Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. This is the Holy Family, because shaped by birth of Him whom even His adversary was constrained one day to call "the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24). The Holy Family, because the sanctity of Him who was born became the source of a singular sanctification, both that of the Virgin Mother and that of her Spouse, who in the eyes of mankind, as lawful consort, was considered to be the father of the child born during the census of Bethlehem.

This Family is at the same time a human family. The Church, therefore, addresses every human family through the Holy Family in the Christmas season. Sanctity impresses a unique, exceptional, irrevocable, supernatural character upon this Family. In fact, the Holy Family was truly poor. It was without a roof over its head at the moment when Jesus was born and was forced into exile. When the danger was over, it remained a Family living modestly, in poverty, through the labour of its hands.

Its circumstances were similar to those of so many other human families. It is the place where our solidarity meets up with every family, with every union of man and woman, in which a new human being is born. It takes upon itself those profound, beautiful and generally difficult problems which married and family life brings.

Pope John Paul II

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

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT on December 31st is cancelled.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

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**.

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with Your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the [poor home of Nazareth. In this way, You sanctified that Family which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family which we dedicate and consecrate to You. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, conforming ourselves to the Divine Model of Your Family, may we all attain eternal happiness.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, by your merciful intercession make this our humble offering acceptable to Jesus, and obtain for us graces and blessings.

Saint Joseph, most holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, help us by your prayers in all spiritual and temporal needs so that we may praise Jesus our Divine Saviour, together with Mary and you, for all eternity.

Lord, we pray that You visit our home and drive far from it all snares of the enemy. Let Your Holy Angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be always upon us.

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we beg You to guard our family from all danger. And as we humbly worship you with all our hearts, in Your Mercy graciously protect us from all the snares of the enemy and keep us in Your peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FAMILY AND THE KINGDOM

Parents must regard their children as **children of God** and respect them as **human persons**. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law.

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by **creating a home** where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for **education in the virtues**. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones." Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them....

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2222-2223

ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

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

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Mon., Dec. 27th, St. John, Apostle, Evangelist. St. John, brother of Saint James the Greater, is the *beloved disciple*. He was the only Apostle who stood beside Mary at the Cross. He is the author of 5 books of the New Testament: his Gospel, three Epistles, and Revelation of Saint John. All were composed after the ruin of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Tues, Dec. 28th, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. This feast honours the male children whose slaughter by order of King Herod is recorded in the gospel of St. Matthew. We invoke the intercession of the Holy Innocents to bring an end to the evil of abortion.

Friday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Saturday, January 2nd, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen. St. Basil was born in 330. For a time, he led the life of a hermit but in 370 was made bishop of Caesarea. He fought against the Arians and wrote many admirable works, especially his monastic rule which many Eastern monks still follow. St. Basil died on January 1, 379.

St. Gregory of Nazianzen was also born in 330. He first joined his friend Basil as a hermit and was later ordained priest and bishop. In the year 381, he was elected bishop of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzen where he died on January 25, 389 or 390. He was called theologus because of his outstanding teaching and eloquence.

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

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.

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. **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 2010 must be given by Sunday, Dec. 26th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your support.

26 dicembre 2010 - Sacra Famiglia

“ La casa di Nazaret è la scuola dove si è iniziati a comprendere la vita di Gesù, cioè la scuola del Vangelo. Qui si impara ad osservare, ad ascoltare, a meditare, a penetrare il significato così profondo e così misterioso di questa manifestazione del Figlio di Dio tanto semplice, umile e bella. Forse anche impariamo, quasi senza accorgercene, ad imitare. ... In primo luogo essa ci insegna il silenzio. Oh! se rinascesse in noi la stima del silenzio, atmosfera ammirabile ed indispensabile dello spirito: mentre siamo storditi da tanti frastuoni, rumori e voci clamorose nella esagitata e tumultuosa vita del nostro tempo. Oh! silenzio di Nazaret, insegnaci ad essere fermi nei buoni pensieri, intenti alla vita interiore, pronti a ben sentire le segrete ispirazioni di Dio e le esortazioni dei veri maestri. ... Qui comprendiamo il modo di vivere in famiglia. Nazaret ci ricordi cos'è la famiglia, cos'è la comunione di amore, la sua bellezza austera e semplice, il suo carattere sacro ed inviolabile; ci faccia vedere com'è dolce ed insostituibile l'educazione in famiglia, ci insegni la sua funzione naturale nell'ordine sociale. Infine impariamo la lezione del lavoro. Oh! dimora di Nazaret, casa del Figlio del falegname! Qui soprattutto desideriamo comprendere e celebrare la legge, severa certo ma redentrice della fatica umana; qui nobilitare la dignità del lavoro in modo che sia sentita da tutti; ricordare sotto questo tetto che il lavoro non può essere fine a se stesso, ma che riceve la sua libertà ed eccellenza, non solamente da quello che si chiama valore economico, ma anche da ciò che lo volge al suo nobile fine; qui infine vogliamo salutare gli operai di tutto il mondo e mostrar loro il grande modello, il loro divino fratello, il profeta di tutte le giuste cause che li riguardano, cioè Cristo nostro Signore.”

(Paolo VI, Discorso tenuto a Nazaret, 5 gennaio 1964)

O Dio, nostro Padre, che nella santa Famiglia ci hai dato un vero modello di vita, fa' che nelle nostre famiglie fioriscano le stesse virtù e lo stesso amore, perché, riuniti insieme nella tua casa, possiamo godere la gioia senza fine. Per il nostro Signore Gesù Cristo, tuo Figlio, che è Dio, e vive e regna con te, nell'unità dello Spirito Santo, per tutti i secoli dei secoli.

AVVISI

1. 31 gennaio: rendiamo grazie al Signore per l'anno che si chiude con la celebrazione della Santa Messa alle 8pm, seguita dalla condivisione di panettone in sala.
2. 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).

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 26-Jan. 1**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta +Angelo Mignardi +Benedetto Baccillieri +Beatrice Antonucci +Massimo Vincenza & Albert Colavecchia +Domenico & Pasqualina D'Agostini +Filippo Velocci +Vito di Tacchio +Vincenzo Pellegrini +Alessandro Maiola
MON.	8:00 a.m.	+Ynocencio Delgado
TUE.	8:00 a.m.	+Michael Vincent Sy
WED.	8:00 a.m.	+Anton Grah
	7:00 p.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta
THURS.	8:00 a.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta
FRI.	8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory Christmas Schedule
SAT.		Christmas Schedule

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.

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- 5 years in transportation
- 4 years in conversation
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