

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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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

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:

He who loves his son will not spare the rod.... He who disciplines his son will profit by him. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2222-2223

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 SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Monday, December 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.

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, Deacon Wayne, Fr. Andrea, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Marco

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

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**.

'VOCATION SEEDS' By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If you feel God is calling you to a Church vocation, please email Fr. Hansoo at vocations@vocations.ca or call 416-968-0997.

PLEASE NOTE that the Parish Office will be closed until Monday, January 4th.

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

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.**

REMEMBER OUR DEAD

Margaret McNamara, Giovanni Troiano

27 dicembre 2009 - Santa Famiglia

“Di tanto in tanto Gesù nel tempio interrogava i dottori, di tanto in tanto rispondeva. E sebbene fossero straordinarie le sue domande, tuttavia molto più straordinario è ciò che egli rispondeva. Se vogliamo dunque anche noi ascoltarlo, se vogliamo che egli proponga anche a noi delle domande che lui stesso risolverà, supplichiamolo, e cerchiamolo con tutta la fatica e il dolore: così potremo trovare colui che cerchiamo. Infatti, non a caso sta scritto: *io e tua madre addolorati ti cercavamo*. E' necessario che colui che cerca Gesù, lo cerchi non in modo negligente e trascurato e con impegno saltuario, come lo cercano alcuni che perciò non riescono a trovarlo. Per parte nostra invece diciamo: “Ti cerchiamo addolorati” (Origene, *Commento al vang. di Luca*).”

“Maria è la vergine in ascolto, che accoglie la parola di Dio con fede; e questa fu per lei premessa e via alla maternità divina, poiché, come intuì Sant'Agostino, “la beata Maria, colui (Gesù) che partorì credendo, credendo concepì” (...). Fede che fu per lei causa di beatitudine e certezza circa l'adempimento della promessa: *e beata colei che ha creduto nell'adempimento delle parole del Signore (Lc 1,45)*; fede con la quale ella, protagonista e testimone singolare dell'incarnazione, ritornava sugli avvenimenti dell'infanzia di Cristo, raffrontandoli tra loro nell'intimo del suo cuore. Questo fa anche la Chiesa, la quale, soprattutto nella sacra liturgia, con fede ascolta, accoglie, proclama, venera la parola di Dio, la dispensa ai fedeli come pane di vita e alla sua luce scruta i segni dei tempi, interpreta e vive gli eventi della storia (Paolo VI, *Marialis Cultus*, 17).”

“In lui oggi risplende in piena luce il misterioso scambio che ci ha redenti; la nostra debolezza è assunta dal Verbo, l'uomo mortale è innalzato a dignità perenne e noi, uniti a te in comunione mirabile, condividiamo la tua vita immortale (prefazio del Natale, III).”

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) o Rosa (905-731-9175) 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 felice anno nuovo.

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 27-Jan. 2**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Antonio Romano +Vita & Filippa Lopicolo +Benedetto Baccilieri +Carmine & Francesca Maione +Massimo & Vincenza Colavecchia +Albert Colavecchia +Vincenzo Pelligrini Holy Souls in Purgatory
MON.	9:00 a.m.	+Michael Sy
TUE.	9:00 a.m.	+Antonio Peccia
WED.	9:00 a.m.	+Josefa Postrach & Krystyna Wojczal
	7:00 p.m.	+Vincenzo Romeo
THURS.	9:00 a.m.	Special Int. of Moira Davison Christmas Schedule
FRI.		Christmas Schedule
SAT.	9:00 a.m.	In reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary +Deceased Members of the Naughton Family +Special Int. of Earl Fernandes

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, 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 Rhynhold, Lana Ricci, Todd Santaguida, Pat Sexton, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whealan, Ted Zygmunt.

HOW YOU SPENT IT

If God granted you 70 years of life, you would spend:

24 years sleeping
14 years working
8 years in amusement
6 years at the dinner table
5 years in transportation
4 years in conversation
3 years in education
3 years reading
3 years at the television

If you went to Mass every Sunday and prayed 5 minutes every morning and night, you would be giving God 5 months out of your life. Five months out of 70 years!

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, Bishop

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