

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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Peace on Earth

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 & 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.

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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

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**.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS THIS WEEK BURN FOR:

+Gabriele Magnotta

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.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the Gospel according to Luke recounts that when the shepherds of Bethlehem had received the Angel's announcement of the Messiah's birth "they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (2:16). The first eyewitnesses of Jesus' birth therefore beheld a family scene: a mother, a father and a newborn son. For this reason the Liturgy has us celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the First Sunday after Christmas. This ... invites us to contemplate this "icon" in which the little Jesus appears at the centre of his parents' affection & care.

In the poor grotto of Bethlehem — the Fathers of the Church wrote — shines a very bright light, a reflection of the profound mystery which envelops that Child, which Mary and Joseph cherish in their hearts and which can be seen in their expression, in their actions, and especially in their silence. Indeed, they preserve in their inmost depths the words of the Angel's Annunciation to Mary: "the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Lk 1:35).

Yet every child's birth brings something of this mystery with it! Parents who receive a child as a gift know this well and often speak of it in this way. We have all heard people say to a father and a mother: "this child is a gift, a miracle!". Indeed, human beings do not experience procreation merely as a reproductive act but perceive its richness and intuit that every human creature who is born on earth is the "sign" par excellence of the Creator and Father who is in Heaven.

How important it is, therefore, that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter: Jesus was born in a stable and had a manger as his first cradle, but the love of Mary and of Joseph made Him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved. Children need this: the love of their father and mother. It is this that gives them security and, as they grow, enables them to discover the meaning of life. The Holy Family of Nazareth went through many trials, such as the "massacre of the innocents" - as recounted in the Gospel according to Matthew - which obliged Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt (cf. 2:13-23). Yet, trusting in divine Providence, they found their stability and guaranteed Jesus a serene childhood and a sound upbringing.

Dear friends, the Holy Family is of course unique and unrepeatable, but at the same time it is a "model of life" for every family because Jesus, true man, chose to be born into a human family and thereby blessed and consecrated it. Let us therefore entrust all families to Our Lady and to St Joseph, so that they do not lose heart in the face of trials and difficulties but always cultivate conjugal love and devote themselves with trust to the service of life and education.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 26 Dec. 2010

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Thursday, January 2nd. Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors. 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 on Dec. 30th and Dec. 31st are at **9:00 a.m.**

FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT begins at **3:00 p.m.** with the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. **Eucharistic Holy Hour will begin at 6:00 p.m.** with Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Holy Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. In order for the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed at least two adorers should be present in the Church at all times.

TWO HEARTS PRAYER GROUP is cancelled until January 8th.

ST. BENEDICT PRAYER BOOK Published by Downside Abbey in England, this prayer book contains an abridged version of morning (Lauds) and evening prayer (Vespers) as well as night prayer (Compline). This is an excellent prayer book for those who would like to deepen their prayer life and begin to pray in a serious manner. Hardbound. \$21. Endorsed and recommended by Fr. Marco. To order, please call the parish office.

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.

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

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).

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE May 5-19, 2014. Join us for an intensely Catholic, fervently Marian, and deeply prayerful pilgrimage to France with our spiritual guide Father Neil J. Roy, S.T.L., Ph.D. Holy Mass will be celebrated daily. The trip begins with 3 nights in Lourdes and concludes with 3 nights in Paris. Holy sites on the itinerary include: Toulouse (St Thomas Aquinas), Ars (St Jean Marie Vianney), Paray-le-Monial (St Margaret Mary, Nevers (St Bernadette), Tours (Holy Face), St. Laurent-sur-Sevre (St. Louis de Montfort), the Vendée area (Martyrs of the French Revolution), St. Anne d'Auray, Mont St. Michel, LeMans (Bd Basil Moreau), Lisieux (St Thérèse), Rouen (St Joan of Arc), Chartres, Chapel of the Miraculous Medal (St Catherine Labouré), Notre Dame Cathedral, **and more.** Cost: \$3090-\$3490 (depending on number of pilgrims), plus airport tax. Register early to guarantee a spot on the pilgrimage! For info, please call Maria at 1-800-565-3619 or email pearltam@rogers.com

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

BE SOMEONE'S HOLIDAY MIRACLE It can take 8 donors a week to treat 1 person with Leukemia. Hillcrest Mall Blood Donor Clinic Holiday hours: Dec. 31 - 11am - 3 pm. 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 an appointment to save a life. Online: www.blood.ca; phone: 1-888-236-6283.

THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE? Is your marriage or that of your relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage or do you feel helpless? **Retrouvaille, a Catholic based programme,** is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the live-in weekend and Post sessions, call 416-281-6007 or visit the web site at www.torontoretrouvaille.com

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

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 29-Jan. 4**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Nazzareno Cristini +Dario Iacobelli +Benedetto Baccilieri +Domenico e Pasqualina D'Agostini Deceased Pacitto Family members +Giuseppe e Rosa Ciavatta +Massimo Albert e Vincenza Colavecchia +Luigi Abbatino +Raffaele Acquasanta +Bruno Carnevale +Archille Mario e Teodoro Sciannella +Giuseppe e Alberto Giancola
MON.	9:00 a.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta
TUE.	9:00 a.m.	Intentions of Dominic & Christina Lau
WED.		CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
THURS	8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory
FRI.	8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	7:00 p.m.	In Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Members of the Madden & Winton Families +Norberto Gomes & Family +Concetta Salerno +Belinda Wong
SAT.	8:30 a.m.	In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary +Mr. & Mrs. Hong Chow +Winifrid Burke Intention of Rosemary Intentions of Pat Sheridan +Belinda Wong

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, Rachelle (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.

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