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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

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.

January 1st is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

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.**

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

THE WORD TOOK OUR NATURE FROM MARY

The Word took to Himself the sons of Abraham, says the Apostle, and so had to be like His brothers in all things. He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the fact of Mary’s presence: she is to provide Him with a body of His own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. Her breasts, which fed Him, were called blessed. Sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced His birth. He did not speak of “what will be born in you” to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of “what will be born from you,” so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her.

By taking our nature and offering it in sacrifice, the Word was to destroy it completely and then invest it with His own nature, and so prompt the Apostle to say: This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality.

This was not done in outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Saviour truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and body, has really been achieved in the Word Himself.

What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam.

The words of St John, the Word was made flesh, bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in St Paul: Christ was made a curse for our sake. Man’s body has acquired something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven. Even when the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, with neither increase nor decrease. It is for ever perfect. In the Trinity we acknowledge one Godhead, and thus one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church.

Taken from a Letter of St. Athanasius

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Wednesday, January 2nd, Sts. Basil the Great and 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

30 dicembre 2012- Sacra 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).

"Il grembo di una sola donna portava Colui che i cieli non possono contenere. Maria sorreggeva Colui che ci regge; allattava Colui che è nostro pane. (S. Agostino, Discorso 184, 3.)"

AVVISO

1. Auguri per un felice anno nuovo portatore di cose buone.
2. La tradizionale festa della famiglia si terrà il 5 gennaio; per ulteriori informazioni, telefonate ad Antonietta (905-737-3210) o a Rosa (905-731-9175).

NEW BEGINNINGS: For those who have lost a loved one through Death, Separation or Divorce. Come and join us for an informative evening: Our Facilitators will be Henny DeLange MSW., RSW. and Greg Badcock MSW., RSW., **The Topic: Demystifying Anger** on January 8th, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at 1155 Yonge St. 4th Floor, Toronto, ON. Info: Deacon James Shaughnessy at 416-921-1163 ext 2227 or email jshaughn@cfstoronto.com

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 30 - Jan. 5**

SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Gabriele Magnotta +Nazzareno Cristini +Deceased of Morra Family +Rosina & Angelo Corvinelli +Benedetto Baccilieri +Beatrice Antonnucci +Domenico & Pasqualina D'Agostini +Angelo Pacitto +Giovanna Risi
MON.	8:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
	5:00 p.m.	Pro Populo (English)
	7:00 p.m.	Pro Populo (Italian)
TUE.		CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
WED.	8:00 a.m.	+Vincenza & Franco Orsi
	7:00 p.m.	In honour of St. Joseph +Maria Grossi
THURS	8:00 a.m.	+Ana Grah
FRI.	8:00 a.m.	+Angela Mazzotta
	7:00 p.m.	In reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus +Norbert Gomes & deceased family members
SAT.	8:30 a.m.	In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary +Mr. & Mrs. Chow +Herbert, Catherine & Patrick Paxton +Michaelangelo Montano

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.

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.

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