

# The Parish Community of St. Ann

**Served by the Holy Cross Fathers**

120 First Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 1X1 (Corner Gerrard East & Degrassi St).

**RECTORY Phone:** (416) 466-2127 **Fax:** (416) 778-6545 **Native Peoples' Parish:** (416) 463-2500

**OFFICE HOURS:** 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

## **Pastoral Staff**

**Pastor:** Fr. Wilson Andrade CSC

**In Residence:** Fr. Francis Noronha CSC

## prepare the way...



# ADVENT

# FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 20, 2015

## CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF MERCY

### PASTORAL LETTER

*Fr. Wilson Andrade, CSC*

St. Ann is a community where we value our diversity and welcome everyone to joyfully celebrate our liturgy and commitment to one another. The motto of St. Ann Parish is *"Moved by the good news of Jesus Christ."* This coming year, we will join the universal Church in reflecting on the theme of God's mercy, as Pope Francis has declared 2015-2016, as the *year of Mercy*. Throughout this upcoming Liturgical year, let us reflect on three important words.

**Message** In the gospel, Jesus invites us to reflect on one divine message of God's love towards his people. His life, death and resurrection are the key moments where we can experience how he wanted us to spread this message of God's love to all the Earth. As disciples of Christ and baptized Christians, let us reflect on this message of God's love and how we can imitate it in our own lives.

**Ministry** In the church, we communicate the message of God's love through the ministries that are entrusted to us by Jesus Himself. Our ministries are vocations for us, to reflect on, serve and participate in the preaching of the Gospel. As faith and actions are the two sides of the same coin, we are called to practice what we preach. As ministers within the Church, let us celebrate and participate in the mission of the Church.

**Mercy** The theme for 2015-2016 is *"Mercy of God."* Let us reflect on how we can translate the mercy of God in our everyday life. Here in the parish, we can celebrate the mercy of God in different ways.

**Conversion.** Conversion is our personal encounter with God. The mercy of God stems from the love of God. Therefore, let us ponder upon how much God loves us. We can find this in the Scriptures, the celebration of our liturgy and our service towards one another. We encourage you to come and pray in the church.

**Communication.** Mercy of God is experienced in the community. This year let us focus on our communication of the mercy of God with one another. Let us read books, attend the conferences, watch value-based movies and speak and write to one another about the mercy of God.

**Confession.** In a special way, the Mercy of God is experienced in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year, let us encourage one another to go to confession and to receive the grace of absolution. In a practical way, the parish office will be open on Monday - Wednesday evenings from 6pm-9pm for Spiritual Direction and the sacrament of Reconciliation. You are most welcome to participate in this Spiritual Renewal.

*Do not forget to smile.*

### **Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas**

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.

# FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 20, 2015

## CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF MERCY

### Mass Intentions

(December 19 – December 25, 2015)

**Sunday, Dec. 20:**

**6:00 p.m.:** + Romeo Mitu

+ Rizalina Cabrerra

Req. Celeste Leano

**Monday, Dec. 21:** *St. Peter Canisius,*

**8:00 a.m.:** + Donald Fraser

Req. Sr. Janet Fraser

**Wednesday, Dec. 23:** *Saint John of  
Kanty, Priest*

**Friday, Dec. 25:** *The Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas)*

### St. Ann Parish Reconciliation Day

Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

December 13, 2015	Total
Offertory - Envelopes	\$ 796.00
Offertory - Loose	\$315.30
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,084.30</b>

### Spiritual Direction and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The parish office will be open **Mondays to Wednesdays in December from 6pm-9pm** for Spiritual Direction and the sacrament of Reconciliation. You are welcomed to partake in this Spiritual Renewal.

### Advent Adoration/Prayer

Advent is a time for Prayer. We will have 9 Evening Masses before the Christmas day. **From December, 16<sup>th</sup> to December, 24<sup>th</sup>.** Adoration at 6:00 p.m. and Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. Come and spend time with Jesus.

### Project Hope

In response to the global refugee crisis, Cardinal Thomas Collins has launched "Project Hope," a special emergency appeal. Visit: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) to make a donation to support the appeal, or call (416) 934-3411. You can also donate through our parish with a cheque made payable to *Name of Parish – Project Hope – Refugee Sponsorship*. **Special envelopes will be handed out this weekend towards the funding of this project.** Those interested in assisting with volunteer committees should contact the Office for Refugees at (647) 780-0827.

### Christmas Flowers

This year if you would like to offer a Christmas flower (Poinsettia), you are most welcome to do so. Please bring them to the Church on **December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Boxes of Offertory Envelopes for 2016

Make sure to pick up your box of offertory envelopes at the main entrance of the church. If you don't already have assigned an envelope number, please pick up one of the unlabelled boxes and write your contact information on the **Envelope Record Sheet**. We kindly ask you to also write down your name and full address on the envelopes for the first few weeks. This ensures the issue of tax receipts for donations at the year end.

### Christmas Season Schedule

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

7:00 p.m.: Family Mass

10: 00 p.m.: Christmas Carols

10:30 p.m.: Vigil Mass

**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

10:30 a.m.: Feast Day Eucharist:

*The Solemnity of Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

5:00 p.m.: Thanksgiving Mass

10:00 p.m.: Adoration

11:00 p.m.: Thanksgiving Mass

12 midnight: New Year's Party

**Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

10:30 a.m.: Thanksgiving Mass: *The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

7:00 p.m.: Evening Mass

### Holy Cross Youth Group Christmas Raffle

St. Ann Parish Youth has organized a Christmas Raffle to be drawn on Christmas Eve (after the Vigil Mass). 10 prizes will be raffled and details can be found at the back of the ticket. Tickets are available at \$5 per ticket, with proceeds going to parish projects. We would like to thank everyone that has contributed thus far.

### Christmas Play

Rehearsals have begun and will continue every Sunday until Christmas Eve. For more information, email Nancy & Melody McMullan at [melody.mcmullan@ryerson.ca](mailto:melody.mcmullan@ryerson.ca) Following the Mass on Christmas Eve, we will gather in the hall and invite parishioners to bring goodies to add to our celebration.

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