

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, Fr. Roshan D'Souza, CSC



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: JANUARY 1, 2017

CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Pastoral Reflections

By Rev. Wilson Andrade, CSC

This year here at St. Ann and Native Peoples' Mission as we celebrate the Year of the Family. Let us dedicate our Year under the patronage of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This week let's spend some time in reflecting on our Christian family life. A family is a basic unit of a social life and so it is also basic to our Christian life. The Second Vatican Council Documents calls "*a Christian family as a domestic Church.*" The Church gets its nature and growth from a family. We all belong to that one family of God.

Today we are given a model family to follow in the Holy Family. Many holy paintings depict Jesus Mary and Joseph as holy people with a hollow around them. It is true they were holy people but lived a normal family life. Like any one of us they had to deal with all the family struggles – from making difficult marriage decisions, finding a safe-place in a troubled political system, running away to Egypt as refugees, finding a new home in Nazareth, hard-labourers as a carpenter, experienced death of the father with a young teenage boy, then when Jesus grows up, he was not accepted by his society and later condemned to die on the cross. In this family we meet a father who was hard-working, just and protector of the wife and son. We meet a mother who supported her husband with care and love, and her Son in his mission to proclaiming God's kingdom. We meet a Son who knowing that He is the Son of God still lived in humility and obedience to his earthy parents. They are true model to us to live our life in the family not because they had no difficulties but because they in spite of their struggles, never gave up their **faith** in God, their **love** for each other, their **hope** for others in the world.

As we reflect on the life in the Holy Family let's reflect on our family – our relationships, our struggles, our love and concern for each other, our faith in God, and our hope for the future of our family, our church, our society and the world.

Gracious God, help us to imitate the example of the Holy Family. Amen.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph – pray for us

With Grateful Hearts

I would like to thank everyone who spoiled me with greetings, gifts and cakes. Thanks to everyone who contributed to make our Advent Season and Christmas Season more meaningful and celebratory. The simple beauty of our liturgical environment and community prayer is the result of the rich personal gifts and talents of many in our Parish. Here are the list of 27 ministries we have at St. Ann Parish.

Pastoral Council	Pastoral Staff Members	Holy Family Prayer Group
Finance Council	Food Bank	Handmaids of the Lord
Liturgy/Faith Formation	Development and Peace	Couples Ministry
Lectors	Collection Counters	Novena Devotions Group
Eucharistic Ministers	Volunteer Screening Group	Grief Ministry
Music Ministry	Holy Cross Youth Group	Bridgepoint Hospital Ministry
Children's Choir	Hospitality committee	Seniors' Group
Children's Liturgy Ministry	Church Décor	Tai Chi
Altar Servers	Refugee Resettlement Group	Pilgrimages and Mission Work

I would like to thank our Pastoral Staff, the members of St. Ann Parish and Native People's Mission who help us build up a lively spirit-filled Christian Community. Thank you so much. May God bless you with peace and happiness in the New Year.

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CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Mass Intentions

(December 31, 2016 – January 6, 2017)

Wednesday, January 4:

8:00 a.m.: + Louisa Lax

Req. Maximillian Lax

Development and Peace Coffee Sunday



Our next Development and Peace Coffee Sunday will be on **January 8, 2017** since the first Sunday of the month is New Year's Day. We will be selling fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate. Please come down after mass, share a cup of coffee or tea and socialize with your fellow parishioners and the D&P group members.

Raise a Roof Jamaica 2017

This March, a group of 18 local teens, joined by Fr. Wilson and 5 other adult project leaders, will be headed to Jamaica to build houses for families in need. To fund this project, we are challenged with raising funds to cover the costs of travel and materials. So far we have raised 55% of the goal, but still have quite a way to go. Please consider donating to this cause. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.



2016-2017 Sunday Missal Sale



You can now purchase the 2016-2017 Sunday Missal and Calendar at the back of the church. Sunday Missals are available at \$4.00 and Calendars are \$1.00

Christmas Flowers

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the purchase of Christmas flowers. Your generosity helped make our liturgical celebration more beautiful and meaningful



Holy Cross Youth Christmas Raffle

10 prizes were raffled on December 25th, 2016. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all those who contributed to the raffle. Proceeds will go towards parish projects.

2017 Offertory Envelopes are ready

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.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

At the beginning of a new year, the Church invites us to contemplate Mary's divine maternity as an icon of peace. The ancient promise finds fulfilment in her person. She believed in the words of the angel, conceived her Son and thus became the Mother of the Lord. Through her, through her "yes", the fullness of time came about. The Gospel we have just heard tells us that the Virgin Mary "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). She appears to us as a vessel filled to the brim with the memory of Jesus, as the Seat of Wisdom to whom we can have recourse to understand his teaching aright. Today Mary makes it possible for us to grasp the meaning of events which affect us personally, events which also affect our families, our countries and the entire world. Where philosophical reason and political negotiation cannot arrive, there the power of faith, which brings the grace of Christ's Gospel, can arrive, opening ever new pathways to reason and to negotiation. Blessed are you, Mary, for you gave the Son of God to our world. But even more blessed are you for having believed in him. Full of faith, you conceived Jesus first in your heart and then in your womb, and thus became the Mother of all believers. Send us, O Mother, your blessing on this day consecrated to your honour. Show us the face of Jesus your Son, who bestows upon the entire world mercy and peace. Amen.

*Extract from the Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis.
Vatican Basilica. Friday, 1st January 2016*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Every year, between **January 18 and January 25**, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a week of prayer for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and share fellowship. The theme for the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "*Reconciliation - The love of Christ compels us*". We encourage you to celebrate this week of prayer and its theme in a manner most appropriate for you.



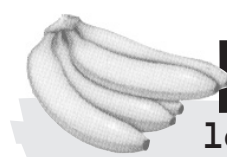
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