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

Celebrating the Year of Mercy



Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: JANUARY 3. 2016 CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF MERCY **Epiphany of the Lord**

Reflections by Rev. Wilson Andrade, CSC Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The term epiphany comes from the Greek term epiphaneia, which means "manifestation, striking appearance." For us it is to say that God manifested or appeared in Jesus Christ. This feast is powerfully symbolized in the 'arrival of the three wise men who offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' That is to proclaim the child born to Mary in Bethlehem is the 'long awaited Messiah and King.'

We know and experience Creation, especially our surrounding nature, as an Epiphany of God. Creation reveals God's presence. A great mystic of our times, Gerard Hopkins, said that the world is charged with God and Teilhard de Chardin saw *creation as the Divine milieu*. Then we realize that we are created *in the image* and likeness of God, so we reveal God's presence. We belong to God and we are an epiphaneia - a striking image of God. In the Scriptures especially St. John often refers to each one of us as God's Children. We belong to God and truly the family of God. Do we live like God's Children? That question each one of us has to answer before God. So let's live as the children of God, accepting everyone as our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Today, God becoming one like us in Jesus Christ helps us to deepen our awareness of God's presence. As Christ fully revealed God's presence, as we baptized Christians are called reveal and proclaim the presence of Christ to all. May the feast of the Epiphany deepen our awareness of God's presence in this world. We may become God's instruments of love, peace and joy to everyone in this world.

O' Come Let us adore Christ our Lord

"Happy New Year to you all" On behalf of the Parish Community of St. Ann and Native People's Parish, I would like to wish all of you a Blessed and grace-filled New Year. May the coming of 2016 help us to deepen our love, strengthen our faith and reassure our hope in God, bringing peace and joy to the world.		
December 27, 2015	Total	Development and Peace Coffee Sunday
Offertory - Envelopes	\$ 2,678.00	Today is Coffee Sunday. Please join us for a cup of coffee downstairs after the 10:30 a.m. mass. We will be selling fair trade coffee, chocolate and tea.
Offertory - Loose	\$314.45	
Total Collection	\$ 2,992.45	

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: JANUARY 3, 2016 CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF MERCY

Mass Intentions (January 2 – January 8, 2016)

<u>Saturday, Jan. 2:</u> Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

Sunday, Jan. 3: Epiphany of the Lord

Thursday, Jan. 7: St. Brother Andre Bessette, CSC

Friday, Jan. 8: *St. Raymond of Penyafort* **7:00 p.m.: Thanksgiving mass**

"The Samaritan Church – Welcoming the Stranger"

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish (3055 Bloor St West, Toronto) will be presenting a public lecture by Mary Jo Leddy, PhD on **January 12, 2016 at 7:30 pm**. Dr. Mary Jo Leddy is the Founder of the Romero House Community for Refugees. Donations will be collected. For more information regarding the Refugee Sponsorship Campaign contact: <u>studentlife.usmctheology@utoronto.ca</u> or <u>dominican.toronto@gmail.com</u> or call 416-231-6016

Laudato Si- Care for our Common Home

St. Joseph Parish (162 Leslie Street) will be hosting a 5- Part workshop on Pope Francis' encyclical on January 12, 19, 26, February 2 and 9, 2016 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. For more information or to register please call: 416- 466-7815 or email us at stjosephparishtoronto@gmail.com

Project Hope

In response to the global refugee crisis, Cardinal Thomas Collins has launched "Project Hope," a special emergency appeal. Visit: 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.

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.

Message of Pope Francis

Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!

Jesus is the radiant "day" which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. *A day of mercy*, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. *A day of light*, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. *A day of peace*, which makes for encounter, dialogue and reconciliation. A day of joy: a "great joy" for the poor, the lowly and for all the people (cf. Lk 2:10). God alone, God alone can save us. Only God's mercy can free humanity from the many forms of evil, at times monstrous evil, which selfishness spawns in our midst.

Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity. Yet even today great numbers of men and women are deprived of their human dignity and, like the child Jesus, suffer cold, poverty, and rejection.

Where God is born, mercy flourishes. Mercy is the most precious gift which God gives us, especially during this Jubilee year in which we are called to discover that tender love of our heavenly Father for each of us. May the Lord enable prisoners in particular to experience his merciful love, which heals wounds and triumphs over evil.

Today, then, let us together rejoice in the day of our salvation. As we contemplate the Crib, let us gaze on the open arms of Jesus, which show us the merciful embrace of God, as we hear the cries of the Child who whispers to us: "*Peace be within you.*"

