8888888888888888888 Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of the Lake Parish Family

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Pastoral Team

Rev. Sherwin Holandez, Pastor Rev. Mr. Stephen Palmer, Deacon Kim Bingham, Administrative Assistant Shannon Connors, Youth Minister

Thristmas

the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. Luke 2:10

Responsorial Psalm

Christmas Eve: Psalm - 96 Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Christmas Day: Psalm 98 – All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God

MASS INTENTIONS

We join in prayer with those who have requested that Masses be offered for their loved ones, living or deceased.

<u>Tuesday, December 27 to Sunday, January 1st</u> <u>Tuesday, December 27th at 8:30am (S)</u> +Noel Woods <u>Wednesday, December 28th at 7pm (S)</u> <u>Thursday, December 29th at 8:30am (K)</u> <u>Friday, December 30th at 8:30am (K)</u> + Hilda and William Cummings + Rev. Lloyd Cummings <u>Saturday, December 31st at 4pm (K)</u> SI Fortunato Del Col <u>Saturday, December 31st at 5:30pm (S)</u> + Cathy Thompson <u>Sunday, January 1st at 8:30am (S)</u> <u>Sunday, January 1st at 11am (K)</u>

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Call the office to add a name to the list. Names will remain on the list for one month. Please keep the following people in your prayers. Iolanda Cinelli, Celina Dekker, Olga Fernandes, Lidwina Gho, Marika Gilligan, Wallace Goodman, Andrew Horvath, Carol Klahm, Grant Madill, Chris Mastrobuono, Susan Robinson, Janis Scully, Joe Thompson

VISITS TO SHUT-INS

We are happy to take Communion to those in our parish who cannot worship with us because of illness or infirmity. Contact the office at 905-476-0097. If you would like to be involved in this Ministry, contact Helen Bromley at 905-535-1861 or at

hbromley2009@hotmail.com or Joe Thompson at 905-960-0502 or t.josephcathy2@gmail.com

DAILY TV MASS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC BROADCASTING COUNCIL

The Daily TV Mass is now available Monday-Saturday anytime from anyplace. Take a moment to visit their new website at www.dailytvmass.com to watch the Daily TV Mass and to find out more about how to stay connected with our faith. Please feel free to call the NCBC at 1-888-383-6277 for more information.

COLLECTION UPDATE



Weekly Offertory including Building Maintenance Fund: Target: \$6,800 December 17/18 Not available before publication



Edge starts up again on Friday, January 13th in the Fr. Christopher Room in Keswick. For kids in grades 6-8.



Lifeteen starts up again on January 5th with dinner at Mandarin Restaurant. This group is for young people in grades 9-12.

VOCATION SEEDS

Christmas - The Birth of Our Lord December 25. We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. www.vocationstoronto.ca Email: vocations@archtoronto.org

KNITTERS' GROUP

Beginning in January our Knitters' Group is moving to Wednesdays from 10am to noon.

EUTHANASIA/ASSISTED SUICIDE DID YOU KNOW?

Now that euthanasia/assisted suicide is legal in Canada, doctors in Ontario are being forced to help arrange for the killing of their patients. If your family doctor or surgeon objects to providing a referral for assisted suicide/euthanasia, they could be fined, disciplined or even removed from their practice. Many may be forced to retire or move outside of the province if the provincial government does not recognize their freedom of conscience. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca.

NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve – 4pm at Our Lady of the Lake and 5:30pm at Immaculate Conception New Year's Day – 8:30am at Immaculate Conception and 11am at Our Lady of the Lake

THURSDAY MORNING SOCIAL

Thursday morning refreshments are cancelled on December 29th. We will start again in the new year on Thursday, January 5th following the 8:30am Mass. Everyone welcome.

PILGRIM VIRGIN HOME VISITATION PROGRAM

Pilgrim Virgin Statue will be brought to your home and remain with your family for two weeks. Please see sign-up sheet at the back of the Church.

LORETTO MARYHOLME NEW IN 2017: 3-Day Silent Retreats

"Silence is a presence, a receptivity, a readiness, a waiting, a listening... Silence is the special sacrament of God's presence."... *Edward Farrell*. Take time to receive the gifts of silence waiting for you. Accommodation, meals, spiritual direction are offered as part of these days. Jan. 10-12, Feb. 7-9, Mar. 7-9, Apr. 11-13, May 9-11, June 6-8, Oct. 10-12, Nov. 7-9. Visit www.lorettomaryholme.ca or call 905-476-4013.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UPDATE

We will resume our previous Mass schedule this week. We will have an extra Mass this week on Monday, December 26th at 8:30am at Immaculate Conception on the Feast of Saint Stephen.

FRENCH IMMERSION ENROLMENT

St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School is currently accepting registration or their French Immersion program for children entering grade 1 in September 2017. The deadline for registration is January 26, 2017. Visit: www.ycdsb.ca for more information.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration begins Jan 9 in all York Catholic schools. We look forward to welcoming your child into our schools, where we emphasize academic success using a curriculum that is infused with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Register your child at our local Catholic school. Visit: <u>www.ycdsb.ca/admissions</u>.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed from December 24 to Tuesday, January 3rd. Churches will be open for regularly scheduled Masses.

LATEST SALT + LIGHT MAGAZINE

Available in the foyer. Please take one home.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER SHERWIN

I would like to greet everyone a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

God has truly blessed us even when things do not work out as we have planned and thought we wanted.

This coming January marks my fifth year in the parish. I am privileged to have gotten to know and serve all of you in the best capacity I can.

I remember when I first was ordained and appointed in my first assignment as an associate pastor, upon leaving the parish I told them that they were my "first love" because they were my first parish.

I can say to you, the parishioners of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of the Lake Parish community, that you are not my "first love" but my "first baby." Your parish is my first assignment as pastor. You have given me a lot of experience both bad and good. You are my "first baby" and I love you. I am able to love the parish because I love God first and that helps me to be able to love you and not to expect something in return.

Everyone knows that the past five years have not always been easy but it has always been grace-filled. Even though I have shed many tears, you have brought to me much more laughter and smiles.

To all that I may have hurt, by my words, actions and thoughts, I am really sorry. Just like a father, I am not perfect and will commit mistakes in my life. But also like a father I will love you all the same, there is nothing more or less you can do that will make me love you more or less.

Christmas always brings out the sentimental in me because I always feel that Christmas is more than just the celebration but it is the act of Christ becoming one like us, vulnerable and dependent on God alone.

Christmas also gives us a fresh start to look at Jesus and see ourselves in Him. May he continue to encourage us and inspire us to be the Christian we are called to be.

As we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, may we, in our hearts sing the joy of the angels singing "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

