St. Ambrose Church

210 South Street, Cambridge, ON N1R 2P4

519-621-2013 Fax 519-621-2240

E-mail: stambrose@golden.net www.stambrosecambridge.ca

Fr. Gary Schlack - Pastor
Rev. Mr. Nick Cherri - Deacon
Barbara Roy - Administrative Assistant
Myra Klaassen - Parish Ministry
Carol Renner - Housekeeper
Sandy Figueiredo - Sacristan/Custodian

Feast of the Holy Family

Feast of the Holy Family

The first Sunday after Christmas, on the liturgical calendar, celebrates the Holy Family. Pope Leo XIII instituted this feast in 1892, encouraging societies honoring the Holy Family to be established everywhere. He established this feast day to remind families of the sacredness of the family and to provide the laity with a model upon which to structure their own families. In 1974 Pope Paul VI wrote:

On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (the Sunday within the octave of Christmas) the Church meditates with profound reverence upon the holy life led in the house at Nazareth by Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, Mary His Mother, and Joseph the just man (cf. Mt. 1:19).

In this meditating on the interior life of the Holy Family we discover those areas of our family's life that need improving. We also find a model for family life that ultimately leads all its members to heaven. Today, let us pray for the grace to lead lives that imitate those of the Holy Family. As we prepare to leave the stable in Bethlehem let us turn our gaze to the house in Nazareth, for it was in the "ordinary" life of the Holy Family that "extraordinary" holiness was lived.

May the Holy Family continue to bless and guide you and your family. Amen.

To our parishioners:

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief of Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

From Father Gary Schlack
and Father Michael King (*retired, in residence*)

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 28 (*Mass time change today*)
9:00 am + DECEASED FERREIRA & ABREU FAMILIES – Balbina

CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm
*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm**

Wednesday, December 29
1:30 pm – **Prayers for the Sick, in the Church**
7:00 pm + GAETANO INGRAO – his family
+ JOSE daCOSTA and JOSE BATISTA daCOSTA - family
+ ARMANDO deALMEIDA – deAlmeida family
+ BRIAN CORREIA, MARK VALENTINO CHAVES and MARIA COUTO– Maria & John Correia
+ MARY CARNEY
+ HUGH CHORNABY - Lori

CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm
*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm**

Thursday, December 30
7:00 pm + MARIA PEREIRA & DECEASED FAMILY - Grace
CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm
*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm**

Friday, December 31 – vigil of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Eve)
5:00 pm + MANUEL DIAS – Anna and Manuel Dias
+ LES GYURITS – Teresa and Nick
+ MANUEL CANTO – Maria Canto
+ ALL SOULS – John Pham
+ ANTE MAJIC – Mila and Dan

Saturday, January 1, 2022 :
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9:00 am – intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am + STELLA MANEL – Barb Hiller

(There is no 5pm Mass on Sat. January 1st.)

Sunday, January 2
9:00 am + MAYA SPENCE – Nick and Teresa
11:00 am – for the intentions of all parishioners
CONFESSIONS: 8:00 to 8:45 am and 10:15 am to 10:45 am

Update from the Mexico Sisters of the Holy Trinity Mission

Dear Father Gary, and all Parishioners,

"*WHAT NO EYE HAS SEEN AND NO EAR HAS HEARD, WHAT THE MIND OF MAN CANNOT VISUALISE, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM*" 1 Cor.2:9

The above quote, is one of HOPE and is in harmony with the liturgical messages of Advent and Christmas - Hope, Joy and Faith. It is a quote that echoes in my heart for when I reflect on all our loved ones, your family, our family and all families, who have died because of Covid 19 that could not be visited, hugged, nor buried in all the different religious cultures as normally done. The example of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph show us the way for our Faith Journey in Peace and we are taught by Jesus to say, "OUR FATHER who art in heaven....." This prayer unites us all as "FAMILY'. You, the parishioners at St. Ambrose have lived the "Our Father" throughout so many years in actions of faith by nourishing the Mexico Mission with your very generous monthly donations.

The Mexico Mission Family has 6 “Casas Hogars” in Mexico (Puebla, Cuernavaca, Mexicali, Merida, San Angel and Tlalpan) and 1 in Guatemala. The following is from **Sister Socorro** from Tlalpan, Mexico writing you during this special Christmas Season:

"Greetings from us, the Casa Hogar (Mission Home) of The Holy Trinity, in Tlalpan located in Mexico City. We hope you are well despite living through these very different and changing times during the past two years because of the Pandemic.

We have learned to live a new way of life; all the areas of our lives have been changed and modified.

Here in our Community the Mission work with our teenagers also had to undergo many changes in order to protect them from the Coronavirus. There were smaller groups, and they were not allowed to visit any family members that they may have. This was very hard for them but at the same time they benefited from such protection.

We are living in very trying situations at all levels: social, economic and family because of the Pandemic. The families have suffered many loses. Due to of their low economic social level they have not been able to get medical help, have often become ill, not been able to work and many have lost their jobs. All this is happening in our Mexican Society where our Mission work with their teenagers unfolds.

The teenagers that are coming to get help from our Mission Home are arriving from backgrounds in which their human and religious formation has been totally neglected and the pandemic greatly increased their difficulties to simply survive. And because of this many are turning to dangerous and deadly ways of life in order to survive and to feed their families. Many are becoming drug dealers, joining gangs to lure people into drug consumption, human trafficking, prostitution and crimes of theft. From 2006 to 2020 over 300,000 lives have been lost in Mexico because of the Drug War. Our teenagers are coming from families involved voluntarily or as victims in these terrible encounters.

This all constantly shows us of the great need of rescue and recovery of the teenagers that we attend in our Mexico Mission Homes (Casa Hogars). God the Holy Trinity continues to Bless us so that we, the Sisters of The Holy Trinity, can continue to keep a "Door Always Open" for the teenager who wants to escape and prevent them from falling into the above chains of crime.

For example, the case of Jennifer, 13 years old (name changed for privacy), she came to our Mission Home 6 months ago. Her father is an alcoholic and drug addict. Her Mother is a prostitute, an alcoholic and a drug addict. Jennifer's aunt took her in to care for her. However, the aunt could not control Jennifer who became very restless, missing her parents and started to go out on the streets with other teenagers involved with high-risk activities. So, her aunt brought Jennifer to us.

After 6 months Jennifer has gradually settled down in our Mission Homes. Jennifer like the other teenagers is receiving an integral formation: a regular education in which she goes to the workshops of sewing, art, dance, computer along with spiritual formation such as Bible study and sacramental preparation. The girls also go to Mass 4 times each week where the Priest from the Congregation of the Missionaries of Guadalupe attend us.

We, the Sisters of the Holy Trinity, are extremely grateful to you St Ambrose our Canadian Family because you have helped give Jennifer and others like her an opportunity to live in the Holy Trinity Family with us."

On behalf of all the Sisters of the Holy Trinity, and girls of the Mexico Mission,
MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW 2022 YEAR.
Sister Vera

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