

The Parish Community of St. Padre Pio

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PARISH TEAM:

Monsignor Gregory Ace, C.H.H. - Pastor
Deacon Gary Thibodeau - Deacon Assistant
Deacon Curtis Boone - Deacon Assistant



*We saw his star in the East
and have come to worship Him*

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Feast Days This Week

Mon. Jan. 4 – **St. Elizabeth Seton**, religious
Thurs. Jan. 7 – **St. André Bessette**, religious
Fri. Jan. 8 – **St. Raymond of Penyafort**, priest

Covid Lockdown

The entire Region of York is now in lockdown because of the increase in infections. This also has an impact on our churches. By law, we must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people. Sadly, due to these measures, by order of the Cardinal, Masses are temporarily cancelled until January 22nd. This includes the whole of the Christmas season. Priests will continue to celebrate private Masses for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from the coronavirus. The church is open for private prayer during the normal times, but again, only 10 people are allowed in the church at any one time. The 10:30am Mass on Sunday mornings will be livestreamed on our parish website: www.stpp.church. We will continue to update you as the situation evolves. You can check on our website or Instagram. This is a very difficult sacrifice we are making for the greater good. We pray that all of us will remain safe and healthy during this time.

Confirmations

Because of the extension of the lockdown until January 22nd, the Confirmations for:

Tues. Jan. 12 (Public and Private Schools)
Fri. Jan. 15 (Public & Private Schools)
Tues. Jan. 19 (Pope Francis School)
Fri. Jan. 22 (St. Andrew School)

have been cancelled. As long as there is not another extension, the new dates for these Confirmations will be as follows:

Sat. Jan. 23 @ 10:30am – (St. Andrew School)
Sat. Jan. 30 @ 10:30am – (Pope Francis School)
Sat. Feb. 6 @ 10:30am – (Public & Private)
Sat. Feb. 13 @ 10:30am (Public & Private)

All the other Confirmations from Jan. 26th to Feb. 16th will continue to be celebrated, unless there is another lockdown.

Times of Church Being Open

The church is open for private prayer 8:00am to 7:30pm on weekdays **except for the following days:**

Sat. Jan. 2	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Sun. Jan. 3	11:30pm to 1:00pm
Sat. Jan. 9	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Sun. Jan. 10	11:30pm to 1:00pm
Sat. Jan. 16	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Sun. Jan. 17	11:30pm to 1:00pm

During the above times there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Only 10 people at a time are allowed in the church.

Parish Donations - We are happy to announce that you can now make your weekly envelope donation on the church website at www.stpp.church/home.html by using the *Parish Donations* blue donor box. Please indicate your envelope number on the form. A receipt will automatically be e-mailed back to you. For those watching the livestream of the mass at 10:30 am on Sundays, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, please consider making your Sunday offering through this secure portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Advent-Christmas-Epiphany

The four weeks of Advent that we have celebrated has two main stages: up to December 15, the main emphasis in the Liturgy was on the coming of Christ in final judgment, and on our preparation in joyful hope. The closing days of Advent directed us toward the coming of the Son of God among us as one of us. Truly God and truly human, Jesus has come in love to save us, to make us the people of God, and through us, to continue His work of praising the Father and saving the world. Our celebration of Christmas centres on the great truth of the incarnation; God loves us so much and sent the Son to be one of us, that we might believe and love and have eternal life. The eternal Son of God, our brother, crucified and risen, seated at the right hand of the Father, sending His Spirit to us, and living among us; this is the Lord we celebrate at Christmas.

The Epiphany concludes the Christmas cycle as we celebrate the ways in which God's love is manifested or revealed to us through His Son Jesus. As His Church, we are to continue to be the light of the nations, revealing God's love in Christ through our lives as His followers. The Christmas cycle ends with the feast of the Lord's Baptism.

Epiphany

This feast comes from the East and may date back to the second century. Like the later Western feast of Christmas, it celebrates the Incarnation and work of the Son of God among us. In the East, it is not limited to the visit of the wise men, but involves the Incarnation, Birth, Manifestation and Baptism of the Lord. During the fourth century, the West adopted this feast and the East accepted Christmas. On the Epiphany we celebrate the revelation that God makes to the world in Jesus Christ. He is the image of the God whom we cannot see. He is the light of the world and leads us back to the Father.

Epiphany Blessing

God has called you out of darkness, into His wonderful light. May you experience His kindness and blessings, and be strong in faith, hope and in love. Because you are followers of Christ, who

appeared on this day as a light shining in darkness, may He make you a light to all your sisters and brothers. The wise men followed the star, and found Christ who is light from light. May you too find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended.

Offertory Envelopes for 2021 are available for pick up in the Narthex. Envelopes are sorted alphabetically. Please do not touch all the boxes and sanitize your hands after picking up your box. PLEASE DO NOT REARRANGE THE BOXES.

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) – Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). It is a convenient, easy and automatic way to support your parish. This allows the parish to meet its monthly obligations, such as hydro, heat, payroll etc. All donations are tax deductible and can be stopped at any time. Donations can be directed to your weekly or building fund offering, or both and will be deducted from your bank account on the 20th of the month. Thanks to all our parishioners who give so generously.

A Reminder that the 10:30am Mass on Sunday is available to watch on our website: www.stpp.church

Items for Completion of the Church

Narthex: Acoustical Ceiling Panels and Electrical Room to be completed
Back Sacristy: Upper Storage Room with stairs
Basement: Meeting Rooms and Kitchenette
Washrooms
Hall and Stage
Kitchen
Storage
Outside: Outdoor Amphitheatre at rear of church
Top coat for paving
Two wells at sides of church – rocks
Landscaping (trees, shrubs, plants, flowers)

If you or someone you know would like to assist in any way with these projects, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893- 7879.

Memorial Tree – Please when you visit the church, remove your ornaments from the Memorial Tree.

Procedures for Marriage Arrangements - Couples planning to be married must contact the priest at least one year in advance. This is an Archdiocesan law and applies to all parishes. At least one party must be a registered member of the parish. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil or religious marriage with another person, the priest is not permitted to set a date for the wedding until the Archbishop's office has been consulted. Once a date

has been set with the church, then the other arrangements, such as the rental of a hall etc., can be made. In preparation for the marriage, the Catholic party should be attending Sunday Mass each week. The couple will also receive personal preparation for entering marriage through a Marriage Preparation program. Finally, the couple should remember that they are preparing mainly for a marriage, not a wedding. A wedding lasts one day, but marriage lasts forever!

Nativity Scenes –St. Padre Pio presents its tenth Annual Display of Nativity Scenes, entitled 'Joy to the World.' Because of the pandemic, no new nativities will be displayed this year. Nativities from the previous nine years will be displayed again. They represent many different countries and cultures, artistic styles and materials. All of them present the different ways that artists have interpreted the birth of Jesus through the ages. Jesus was born for all people, so his birth is depicted reflecting the different artistic styles found in many cultures. The display, in the cabinets at the side entrance of the church, will continue until Sun. Jan. 10/21, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and the end of the Christmas season.

A Guide to St. Padre Pio Church

THE AMBRY

"They anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them."

The Ambry contains the three sacramental oils that are used in the liturgy – The Oil of Catechumens, Sacred Chrism and the Oil of the Sick. Imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit, they are used for Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick. The Ambry is an honoured place for these oils, and also a constant reminder of these signs of the Lord's healing, life-giving power.

THE NAVE

"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth...singing, "to the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever."

The community sits in the nave of the church. It is from here that the people join their voices of heaven and earth, in praise and thanksgiving to God. There are seven stained glass windows in the nave of the church. They depict scenes from the Life of Christ – The Nativity, The Baptism of Jesus, Jesus Healing, Jesus Teaching, Jesus Feeding 5,000, the Transfiguration and Pentecost. Each window contains a stone from the areas where these events took place.

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