

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd Sunday of Advent

How amazing it is to think that in today's second reading, Paul was actually writing from prison. While we may not know his exact circumstances, we can imagine that imprisonment in the first century undoubtedly meant horrible living conditions, likely in darkness, with very little to eat. In spite of this, however, Paul exudes a profound sense of joy and peace and gratitude in his Letter to the Philippians. How is that even possible?

It is possible because Paul knew to the very core of his being that God was with him, as real as the chains that bound him. Knowing that God was present sustained Paul and filled him with joy, even in the very midst of suffering.

God is just as real and as present in our world today as he was for Paul. In today's gospel, however, John the Baptist challenges us to make that presence known and felt in very concrete ways. Share everything you have, he tells us. Be fair and honest in everything you do. Be satisfied with what you have, not always grasping for more.

In less than two weeks, we celebrate the coming of Emmanuel. In a world much in need of joy and peace, our lives must be the witness that God is with us, here and now. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

(Reflection of Teresa Whalen Lux, from Living with Christ)



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12th, 2015

4:30 p.m. Special Intention of Merlyn Saldanha

Sunday, December 13th, 2015

8:00 a.m. Aurora Depadilla

9:30 a.m. Jovana for Health

11:00 a.m. + Frances Mastromatteo

Monday, December 14th, 2015

8:30 a.m. + Donna Glofcheski

Tuesday, December 15th, 2015

8:30 a.m. + Colleen Marley

Wednesday, December 16th, 2015

8:30 a.m. + Mrs. Tsung Yen Shen

Thursday, December 17th, 2015

8:30 a.m. Juliana Yang

Friday, December 18th, 2015

8:30 a.m. + Paul Fonseca

Family of Faith Campaign

This weekend, the Family of Faith capital campaign enters its final phase with "Commitment Weekend". Parishioners are welcome to offer a pledge in support of the Archbishop's Pastoral Plan with funds also assisting the local parish.

Fr. Pat wishes to thank John Ryall and Neil MacCarthy, parishioners, who spoke last weekend at all Masses in support of the campaign. Fr. Pat is also grateful and inspired by the generosity and interest of all parishioners.

Thank you to all who have offered a pledge, or who will do so in the coming weeks. Prayers for the campaign are also important and appreciated.

Christmas and New Year's Schedule

Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

Masses: 4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight

Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

Masses: at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

(Regular Sunday Schedule)

Saturday, Dec. 26th – Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27th, Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve – Thursday, Dec. 31st, Mass at 4:30 p.m.

New Year's Day – Friday, Jan. 1st – Mass at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

CWL Christmas Party

All women of the parish are invited to the CWL Christmas party on Thursday, December 17th, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and bring an item for a baby to be donated to BIRTHRIGHT.

Workshop

CWL Workshop – Leadership Course
Saturday, January 30th, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
**A Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy
by Pope Francis**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Azcchaeus and Matthew

from being enslaved by money;

the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking

happiness only in created things;

made Peter weep after his betrayal,

and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the

words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,

of the God who manifests his power above all by

forgiveness and mercy:

let the church be your visible face in the world,

its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be

clothed in weakness

in order that they may feel compassion for those in

ignorance and error:

let everyone who approaches them feel sought after,

loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us

with its anointing,

so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace

from the Lord,

and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may

bring good news to the poor,

proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,

and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession

of Mary, Mother of Mercy;

you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy

Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

Visit to St. Michael's Cathedral

St. Michael's Cathedral recently held an “Open House” in order to allow tours of the renovations to date. While the renovations are not fully completed, the Archdiocese welcomed people from across the diocese to witness, for themselves, what has been accomplished to date.

Fr. Pat provided a bus for parishioners to attend the Open House, this past Tuesday. They were very inspired by the

visit and had time to tour the Cathedral, and to attend a prayer service. Fr. Michael Bush, the Rector of the Cathedral, who recently preached at the parish, personally greeted them.

New Offertory Envelopes

Those who have not yet picked up the new offertory envelopes for 2016, please do so in order that you can start using them in January; they are arranged numerically. In the event you forgot your envelope number, a listing of last names and numbers is also available at the table. Please verify your number with your name on the label. New parishioners are welcome to sign up for envelopes on a special form which will be provided on the same table.

Project Hope

The Project Hope Refugee Committee continues to work closely with the Office of Refugees of the Archdiocese in preparation for welcoming a refugee family with the support of our parish. As one can imagine, the work is sometimes slow and tedious, but all is moving forward. We are grateful to parishioners who have responded with leads on possible accommodations. The committee will brief the parish once final decisions on a refugee family have been confirmed.

Day of Confessions

The Archdiocese of Toronto has asked all churches to hold a day of Confessions on Thursday, Dec. 17th, at various times of the day, to allow parishioners the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Pat has set the following schedule for St. Edward's Parish:

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

A Wonderful Senior's Luncheon!

Fr. Pat wishes to thank all who assisted him in hosting the Senior's Pre-Christmas Luncheon this past Wednesday. The event drew around 140 people, from throughout the parish, as well as some seniors from the nearby senior's residences. Entertainment was provided by 50 talented young students from Cardinal Carter School for the Arts. The delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

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Fr. Pat, in particular, wishes to thank the Social Committee, the CWL, the 55+ Club, Cardinal Carter School Students and their teachers, and all the volunteers who helped to decorate the hall and who assisted in welcoming everyone to the parish.