

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

'TIS THE SEASON for runaway anticipation. Expending seemingly unlimited time and energy on preparing for the big day, it's easy to lose sight of what Christmas is all about. Then, when it's come and gone, we are left to wonder what all the bustling, buying and baking were for. What a letdown!

The empty, disquieting feeling must have plagued John the Baptist as he languished in Herod's prison awaiting his execution. The Baptist sent word by the disciples to Jesus, asking him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

John the Baptist had been sent to prepare the way for Jesus, the Saviour. John anticipated the coming of a messiah and he was confident that Jesus was the messiah. So, why the lingering doubts? Jesus didn't really fit with John's preconceived notion of a messiah who would come breathing fire and brimstone and take the unsuspecting and unrepentant world by storm.

Jesus sent a return message: "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." Certainly not fire and brimstone – rather a genuine Christmas story of love and salvation. It's time that we too shifted our focus from unrealistic expectation to embrace the promise of Jesus as the true meaning of Christmas.

*(Reflection of Frank Campbell, from Living with Christ)*



### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving

#### Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Lillian Guiry

#### Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Juan Chin

#### Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving for Irene Marana

#### Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Juan Chin

#### Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

4:30 p.m. + Pietro and Antonio Del Mastro

#### Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:00 a.m. + Deceased Members of McDermott Family

9:30 a.m. + Blessings for Family

11:00 a.m. + Carol Rocca

Dear Parishioners:

The past week was full of wonderful events and activities as well as programs that assisted the Spiritual growth of the community.

Firstly, our parish co-joined with Blessed Trinity Parish for a three-night Retreat that highlighted the Advent theme of "Faith, Hope and Love". The Sacrament of Reconciliation was also celebrated at the end of the Retreat. It was a pleasure to attend the Retreat and to assist with confessions.

Secondly, my thanks to all who helped with the "Angel" Tree program which helps to provide toys and/or clothing to needy children and families at Christmas. The St. Vincent de Paul Association is also grateful to all who contributed to the special collection taken up to assist them in their important Ministry of caring for families in need.

On another note, I was so pleased that close to 150 people attended the Senior's Christmas Luncheon this past Wednesday. The talented students of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts entertained the crowd with wonderful music and drama. I thank Juliet and Archie Santos, and all the volunteers, who assisted in organizing this event. While I regret the catered lunch arrived later than planned, people were so generous with their patience and understanding. Once the food arrived, people certainly ate to their heart's content!

This Senior's event is a very important one to me as it provides us the opportunity to thank all who have faithfully served the community over the years. Many seniors remain very active, others are unable to get out as much, and others are now living in senior residences (where we celebrate Mass and take Communion). It is important no one feels forgotten!

Our youth are also important, and so I am grateful to Kimberly Go, our Youth Director, and John Sutka, our seminarian, for organizing events for the Young Adults and children of our community. The next event will be a Young Adult Christmas party this Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. As well, the children of the parish and their parents are welcome to attend the Children's Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The Knights of Columbus will host the children's event.

Finally, I wish to thank Anne Bellissimo, the Principal of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, and all the students, for hosting our parishioners to a special performance of the "Nutcracker", recently held at their school. It was a wonderful event!

In conclusion, I look forward to attending our "Lessons and Carols" service this weekend at our parish. The choirs have practiced hard and are excited to share this evening of Scripture and Sacred Music with our community.

It is a blessing to be a part of this wonderful community. As we continue our faith-filled journey to Christmas, please know of my prayers. Please pray for me, as well.

Sincerely  
Fr. Pat

**St. Edward the Confessor Church – Choral Scholarships**

A special scholarship fund has been set up for high school students in music studies who would like to share their gift of music at Sunday Mass.

**Looking for** – One female and one male singer

**Skills** – A strong singer with a previous choral experience, good sight-reading skills and a voice that blends.

**Duties** – Scholars are expected to exhibit strong commitment to choir duties and to play a positive and enthusiastic role in the work of the choir. Thursday rehearsals, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Sunday Mass: 11 a.m. (brief rehearsal, prior, at 10:30 a.m.). Some extra rehearsals required throughout the church year for liturgical feasts (Christmas, Holy Week and Easter). Open to cantering at other masses as well.

**Repertoire** – we sing a variety of the best sacred music from the Renaissance to Contemporary.

**Renumeration** – Scholarship of \$1000 per liturgical year (September to June)

**Audition** – contact the Director of Music, Marc Michalak at: [marcfmichalak@gmail.com](mailto:marcfmichalak@gmail.com) to arrange an audition.

For further information, contact the Pastor, Fr. Patrick O’Dea, at: [frpatodea@yahoo.com](mailto:frpatodea@yahoo.com)

Students with other musical gifts (pianists, violin, etc.) interested in using their talents are invited to speak with Fr. Pat as well, for other possible opportunities at the parish.

**Calling all Children!**

Children from Grades 3 – 12 are welcome to sing at the Christmas Eve Children’s Choir, December 24<sup>th</sup> at the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

If interested, church musicians Clea Soare and Marc Michalak will prepare the children at 3 rehearsals prior to Christmas Eve.

**Rehearsal Dates:** Thursday, Dec. 15, and Dec. 22.

**Rehearsal Time:** 6 – 7 p.m. in the Church

To sign-up, parents may contact choir Director, Marc Michalak at: [marcfmichalak@gmail.com](mailto:marcfmichalak@gmail.com)

**Children’s Christmas Party**

The Knights of Columbus will host a Children’s Christmas party on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, in the parish hall, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Parents and children are welcome.

**New Offertory Envelopes**

Those who have not yet picked up the new offertory envelopes for 2017, please do so in order that you can start using them in January and we can make room in the foyer for Christmas activities. Thank you

**Day of Confessions**

The Archdiocese has asked all churches to hold a day of Confessions during Advent. We shall host it on Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**



*Christmas & New Year Schedule*

**Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

**New Year’s Eve – Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

4:30 p.m.

**New Year’s Day – Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**St. Edward’s Young Adults**

We are excited to host our Christmas Party on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm downstairs in our parish basement. For more information **contact Kimberly Go** at [stedwardyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:stedwardyouthministry@gmail.com). Come join us and bring a friend!

**Lay pastoral Visitors Training**

Office of Formation for Discipleship will be offering the Lay Pastoral Visitors Training beginning on January 11, 2017. This training is designed to prepare lay persons to provide pastoral visits and/or bring Holy Communion to the sick and shut-ins of our parish communities. Participants are required to attend all 6 days. New and seasoned volunteers are welcome to attend. This training will be held at **St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York on Wednesdays January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8 & 15, 2017 – 6:30pm to 9:00pm**. There is no cost to attend, however registration is required. For further information, please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/our-catholic-faith/programs-and-workshops> or call (416) 934-3400 ext.523