

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4th Sunday of Advent

BY FAR, THE best way to celebrate Christmas is to be with children. And we are so close to Christmas now that our children can barely contain their excitement!

Yet, before his marriage, poor Joseph could not have been very excited to hear that Mary was with child. Sure, most fathers, when they learn their wife is expecting, can get a little bewildered, too. But Joseph felt that this was not the expected way to bring children into the world, and so he planned to dismiss Mary quietly from his life.

And then the unexpected happened to this bewildered man who was just looking to do the right thing. Divine intervention arrived in the form of a dream – complete with talking angels. This convinced Joseph that his plans had to change. Will the unexpected presence of God awaken us this Advent, and really change our lives as a result?

Advent is all about deeply living this exciting time of expectation, a precious time to prepare to change ourselves, our homes, and our hearts, for sharing. We have to remember that it was the Divine who initiated this sharing in that first Feast of the Incarnation, sending his Son to be the Saviour that our lives yearn for most. Emmanuel – “God with us!” Can we open our hearts to see the signs that “God is with us” today?

(Reflection of Joe Gunn, from Living with Christ)



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 19th, 2016 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Isagani Ferrer

Tuesday, December 20th, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Vincenzo Saracino

Wednesday, December 21st, 2016

8:30 a.m. Deacon Favin Alemao

Thursday, December 22nd, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Maria Kwen

Friday, December 23rd, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Francesco Song

Saturday, December 24th, 2016

4:30 p.m. + Vincenzo Saracino

7:00 p.m. + Bernard McNamee

Midnight + Fabiola Gutierrez De Deigado

Sunday, December 25th, 2016

8:00 a.m. + Anne Clarke

9:30 a.m. + Special Intentions of Wong Family

11:00 a.m. + Deceased members of the Mazzitelli Family

Thank You

Fr. Pat wishes to thank Marc Michalak, our Choir Director, and all musicians, cantors and choir leaders, for hosting our first “Lessons and Carols” Service this past weekend. The event was well attended and provided a wonderful spiritual exercise in this time of Advent. We also appreciate the good work of all who read the lessons, as well as all who assisted with the social event that followed.

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 to arrange an audition.

For further information, contact the Pastor, Fr. Patrick O’Dea, at: frpatodea@yahoo.com

Children’s Christmas party

The Knights of Columbus will host a Children’s Christmas party this Sunday, Dec. 18th following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All children and parents are welcome to attend.

Senior Residence Mass

Fr. Pat will celebrate Mass at Del Manor, 5351 Yonge Street, North York on Wednesday, December 21st, at 10:30 a.m.



Christmas & New Year Schedule

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24th
4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25th
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve – Saturday, December 31st
4:30 p.m.

New Year's Day – Sunday January 1st
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

For Current and New Ministers to the Sick

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, visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/our-catholic-faith/programs-and-workshops> or call (416) 934-3400 ext.523

Are You Considering a Religious Vocation?

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded Him.” Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997**
email vocations@archtoronto.org

Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference

On **February 18th** join **Fr. Larry Richards** and **Archbishop of Montreal Christian Lépine** for Serviam Ministries' 2nd annual **Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference** at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The theme is “Step Up”. The day will strengthen and challenge men to become the man God created them to be. Mass, Adoration and Confession will take place.

Special Father/Son rates available. All info and tickets: <https://www.serviamministries.com/events/step-up/>, info@ServiamMinistries.com or 1-888-522-2070.

Used Postage Stamps For The Leprosy Mission of Canada

The Leprosy Mission of Canada is working towards the day when leprosy is eradicated. How may we help you might ask? At St. Edward's Parish, we are going to collect used postage stamps, especially Christmas and international stamps. The Leprosy Mission of Canada sells these stamps to collectors, using the monies collected for education, medicine and research. The Leprosy Mission asks that we trim the stamps, leaving no less than ¼” and no more than ½” paper border. Stamps may be deposited in the basket on the Welcome Table. Thank you for caring.

Prescription Eye Glasses Needed

Please consider donating your **used** prescription eye glasses to Dr. Andrew Simone. His organization, Canadian Food for Children, sends food, clothing, eye glasses and other supplies to developing countries all over the world. You may leave your glasses in the designated box provided on the table in the foyer. Periodically, throughout the year, these eye glasses will be dropped off at Dr. Simone's warehouse in Etobicoke. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Parish Office Christmas Hours

Office Closed: Monday, December 26th
Tuesday, December 27th
Monday, January 2nd

Regular hours resume Tuesday, January 3rd