

Pastor's New Year Message

(Repeated from last week's bulletin)

A comment often heard these days is, "Where does the time go?"

As I sat in conversation the other night with a young student, I was struck by the realization of how precious time can be, and yet how quickly one day becomes another.

The challenge, I suspect, is to find time to pause, and to reflect carefully on the past months and year, in order to better appreciate and to savour what happened and how each memorable experience can shape our present and future lives.

As we approach the New Year 2017, I wish to pause to reflect and to be grateful for the past year at St. Edward's Parish. The events we have celebrated and the times we have shared as a community of faith have indeed been a sacred and wonderful experience.

In a relatively short period, we have much to be grateful for. We have sponsored trips, and celebrated the Seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. We welcomed new Catholics into the Church, affirmed children and their families as they received the gifts of Baptism or First Communion or Confirmation, supported couples who married, mourned with those who experienced the loss of a loved one (and celebrated their loved ones at Mass), and enjoyed the various picnics, socials and Retreats. As well, we served the sick and needy in our Outreach Programs, and we look forward to sponsoring a Refugee family despite its slow, slow process of awaiting their arrival.

We continue to support an active outreach to seniors and have recently hired a Youth Director as we work to build up our future generations at the parish and schools. We have been blest with a good staff and a wonderful seminarian. And, God willing, our new parking lot will be completed in the spring!

So much in "only" a year! Yet, it speaks to the dedication, joy and faith of all in our community who gather for prayer, worship, and to offer their gifts in service to their brothers and sisters. That is not always easy in the midst of such a busy community. However, it has worked well, and mainly due to the involvement of all at so many different levels of Ministry. That, in my view, is what a Christian community is called to be about – all expressing their individual gifts as one body of faith.

As we begin a new year, I conclude with some thoughts from the poem, "Through the Kaleidoscope of Change" (written by a student I met a few years ago at the University of Toronto who preferred to remain anonymous.)

*"I look for meaning and the meaning I find is this:
For every season of my life, God has a purpose.
And if God has a reason then I am free to go ahead
and love
Even though I know that class ends in seven days,
Or graduation is only a few months away,
Or the person living next to me may move in a year.
I will reach out and embrace friendship
Without fear of the risk that it soon may end,
For through this friendship God wants me to learn.
To love, to receive, and to give.
I will allow my roots to cling deeply to the soil around
me
Even though I know that the deeper the roots,
The harder it will be to pull them up someday.
And when things begin to change and God turns over
The well-worked soil of my experience,
I know that a new growing period is about to begin.
That's how God works in this world,
A world which never stays the same."*

Happy New Year! – Fr. Pat

"Now the Work of Christmas Begins"

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The Work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

(This reflection was composed by Howard Thurman (1899-1981), an African-American theologian, educator, civil rights leader, and mentor of Martin Luther King.)



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 9th, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Robert Ault

Tuesday, January 10th, 2017

8:30 a.m. Richard McKenna

Wednesday, January 11th, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Anne Clarke

Thursday, January 12th, 2017 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Judy Chen
+ Anne Clarke

Friday, January 13th, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Victoria & Marina Ramos and Family

Saturday, January 14th, 2017

4:30 p.m. + Sabino Muccilli

Sunday, January 15th, 2017

8:00 a.m. Raul Boquerin
9:30 a.m. Special Intention for Debonis Family
11:00 a.m. + Laszlo and Mary Gal

**ALPHA 2017
ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH**

**Monday evenings starting
January 16, 2017**

6:30PM – 8:30PM

**75 Churchill Ave.
Dinner and Childcare provided**

Alpha is an opportunity to explore questions about life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment. All are welcome!

Contact Josh at:
jcanning@alphacanada.org

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 Wednesdays. 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

Join the Parish Knights of Columbus!

St. Edward's Parish Knights of Columbus is celebrating more than a year in Formation. It is open to new members, men (age 18 and older) who wish to join a great community of Catholic men, eager to serve the church and to be a part of a great fraternity of Brother Knights. For more information, contact Grand Knight Peter Bernotas at 416-460-7089

Mass in Honour of World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The Iraqi Catholic community will host a special Mass to be held at St. Luke's Parish, 39 Green Lane, Thornhill, on Sunday, January 15th, at 12:15 p.m. Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick to preside. Fr. Pat will attend along with members of the parish Refugee Committee. All are welcome.

55+ Club

All men and women, 55+ and up, are welcome to join our weekly meetings, starting up this Wednesday, January 11th, 1 – 3 p.m. A variety of activities planned for the New Year.

Mass at Senior Homes

Fr. Pat celebrates Mass at Del Manor, Canterbury, and Lansing Senior Residences once a month. Below is the schedule for January 2017.

Canterbury: January 13 at 10:30 a.m.
Lansing: January 13 at 2:30 p.m.
Del Manor: January 18 at 10:30 a.m.