

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd Sunday of Advent

AS CHRISTIANS WE recognize the season of Advent as a time of great anticipation in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord. In today's Gospel John the Baptist calls us to "Make straight the way of the Lord." This call to action is not easy in an ever-growing secular world.

Although it should be the very opposite, the season of Advent is perhaps the most difficult time of year to rise and to meet John's call. More often than not, today's reality is one where the season of Advent is inundated with commercialism and anything but Christ. To remain focused while we await the coming of the Lord is increasingly difficult and requires humility, discipline and patience. These qualities require a great deal of practice and prayer. Seemingly enough, the reverse is true as practice and prayer require a great deal of humility, discipline and patience.

If we are to lead a virtuous Christian life then we must follow John's example, displaying humility, discipline and patience when responding to those who questioned him. Despite the heavy commercialization of Advent, let us as Christians persevere through prayer and practice as we celebrate and share the coming of the Lord with everyone that we encounter during this blessed season.

(Reflection by Dana Kenny, from Living with Christ)

Choral Scholarship Offers

St. Edward the Confessor Parish in North York has created 3 paid Choral Scholarships. We are looking for one alto (mezzo soprano), one tenor, and one bass who have had some choral experience and can read music. Applicants must be high school or undergrad age. For more information please contact Marc Michalak, choir director at: marcfmichalak@gmail.com. Auditions will be held over the next two weeks.

Senior Residence Masses in January 2018

Friday, January 13th – Canterbury Place – 10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 13th – Lansing – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18th – Del Manor – 10:30 a.m.

New Sunday Missals

The new St. Joseph Missals will be available after each Mass, for persons wishing to obtain their own copy, for \$5.00. Only a small number left.



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18th, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Jean Calibani

Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Lenny Renda

Wednesday, December 20th, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Linda Kwan

Thursday, December 21st, 2017

8:30 a.m. Birthday Wishes for Chang-Hyun Paul Park

Friday, December 22nd, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Rufina Mary Ramos

Saturday, December 23rd, 2017

4:30 p.m. + Vincenzo & Anna Saracino

Sunday, December 24th, 2017

8:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

9:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Wong Family

11:00 a.m. + Rosina Spinelli

4:30 p.m. Deceased Members of the McDermott Family

7:00 p.m. + Bernard & Kathleen McNamee

Midnight + Rosie & James O'Dea

Refugee Family

It has been some time since our last report on the status of our Refugee Family who are awaiting the "green" light from the Canadian government to come to Canada. As of last report, they are moving through the proper channels, but it is simply a slow process. Please keep them in your prayers. We are in contact with them each week and their spirits are positive & hopeful.

30th Annual Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

For the 30th year, St. Edward's Parish will again present the true story of Christmas, during the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve!

Thank you to all those that signed up and looking forward to the presentation of the true Christmas story.

Senior Residence Mass in December

Fr. Pat will celebrate Mass at Del Manor, 5351 Yonge Street, North York this coming Wednesday, December 20th, at 10:30 a.m.

Thank You

Thank you to Peter Bernotas, Grand Knight, and all the Knights of Columbus, and all who assisted in our annual Angel Tree Program, and to all who helped Frank Leaver in organizing the St. Vincent de Paul distribution of gift cards to the needy of our local community.

A special thank you to Kurt and Sue Metzler, for ensuring delivery of the items to St. Paul's Basilica. Mostly, thanks to all of you, the parishioners, for your most generous support. Hundreds of children, and others, will experience a brighter Christmas this year. Your love and care is a reflection of Christ's love for the poor and needy. God bless you for that!

Last Sunday, we hosted a Children's Christmas party, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It turned out to be a wonderful celebration for the kids and their families. I would like to thank Kimberly Go, our Youth Minister, the Knights of Columbus and the members of the parish Social Committee for organizing the food and the crafts. A fun time for all and it was great to see the children so happy.

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 bin on the Welcome Table. Thank you for caring.

Vocations

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call **Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997** email vocations@archtoronto.org

First Mass

Bro. Roshan Gabriel Anthonypillai, OFM Cap, was ordained a priest for the Franciscan Order, last weekend, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This Sunday, December 17th, he will celebrate his FIRST MASS here at St. Edward's Church, at 11:00 a.m. Congratulations to Bro. Roshan and his family, who are all parishioners at St. Edward's Church.



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 23rd - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24th - 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 30th – 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 31st – 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Parish Office Christmas Hours

Office Closed: Monday, December 25th
Tuesday, December 26th
Monday, January 1st

Regular hours resume Tuesday, January 2nd

New Offertory Envelopes

Those who have not yet picked up the new offertory envelopes for 2018, 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.