

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd Sunday of Advent

RECENTLY A FLYER arrived in our mailbox proclaiming, "Holiday Magic starts with believing." That got me thinking. What is the magic of this season? Advent is a time of waiting; we are waiting for the coming Messiah. At Christmas we will celebrate Christ's birth. God promised through the prophets that a Saviour would be sent for humankind.

John the Baptist asks his followers to determine whether Jesus is the one whom God will send. Jesus points to what He himself says and does as evidence of who He is – "the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." Do I believe what I see and hear? Do I trust the words and deeds of God?

Today is also known as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday, taken from the first words in today's Entrance Antiphon. Isaiah prophesies "the desert shall rejoice and blossom." Why should we rejoice? Because Jesus is coming for each one of us! He is our hope and our light. By entering our humanity He brings eternity to our reality.

With Christmas days away, may we slip away for a moment to focus on the real holiday magic of this season. May our hearts be ready to welcome Jesus as God's eternal gift to the world.

(Reflection of Gerry Sobie of Living with Christ)



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 16, 2019

8:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

8:30 a.m. + Helen Nituda

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

8:30 a.m. + Raph Fitzgerald

Thursday, December 19, 2019

8:30 a.m. + Law Family

Friday, December 20, 2019

8:30 a.m. + Linda Kwan

Saturday, December 21, 2019 Multi-intention

9:00 a.m. Birthday Wishes for Paul Chang Hyun Park

4:30 p.m. + Patrick Saldanha

Sunday, December 22, 2019

8:00 a.m. For All Souls in Purgatory

9:30 a.m. + Maria Romano

11:00 a.m. + Anna Oliverio

Day of Confessions

We shall host a Day of Confessions during Advent on Friday, December 20th at various times of the day. This will allow parishioners the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a time best for them. Following is the schedule for the day.

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Youth Ministry

Our EDGE (grade 6, 7 and 8 students) and Lifeteen (high school students) programs are both now in full swing! Please see the banners in the foyer for complete schedules or speak to our Youth Director, Jessica Bews for more information. New students can join at any time.

Upcoming nights:

Friday, December 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Lifeteen – **The Big White Elephant**

Annual Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

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.

Ushers

Msgr. Pat invites all current ushers to sign up for a Mass of their choice, over the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. As well, volunteer ushers are welcome to sign up to assist our current ushers in helping with hospitality and the taking up of the collections. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the lobby, or simply call the office.

MARY MATHEWS SPEAKING CONTEST



The CWL League Invites students in Grade 7 & 8

Contest Date: February 2, 2020

A speech between 3 – 5 minutes

*****Register by January 12, 2020*****

For more information, please visit: cwltoronto.ca OR email: stedwardcwl@gmail.com

Courage & EnCourage

Do you or does a loved one experience same-sex attraction? Courage & EnCourage provide spiritual support and pastoral guidance in full accordance with authentic Catholic teaching on homosexuality and chastity. For more information, see contact information below:

EnCourage: Spiritual support for family and friends of those who experience same-sex attraction; faithful to Church teaching on chastity.

Chaplain: Fr. Eric Rodrigues
Phone: 416-928-5094 or encouragetoronto@yahoo.com

Courage: Spiritual support for adults who experience same-sex attraction and who desire to develop a life of interior chastity in union with Christ.

Chaplain: Fr. Kevin Belgrave
Phone: 416-928-5094 or couragetoronto@yahoo.ca

All inquiries are kept confidential

The Archdiocese has endorsed these programs.

Senior Residence Masses – December 2019

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

Thank You Letter

Good Shepherd Ministries offered a letter to the parish in gratitude for the Thanksgiving Food Appeal. The food drive was a great success. Thank you for remembering those in need in our community.

St. Edward’s Catholic Women’s League

The CWL invites all women in the parish to join them for the General Meeting: **Tuesday, December 17, 2019.**

Starting with Mass at 7:00 pm, followed by a Christmas celebration in the parish hall. We will also be collecting new baby items for Birthright. Please come and bring a friend.

Little Lambs Ministry

Preschool children and their parents/caregivers are invited to attend the Little Lambs Ministry, Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Please note that there will be **no** class on Dec. 22nd and 29th.

55+ Club

All men and women, 55+ and up, are welcome to join our weekly meetings on Wednesday, from 1 – 3 p.m. All are welcome.



Christmas & New Year’s Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 21st – 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22nd – 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Christmas

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

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

Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 28th – 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29th – 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

New Year

New Year’s Eve
Tuesday, Dec. 31st – 4:30 p.m.

New Year’s Day
Wednesday, Jan. 1st – 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Msgr. Expedito Joano

Msgr. Joano, a retired priest of the Archdiocese, and former Associate Pastor of St. Edward’s is celebrating 60 years of priesthood this month. He will celebrate the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday December 22nd. Cake and coffee will be served following Mass in the parish hall. Come and celebrate this milestone in the life of Msgr. Joano!

New Offertory Envelopes

2020 Offertory envelopes are ready. The boxes are arranged numerically. **Please verify your envelope number with your name on the label.** If you cannot remember your envelope number, there is an alphabetical listing on the table for you to check your number.