

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

IMAGINE WHAT IT must have been like for Joseph to hear Mary's extraordinary tale of her mysterious pregnancy. Joseph was "a righteous man." He believed in longed for, the coming of the promised Messiah of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. Then to be asked to accept that God was about to fulfill that promise in such an unforeseen and scandalous way? And yet Joseph, awakening from a dream, welcomed the unexpected into his life.

Fast forward thirty years and we see the child born to Mary and Joseph spending much of His time doing the unexpected and the scandalous. Whether sitting at table with sinners and prostitutes or embracing lepers and tax collectors, Jesus would challenge people's ideas of what God was like.

Today's readings confirm that God comes to us in ways that can confuse or challenge us. At this time of year, we might expect to encounter God in cozy family gatherings and beautiful liturgical celebrations. We might not recognize Him in the shivering street person or the cranky relative everyone wants to avoid.

Our celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas is an invitation to open ourselves to new possibilities and new ways of seeing God. May we, like Joseph, welcome Him with open and generous hearts...in whatever guise he appears.

*(Reflection of Teresa Whalen Lux of Living with Christ)*



### Mass Intentions

**Monday, December 23, 2019**

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of Paul Mak

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019**

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of Liela

4:30 p.m. Franc Zelko

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

Midnight + Rose Hudacin

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Christmas Day**

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

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

11:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Mazzitelli Family

**Thursday, December 26, 2019**

8:30 a.m. + Irene Wong

**Friday, December 27, 2019**

8:30 a.m. + Vincentio Kim

**Saturday, December 28, 2019 Multi-intention**

9:00 a.m. + Josef and Olga Stojko

4:30 p.m. + Emma Santi

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

8:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving – Peredo & Medina Families

9:30 a.m. + Vincenzo and Anna Saracino

11:00 a.m. For the Holy Father, Pope Francis

### 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. The EDGE resumes on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. Life Teen resumes on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.

### 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](http://cwltoronto.ca) OR

email: [stedwardcwl@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:encouragetoronto@yahoo.com)

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**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](mailto:couragetoronto@yahoo.ca)

**All inquiries are kept confidential**

The Archdiocese has endorsed these programs.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

*As we celebrate Christmas let us all reach out to one another in our continuing journey to the kingdom.*

*This Christmas season let us remember the CHRIST who cares for the hurting, the lonely, the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the oppressed, and the victims of injustice.*

*The heart of the Christmas story is that in Jesus "God has visited His people", Let us make Him welcome.*

*God's enduring presence is the source of the joy of this season.*

*In the face of all we know, and all that challenges our wellbeing,*

*We are reminded that we are not alone.*

*In Jesus, our Emmanuel, God is with us.*

On behalf of Msgr. Pat, Fr. David Warren, Deacon David Quail, Fraser McLaren, our seminarian, Jessica Bews, Youth Director, Josie Paladino and Jessiwyn Devas, our parish secretaries and Lucas Pak, our custodian, we wish all our parishioners and their families a holy and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Thank You**

Good Shepherd Ministries offered a letter to the parish in gratitude for the Thanksgiving Food Appeal. The food drive was a great success. As well, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul wishes to thank St. Edward's parishioners for their support of needy families in the parish through the Christmas collection. Amount collected was \$8,049.00 Thank you for your generosity.

**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.

**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.



***Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule***  
**Christmas**

**Christmas Eve – Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 12:00 Midnight**

**Christmas Day – Wednesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.**

**Holy Family**

**Saturday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.**

**New Year**

**New Year's Eve  
Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – 4:30 p.m.**

**New Year's Day  
Wednesday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Parish Office Christmas/New Year's Hours**

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – office will close at 12:00 noon  
Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – office closed  
Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – office closed  
Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – office will close at 12:00 noon  
Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup> – office closed

Regular hours resume Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**January – Holy Hour**

Due to the Holidays, First Friday Holy Hour is moved from the evening to the morning, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. **(Please note: No First Friday Evening Mass on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.)**

**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. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

***Merry Christmas***