
UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST COMMUNION

PREPARING FOR EUCHARIST – UNIT ONE

Sun Jan 10th at 10:30 am in the church OR
Sat Jan 16th at 4:00 pm in the church

CONFIRMATION – UNIT THREE

Sun Jan 17th at 10:30 am in the church OR
Sat Jan 23rd at 4:00 pm in the church

(Remember that parents need to accompany the candidates and everyone is welcome to stay for Mass after class)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY CHRISTMAS BREAK

Today is the last day of the 11:30 am Children's Liturgy. Thank you to our catechists who faithfully volunteer to work with our youngsters and to the parents who have supported this effort. **Children's Liturgy will resume at the 11:30 am Mass on Sunday January 10th.**

PLANNING FEASIBILITY STUDY

"It is in giving that we receive" -- St. Francis of Assisi

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our **Planning Feasibility Study** this fall. We appreciate that you took the time out of your busy schedules to meet with our consultants at either an Open Forum session or personal face to face interview over the past few months. We have received the report from the consultants, M & M International. The results were favourable to move forward in **the Family of Faith Campaign with the Archdiocese**. The goal is much reduced, and our parish Finance Council will be meeting with the Archdiocese after the Christmas break to discuss our plans and their support to repair our church.

Again, thank you! Please pick up a copy of the **Executive Summary** of the report at the end of this weekend's Masses at the back of the church. We will be back to you early next year with our next steps about our Family of Faith Campaign.

SUPPORT FOR RECENTLY SEPARATED OR DIVORCED CATHOLICS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is offering a 6 week group program for adult men and women coping with the many struggles involved in the process of separation and divorce. Group participants will receive support and guidance as they move through this difficult period of transition. The group will run on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 beginning January 5th to February 9th, 2016 at our Central Office, 1155 Yonge Street (Summerhill Subway Station). For further information, please contact **Alex Lopechuk at 416-921-1163**.

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the Christmas Flowers collection these past two weekends - \$1,022.35 (Dec 6) and \$192 (Dec 13). We are sure that there will be other envelopes arriving this weekend. This goes a long way to covering the Christmas trees (over \$400) and then the poinsettias that we order (last year over \$800), allowing us to choose sizes and colour.

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES

As we welcome our parishioners and friends to our Christmas Masses, we remind you that many of those we see can be returning parishioners. They may be visiting family members or they may just want to come "home" to visit the old neighbourhood. Others may be people who are looking for "a room at the inn" - a place to call their spiritual home on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or just over the holidays (holidays?).

There may be some fuss as people meet after a long time. There may be a bit of confusion. There probably will be some discomfort as people struggle to understand when to stand, sit or kneel. Some people will come to church after a big traditional meal where they may have had too much to eat and drink and some may arrive with an empty stomach. All of that is to be expected and it is okay. We gather as Church to celebrate the Birth of Jesus and the trip of the Holy Family - first to Bethlehem from Nazareth and then as refugees into Egypt.

You are our "regulars" and as such you are Christians. If you are Christians, you understand that Christ is in you and Christ is in them... even those who may come and may not be Catholics or even Christians... yes dear friends, even non-Christians venture into Catholic Churches for the solemn feasts.

How will you be Christ? How will you welcome Christ? ...especially in **this Jubilee Year of Reconciliation**.

How will the *stranger* feel in our parish? Will there be a smile or a "nice to see you" or a "Blessed Christmas" greeting? Will the "regulars" shimmy over and make room in the bench or will the ends of our pews be guarded by Roman Soldiers, scowling and intimidating? Every single person at St Francis, young and old, has the chance to be a goodwill ambassador for Christ.

As has been our custom in recent years - we will be giving out "raffle tickets" (for free!). One type is for adults and another is for children. At the end of Mass we will draw one of each and from those who are present in the church, one adult and one child will receive a Nativity related gift. It is just a little excitement and a little thank you for being with us.

On your way out of the main doors, Fr Jimmy and Fr Conrad have **a limited number of Bethlehem holy cards that have been brought over from the Holy Land**. For as long as they last, we will distribute them to our families - you will notice the pressed flowers on some of them. Please remember to pray for the Christians of the Holy Land. **Remember that you may still contribute to "Project Hope" assisting refugees.**

EVENING MASSES IN ENGLISH ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Our Lady of Guadalupe – 694 Weston Road
(near Black Creek Drive)

Christmas Day (Fri Dec 25) 7 pm
New Year's Day (Fri Jan 1) 7 pm

St. Alphonsus – 540 St Clair Ave W (near Vaughan Rd)

Christmas Day (Fri Dec 25) 7.30 pm
New Year's Day (Fri Jan 1) 7.30 pm

LA QUARTA DOMENICA DI AVVENTO – ANNO C –20 DICEMBRE 2015

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas break beginning this Wednesday at 3:30 pm and will open again to the public on Mon Jan 4th, 2016.

Certificates and Mass bookings can easily be made at other times. If someone is sick and needs a priest or if someone needs a Mass Card, please leave a message on the parish voicemail and we will try and get back to you as soon as possible.

Vi avvisiamo che durante questo periodo natalizio, l'ufficio parrocchiale sarà chiuso da mercoledì 23/12 alle 3:30 pm. Riprendiamo lavoro il lunedì 4 gennaio. Per le pratiche di ogni giorno non ci sono urgenze. In generale tutte gli uffici prendono una pausa per questi giorni. Detto questo, notate che per le visite agli ammalati lasciateci sulla segreteria telefonica (answering machine) un messaggio chiaro con diversi recapiti telefonici. Inutile lasciare solo il numero di casa se siete all'ospedale vicino all'ammalato – lasciate o i numeri dei figli o qualche numero di telefonino. Sapendo anche le nostre realtà, se c'è bisogno di una Messa Perpetua per qualche defunto, lasciate un buon messaggio e cerchiamo di venire incontro al vostro bisogno.

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in February 2016 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service.

Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422.

STUDIO DI FATTIBILITÀ E PIANIFICAZIONE

"E' nel dare che riceviamo." - San Francesco d'Assisi

Desideriamo ringraziare a tutti voi che avete partecipato al nostro Studio di Fattibilità e Pianificazione durante lo scorso autunno. Apprezziamo che avete dedicato del vostro tempo per incontrarvi con i nostri consulenti sia durante il Forum Aperto, sia durante l'intervista diretta e confidenziale svoltosi nel corso degli ultimi mesi. Abbiamo ricevuto la Relazione elaborata dai consulenti della M & M International. I risultati sono positivi e sostengono il proseguimento della Campagna Diocesana detta "Famiglia di Fede". Peraltro, l'obbiettivo finanziario è notevolmente inferiore al previsto, e il Comitato Finanziario della nostra Parrocchia si incontrerà con l'Archidiocesi dopo la pausa Natalizia per parlare dei nostri piani e del loro potenziale sostegno circa gli interventi di restauro della nostra Chiesa.

Ancora una volta, Grazie! Vi preghiamo di prendere una copia del Sommario Esecutivo di tale Relazione, le quali si trovino all'ingresso della chiesa dopo la Santa Messa. Agli inizi dell'anno nuovo, torneremo ad aggiornarvi per quanto riguarda la prossima tappa lungo la nostra Campagna detta "Famiglia di Fede".

YEAR OF MERCY

The Archdiocese joins with the Universal Church in celebrating the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. This Year of Mercy runs from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8, 2015) through to the Feast of Christ the King (November 20, 2016).

Make a pilgrimage to one of our archdiocesan Holy Doors to receive the Jubilee Indulgence.

(Visit www.archtoronto.org/mercy for more details, locations and resources.)

MASS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 19TH TO DECEMBER 27TH 2015

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

5:00 PM Annunziata e Domenico Carnevale

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

9:00 AM Giovanni, Carlo e Famiglia Barbati; Salvatore e Gerardo Amato e Famiglia; Antonia, Margherita e Franco Bifulchi e Famiglia; Domenico Jannetta; Teresa, Pepe e Pasqua Consiglio; Giuseppe Bertucci e Famiglia; Giovanni e Elisabetta Artusa e Famiglia; Luigi and Christina Marcelli; Lucy Barone; Laura Masella

11:30 AM For Parishioners' Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

ST PETER CANISIUS,

PRIEST & DOCTOR

8:00 AM Giuseppe Mongillo

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

8:00 AM Assunta Mannella

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

ST JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST

8:00 AM Paul & Michelina Portelli

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

NO Morning Mass

8:30 PM Christmas Prelude (Music & Readings)

9:00 PM Vigil Mass (English)

Living & Deceased Benefactors

12 midnight Midnight Mass - Benefactors

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

9:00 AM I nostri benefattori vivi e morti (Italian)

11:30 AM Living & Deceased Benefactors (English)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

5:00 PM For Parishioners' Intentions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9:00 AM In onore di Tutti i Santi e per le Sante Anime
Basilio Dileo e Giovanni Callipo
Giuseppe e Francesco Sisi;
Giovanni Olimpio; Franco Chiocca
Rosa Cutuli e Giuseppina Natale
Pasquale Gallipi; Luigi e Lella Zervakos
Agostino Lanzeroti e Famiglia
Famiglia Belissimo, Bruno Suppa & Famiglia

11:30 AM Caterina Rizzuto

