

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2017**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION - SAT DEC 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

The Big Day is almost upon us. In a week's time, **on Sat Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** our children will **gather in the Church at 10:45 am** to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This event is for all of our candidates (and families) involved in First Communion preparation this year.

Parents - please prepare your children for the event. They CANNOT fail the event. Do not give them an idea that they will not be forgiven or that the priest will be angry or disappointed with them for their sins. Not only is this NOT true but it can also worry them... each year we have some little one who is scared and crying. We don't want this. Our children are coming to meet Jesus in the sacrament and to receive the embrace that the Loving Father gives to his prodigal children.



Please remember to pick up your child's certificate as you leave the church after Confession.

**2016 NATIVITY SCENE - JESUS IS COMING!**



**THEY AIN'T NO ANGELS!**

Apologies to those who are keen on grammar - you are probably shaking your heads. We just decided that the pun was too good to resist.

Last weekend, after coordinating with our contractors, our volunteers came out and spent a day assembling this year's Nativity Scene... right in the middle of our external scaffolding. Hopefully people will realize that Jesus is found everywhere - even in the middle of renovations.

Thanks to our volunteers - l to r: Rocco Petrella, Joe Rauti, Henry Benvenuti and Peter Nudo. And thanks to Nicholas van den Berg, our Buttcon site manager and his team.

It will be interesting to see how our elves are going to decorate the church for Christmas in the midst of the scaffolding. Take pictures because this is one for the history books.

**DAY OF CONFESSIONS**

"So often, our own sins and failings seem to be an obstacle in encountering the love of our Lord, preventing us from taking the steps towards authentic and renewed conversion. Yet Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners. He is the Good Shepherd who seeks out the lost, the physician who comes to heal the sick. And one of his first acts after the Resurrection was to entrust to the Church the power to forgive sins in his name. Thus, in order to undergo an authentic and renewed conversion, and to encounter the Love of God, a focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation – this most powerful encounter with divine mercy – is essential." - *Thomas Cardinal Collins*.

From **December 11 to 17, 2016**, each parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a **Day of Confessions**. In our parish, the schedule for confessions is as follows:

**Mon. Dec. 12** - 9 am – 11 am, 1 pm – 2:30 pm, 6 pm – 7 pm

"Spesso, i nostri peccati e le nostre mancanze sembrano esserci ostacolo nell'andare incontro all'amore del nostro Signore e impediscono il nostro cammino verso un'autentica e rinnovata conversione. Però Gesù non è venuto a chiamare i giusti, ma i peccatori. Lui è il Buon Pastore che viene a cercarci se ci siamo smarriti. E' il medico che è venuto per guarire i malati. Uno dei primi atti da Lui compiuti dopo la Sua risurrezione fu quello di conferire alla Chiesa il potere di rimettere i peccati nel Suo nome. Quindi per proseguire nel cammino verso un'autentica e rinnovata conversione e per andare incontro all'amore di Dio, è necessario accostarci al Sacramento della riconciliazione, il quale ci conduce ad un sempre più profondo incontro con la divina misericordia." – *Cardinale Thomas Collins*.

Tra l'**11 e il 17 dicembre, 2016**, in ogni parrocchia della Diocesi di Toronto avrà luogo una **Giornata dedicata alle Confessioni**. Le confessioni nella nostra parrocchia si terranno **lunedì 12 dicembre** dalle 9 am alle 11 am, dall'1 pm alle 2:30 pm e dalle 6 pm alle 7 pm.

Nota Bene: Se c'è un funerale quel giorno, l'orario delle confessioni del mattino verrà sospeso.

**CANCELLED STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS**

As we approach the season of Christmas Cards, we remind you of "Stamps for the Missions." Used stamps are cut off envelopes, leaving a little bit of the envelope as a border to avoid damaging the stamp itself. These are collected and sent to *the Mission Office of our Western Canada Franciscan Province*. They have purchasers who give them money for the stamps and this money goes to help their Missionary effort.

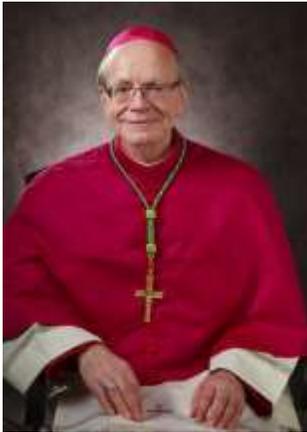
**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

Remember that this weekend your envelopes for Christmas Flowers and Decorations would be very much appreciated.

Ricordate le buste per le stelle di natale e le decorazioni. E' sempre un buon aiuto - grazie!

## LA SECONDA DOMENICA DI AVVENTO – ANNO A – 4 DICEMBRE 2016

### WELCOME BISHOP ROBERT KASUN CSB



St Francis of Assisi Parish forms part of the Central Zone of the Archdiocese of Toronto. **Bishop Robert Kasun** is the Auxiliary Bishop who is responsible for our area.

Our Bishop will visit St Francis on **Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> and celebrate our 11:30 am Mass**. Come out to meet Bishop Kasun at our parish.

**Dom 18 dic**, arriva tra noi **SE Mons Robert Kasun** per visitare la nostra parrocchia e per celebrare la Santa Messa del 11:30 AM. Venite a salutarlo.

### CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in February 2017 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905 624-4422

### ENGLISH SUNDAY MISSALS & CALENDARS

Thank you **Bernardo Funeral Homes** for providing the Sunday Missals to the parish free of charge! The church calendar began last Sunday - the first Sunday of Advent.

**Cardinal's Funeral Home** has also provided us with 2017 Calendars for free distribution to our community. Thank you!

### WRITING CONTEST- WIN PRIZES!!

It is time once again for the Friars' Student Writing Award. Students aged 14 – 18 are invited to write a five hundred-word essay on the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated January 18-25, 2017. The Theme for this coming year is "Reconciliation – The love of Christ compels us" (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-20). Students should read the above Scripture passage and respond to the following statement in the essay: As the Christian world reflects on the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (1517-2017) and after reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, discuss the main obstacles to Christian reconciliation and ways to overcome them based on your own experiences.

First prize is an iPad Air 2 (64 GB), second prize is a Kobo Aura H2O, and third to sixth prizes are a one-year subscription to The Catholic Register and other prizes.

Essays will be edited and published in The Catholic Register. Deadline for entries is January 13, 2017. E-mail your essay to [editor@catholicregister.org](mailto:editor@catholicregister.org) or FAX it to **416-934-3409** (please include your full name, email address, phone number, and the name of your school on the front page of the essay). For further information call 416-934-3400, ext. 344 or 416-934-3410, ext. 403 or 1-855-441-4077.

Don't miss this opportunity!

### MASS SCHEDULE

December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

5:00 PM Francesco Didiano

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

9:00 AM Giovanni e Carmine Mongillo  
Giuseppe e Francesco Sisi  
Antonio Martino, Caterina Iori  
& Famiglia Martino  
Antonio Fragale; Rosa Balenzano  
Pasquale, Maria Pia & Maddalena Cioffi  
Carnevale Family  
Famiglia Spagnolo e Urciuoli  
Carmine & Rosa Farrace

11:30 AM For Parishioners' Intentions

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM Antonio e Maria Rosa Santaguida

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

ST. NICHOLAS, BISHOP

8:00 AM Michele Caccamo

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

8:00 AM San Nicola

7:00 PM Memorial Mass-Carmelina Mongillo

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:00 AM Joseph Calleya

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN, HERMIT

8:00 AM Stan Rzepka

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

11:00 AM Reconciliation Service (All Schools)

5:00 PM Candido Longo

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 AM Vito e Domenico Corrado  
Famiglia Simonetta e Carnovale  
Franco Chiocca; Pasquale e Teresa Pepe  
Giovanni, Carlo e Famiglia Barbati  
Antonio Margherita e Franco Bifulchi  
Francesco Luciano Donato  
Giuseppe Sinopoli e Famiglia  
Antonio Tedesco & Lucia Rocchetti  
Eugenia & Mario Franco

11:30 AM For Parishioners' Intentions