

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - DECEMBER 24/25TH, 2016
HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – YEAR A - DECEMBER 30TH, 2016

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

We take this opportunity to wish you and yours many blessings during this Christmas Season. We are grateful for your weekly support and your support in special moments like our recent "Family of Faith Campaign" and the upcoming opportunity to sponsor slate roof tiles "A Hundred Years for a Hundred Dollars". Add to this the many personal gifts we friars have received.

As is our custom, we are dedicating all our Masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and again on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to your intentions. We will remember our parishioners and benefactors, living and deceased.

Cogliamo l'occasione per augurarvi tutti un Santo Natale e la benedizione di Dio per l'anno nuovo 2017. Vi ringraziamo per tutte le gentilezze che avete mostrato verso la parrocchia e verso i frati. Non avendo un modo di ringraziarvi uno per uno, come e' la nostra consuetudine, offriamo tutte le sante Messe nella vigili e il giorno, sia del santo Natale e anche del 1° gennaio, per i nostri parrocchiani e benefattori, vivi e morti.



FAMILY OF FAITH - ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

As we go to print on Fri Dec 16th the secretary of the Family of Faith Campaign tells us that we have pledged over the next five years totalling **\$420,890**. That is just an amazing amount of generosity and trust in Divine Providence.

We have others who have promised to pledge but have not yet made their commitment. Our volunteers are following up with phone calls in the hopes of answering any outstanding questions. Two simple answers to remember are that this pledge is over a five-year timespan and that "yes" there are income tax receipts that will be issued. The Family of Faith Campaign Office will issue income tax receipts for the amounts given to The Family of Faith Campaign in 2016 - usually by late February.

We are standing at **over 93% of our goal of \$450,000**. After we met our standard goal of \$230,000, all the pledges that arrived after that are designated totally toward the projects here at St Francis - just look at the scaffolding.

FORMER ST FRANCIS PARISHIONERS - PAG

These days we will see a lot of our friends who used to belong to St Francis and come back for a taste of their faith history. As usual, we ask our "regulars" to be welcoming and to see Christ and the Holy Family in the person of the stranger.

To our friends who visit us - please consider special support to St Francis - beginning with your Christmas Envelope. You may also consider making regular gifts to St Francis via **Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)**. Your support is important all year round.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

We have noticed that a lot of our parishioners are now remembering charities when they lose a loved one. These folks are of the opinion that their flowers disappear very quickly but donations to charity can do an immense amount of good. Remember **St Francis of Assisi Parish at 72 Mansfield Ave, Toronto** when completing a will or when choosing charities for your "In Lieu of Flowers" requests.

TIME AND TALENT

When we speak of Stewardship we also speak of "Time and Talent". Much of what goes on at St Francis could not go on without the kind generosity of our volunteers. Thank you to all of you who are so generous - in recent days our **Inside and Outside Decorators**, our **Volunteers to the Family of Faith** and **all those who quietly work** to make St Francis the Spiritual home that it is.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's Liturgy will NOT meet today (Dec 25th) & next Sunday, Jan 1st. Thank you to our faithful Catechists! We will start up again on the 8th of Jan., 2017. Enjoy your well-deserved break!

Children's Liturgy resumes Sunday Jan 8th at the 11:30 am Mass.

If you have young children, we encourage you to send your youngsters downstairs with the group that is called forward at the beginning of the 11:30 am Mass. Our catechists take the children downstairs and have a "Liturgy of the Word" with the children - explaining the readings in a language that is more geared to them. There are often activities, including drawing and sometimes crafts.

This service is free and the children do NOT have to be registered in any way. Even if you visit periodically, your children are welcome. (NB This is NOT Catechism for First Communion.)



NATALE DEL SIGNORE – 24/25 DICEMBRE 2016
SACRA FAMIGLIA DI GESÙ, GIUSEPPE E MARIA – ANNO A – 30 DECEMBER 2016

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

Please note that the **Parish Office will closed for the Christmas break beginning Thurs Dec. 22nd at 3:30 pm and will re-open on Tues Jan 3RD, 2017 regular office hours.**

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 giovedì 23/12 alle 3:30 pm. Riprendiamo lavoro il martedì 3 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.

**EVENING MASSES IN ENGLISH
ON CHRISTMAS DAY (DEC 25 - EVENING)
AND NEW YEAR'S DAY (JAN 1 - EVENING)**

We have a number of parishioners who are in medical or other professions that often times have to work on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We have done some searching and have come up with the following times and locations that may help make the holidays into holy days:

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

Christmas Day (Sun Dec 25) 5 pm
New Year's Day (Sun Jan 1) 5 pm

Holy Family - 1372 King Street West

Christmas Day (Sun Dec 25) 4 pm
New Year's Eve (Sat Dec 31) 11 pm
New Year's Day (Sun Jan 1) 8 pm

The Blessings Of
Christmas
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE

MASS SCHEDULE

December 25th to January 1st, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
THE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

NO 5^{PM} Mass today

- 8:30 PM** *Christmas Prelude (Music & Readings)*
9:00 PM Living and Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00 Living and Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors
midnight Benefactors

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

- 9:00 AM** Per i nostri parrocchiani e benefattori, vivi e morti
11:30 AM Living and Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

- 8:00 AM** Living and Deceased Friars

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH
ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

- 8:00 AM** Michelina e Paul Portelli

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

- 8:00 AM** Michelina e Italo Maceroni
7:00 PM Antonia Teresa Vono

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
COMMEMORATION OF ST. THOMAS BECKET

- 8:00 AM** Giovanni Olimpico

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

- 8:00 AM** Umberto Paparo e famiglia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
COMMEMORATION OF ST. SYLVESTER I, POPE

- 3:30 PM** *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
4:45 PM *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*
5:00 PM Living and Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors

SUNDAY JANUARY 1TH
MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

- 9:00 AM** Per i nostri parrocchiani e benefattori, vivi e morti
11:30 AM Living and Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors