

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD– YEAR A - JANUARY 1ST, 2017

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION 2017

Second book - Preparing for Eucharist 1&2

This is just a reminder to our Grade 2 families preparing for First Communion that **the Unit 1 class (covering chapter 1 & 2) will be offered Sun Jan 22nd at 10:30 am and Sat Jan 28th at 4:00 pm**, for those who miss the first session. Class will be followed by a regularly scheduled weekend Mass so that the family can fulfill its Sunday obligation.

Also for **Confirmation the Unit 1 class (covering the Introduction and Unit 1) will be offered Sun Jan 15th at 10:30 am and Saturday Jan 21st at 4:00 PM.**

We will advise you when your **Confirmation Books** can be picked up. Please keep an eye on our bulletins.

Parents – please remember to work with your children and **help them to fill out the pages of their work book.** Also, we ask that you **make sure the children's name, phone number and School are clearly written on the book** – it helps us contact the family when a book is left behind.

We ask you **to have your First Communion child wear his/her crucifix when coming to class and Mass.** This reminds our parishioners to pray for them and for you.



FAMILY OF FAITH - ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

As we go to print on Fri Dec 21st the secretary of the Family of Faith Campaign tells us that we have pledges over the next five years totalling **\$429,390**. 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 95% 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.

ONLINE DONATIONS

You can now donate online to the parish:

<https://community.archtoronto.org/page.aspx?pid=407>

When you choose the parish we are the fifth one on the list.

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 next 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.)



MARIA SANTISSIMA MADRE DI DIO SOLENNITÀ – ANNO A – 1 GENNAIO 2017

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

Please note that the **Parish Office is closed for the Christmas break 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 è chiuso per le feste natalizie. 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 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 New Year's Eve or New Year's 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)
New Year's Day (Sun Jan 1) 5 pm

Holy Family - 1372 King Street West
New Year's Eve (Sat Dec 31) 11 pm
New Year's Day (Sun Jan 1) 8 pm

**"HAVE WE USED THE
PAST YEAR MOSTLY
FOR OURSELVES,
FOR OUR OWN
INTERESTS OR DID
WE KNOW TO SPEND
IT FOR OTHERS,
TOO? HOW MUCH
TIME DID WE SET
ASIDE FOR BEING
WITH GOD,
IN PRAYER,
IN SILENCE,
IN ADORATION?"**
POPE FRANCIS



WORLD DAY OF PEACE - JANUARY 1

Blessed Pope Paul VI established the **World Day of Peace** in 1968. He asked that "every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time. We pray that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of future events."

MASS SCHEDULE

December 31th to January 8st, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

COMMEMORATION OF ST. SYLVESTER I, POPE

5:00 PM Living and deceased Parishioners & Benefactors

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM Per i nostri parrocchiani e benefattori, vivi e morti

11:30 AM Living and Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors

MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND

SS. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

8:00 AM Antonio Paparo & Famiglia

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

8:00 AM Francesco Febbraro

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4TH

8:00 AM Bishop Gerald Scarpone OFM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH

8:00 AM Bishop Gerald Scarpone OFM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH

8:00 AM In Onore del Sacro Cuore di Gesù

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7ST

ST. ANDRE BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

5:00 PM For Parishioners' Intentions

SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:00 AM Rosa Verdò e Basilio Di Leo
Raffaele Magri e Famiglia Polerà
Agostino Lanzeroti e Thomas Fazzari
Salvatore Amato e defunti Famiglia
Famiglia Carnovale e Simonetta
Defunti Eduardo Cipolla e Famiglia
Angelo & Grace Calaminici
Francesco Febbraro

11:30 AM Rosie Colella Ienco