

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY-YEAR C – DECEMBER 16, 2018

WEEKLY OFFERTORY STATISTICS

Please note that because of the Office Christmas Schedules at St Francis and Liturgical Publications, our information is not available at this time. We will publish the details as we can in the weeks ahead. By the second Sunday of January, we should be back to our regular schedule.

Please remember over the coming feasts that your contributions are so important. If you have any family coming to visit, encourage them to be generous in their support of St Francis.

DAY OF CONFESSIONS - THIS WED - DEC 19

“Jesus in the confessional is not a dry cleaner: it is an encounter with Jesus, who waits for us just as we are. Is going to confession like a torture session? No! It is going to praise God, because I, a sinner, have been saved by Him. And is He waiting to beat me? No, he waits with tenderness to forgive me. And if tomorrow I do the same? Go again, and go and go and go. He always waits for us.” - POPE FRANCIS

From **Dec 18-22, 2018**, each parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a Day of Confessions. Confessions at our parish will be available this **Wednesday, December 19th**, from **9-11 a.m., 1-2:30 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.**

GIORNO DI CONFESSIONI – MERCOLEDÌ PROSSIMO - 19 DICEMBRE

**MERCOLEDÌ 19 DICEMBRE, AVREMO LA POSSIBILITÀ DI
CONFESSARCI. PREPARATEVI PER IL SANTO NATALE.
NON MANCATE!**

“Gesù nel confessionale non è una tintoria: è un incontro con Gesù, che ci aspetta come siamo. Allora andare a confessarsi non è andare a una seduta di tortura? No! E' andare a lodare Dio, perché io peccatore sono stato salvato da Lui. E Lui mi aspetta per bastonarmi? No, con tenerezza per perdonarmi. E se domani faccio lo stesso? Vai un'altra volta, e vai e vai e vai.... Lui sempre ci aspetta.” – PAPA FRANCESCO

Tra il **18 e il 22 dicembre, 2018**, in tutte le Parrocchie dell'arcidiocesi di Toronto, si terrà una **giornata dedicata alle confessioni**. Nella nostra Parrocchia, le confessioni avranno luogo **mercoledì, 19 dicembre dalle 9 a.m. alle 11 a.m.; dall'1 p.m. alle 2:30 p.m. e dalle 6 p.m. alle 7 p.m.**

SACRED CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

The Choirs of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts are pleased to present **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** on **Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30pm**. This traditional Christmas celebration made famous by King's College, Cambridge tells the story of the birth of Jesus in scripture and song. **150 young singers** offer anthems, hymns and carols. Be with us for this beautiful, prayerful and inspiring start to the holidays.

General Admission \$20.

PRESEPIO - 2018 - NATIVITY SCENE

Last Sat Dec 8th, on the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, we blessed this year's **Outside Nativity Scene** just before the 5 pm Mass.



(l to r) Henry Benvenuti, Joe Rauti and Peter Nudo are taking a break - Rocco Petrella is part of the team as well but he was taking the photo. Thanks to this team that gets the work done in the weeks leading up to the Immaculate Conception.

It is a pleasure to see a fuller representation this year since we don't have our contractors on site with all their materials. The renovation work has been important but it is also nice for this full sized scene to be out there. Some people stop their vehicles or drop by just to relive the Christmas Story... others who are not familiar with our traditions may even ask what this is about... and hearing someone tell them they may even welcome a spark of faith to warm their hearts?

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.

ENGLISH SUNDAY MISSALS / CALENDARS

Thank you Bernardo Funeral Homes for providing the **Sunday Missals** to the parish free of charge! The church calendar began with the first Sunday of Advent. These missals are to be left in the pew.

Thank you also to **Cardinal's Funeral Home** has also provided us with **Catholic Calendars for 2019** for free distribution to our community. Thank you!

LA TERZA DOMENICA DI AVVENTO - GAUDETE - ANNO C - 16 DICEMBRE 2018

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, **contact**

Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director,
Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997
Email: vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca

or

Fr. Conrad Fernandes, Vocation Director,
Franciscan Friars. 416 536 8195
Email: vocations.icprovince@gmail.com
www.icprovince.org/vocations

TOO MUCH RUSHING AROUND HAVE YOU MISSED THE HOLY FAMILY?

In the Holy Land one passes through the streets of Jerusalem that are filled with locals from the three different faiths that call this city Holy, and there are pilgrims, an assortment of tourists and of course, the merchants. You can go to the Holy Land and end up just shopping for souvenirs... and then you miss the opportunity to pray and to appreciate the sacred streets and shrines.

Something similar can happen during Advent - we get so caught up in decorating, baking, Christmas shopping and so many other things. The real danger is that we can arrive at Christmas and missed the Holy Family that has brushed us as they passed by on their way to Bethlehem.

Take the time you need to think about the real meaning of Christmas. Take the time to explain to your young children or grandchildren the story of your Nativity Scene. Let them get involved in setting it up. It is a teachable moment... and remember that it does not have to be perfect. Try to see this moment through the eyes of others, the young, the old, the troubled, those who are struggling with their faith.

**During Advent we prepare for Christmas.
In the midst of the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle, have you thought of a gift for Jesus?
One way of doing this is remembering our neighbours in need.**

***Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
(be generous as you leave the church)***

PARISH RCIA

We have had our first meeting to gauge how many could be interested in beginning their RCIA journey that would allow them to explore the Catholic faith. If you or anyone you know might be interested in exploring our faith, please have them contact our office as soon as possible.

Welcome to our Faith

MASS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 15TH TO DECEMBER 23RD, 2018

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

5:00 PM John D'Acunto

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

9:00 AM Basilio Dileo e Giovanni Callipo
Antonio Pitaro; Angelo Barillari
Vito & Domenico Corrado
Giuseppe & Filomena Malfara
Maddalena Cioffi e Famiglia
Domenico e Maria Teresa Pileggi
Vincenza e Candido Longo

11:30 AM For Parishioners' Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

8:00 AM Antonio Tedesco

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

8:00 AM Rocco e Giuseppina Renda

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

8:00 AM _____

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

8:00 AM Vittoria e Francesco D'Urzo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

ST. PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR

8:00 AM Vito Garisto

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

5:00 PM Antonietta Schiavo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

9:00 AM In Onore delle Sante Anime
Giovanni e Carlo Barbati
Antonio e Margherita Bifulchi
Pasquale e Teresa Pepe
Salvatore Amato
Agostino Lanzeroti e Giuseppe Raso
Filippo e famiglia Zambrano
Giuseppina Marrello

11:30 AM For Parishioners' Intentions