



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor  
Deacon Don Roberts  
Deacon Richard Te  
Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary  
Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper

## New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Please register by filling out a form available at the back of the church or online.

## Sacrament of Baptism

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a very serious commitment to raise the child within the Catholic faith community and to educate the child in the truths of the church. An essential part of the commitment is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of every month. Please contact the parish office for a Baptismal package.

## Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to be married should contact the parish one year in advance. They must also attend a Marriage Preparation Course prior to entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil divorce or religious marriage with another person, please notify the priest as soon as possible as the priest is not permitted to set a wedding date until the Bishop's Office has been contacted.

## Sacrament of the Sick

In this Sacrament we celebrate Christ's healing presence among us today. If you, a relative or friend, require this Sacrament at home or nursing home, please call the parish office. For your spiritual needs during a hospital stay, the Archdiocese of Toronto has assigned a full time Roman Catholic Chaplain to each of the two Mississauga hospitals. For the Chaplain, speak to the Nurses' Desk or call the Spiritual Care Office.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM  
Every 2nd & 4th Friday: 7:30 PM  
(or by appointment)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Daily: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

## MASS

Sunday Eucharist  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (fulfills the Sunday obligation)  
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 NOON  
*Children's Liturgy at: 10:00 a.m. Mass*

*Weekday Eucharist*  
Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 7:00 PM  
Tuesdays / Thursdays 8:00 AM

\* Morning Prayer / Evening Prayer  
(One half hour before Mass)

## DEVOTIONS

*Holy Hour*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

*Rosary & Our Lady of Perpetual Help*  
Mondays 6:30 PM

*Divine Mercy*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 3:00 PM

## PARISH LIFE

Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM) 905-822-8132  
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua) 416-804-3457  
Social Committee 905-822-8132  
Ministry of Consolation & Hope 905-822-8132 ext. 3  
RCIA 905-822-8132 ext. 4  
St. Vincent de Paul 905-822-8132 ext. 5  
J.O.Y. Social Club joysocialclub@st-ignatius-loyola.com  
Catholic Cemeteries 416-733-8544  
Charismatic Prayer Group 905-822-8132 Ext. 3  
(Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.)

## SCHOOLS

St. Francis of Assisi 905-822-3183  
St. Margaret of Scotland 905-820-5115  
Christ the King 905-569-0220

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

## “Prepare the Way Of The Lord”

Joy



Advent is the season of the prophets, and the Scripture readings of these weeks before Christmas help us to focus our vision and deepen our longing for the Messiah. In this week's Gospel, John the Baptist announces the coming of the anointed one,

the Messiah. "He came as witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him (John 1:7). The light John speaks about refers to Jesus. John makes it clear that he is not the Messiah but is preparing the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The religious leaders question John's authority and ask who he is; is he a prophet announcing the Messiah's arrival (see Malachi 4:5, Deuteronomy 18:15)? Was he really sent by God? John has no doubt about what is his call and mission. In answer, John states that he is only a voice bidding people to get ready for the arrival of the greatest Ruler of all, God's anointed King and Messiah.

The prophecy of John's message and the arrival of Jesus is found in the last book of the Old Testament - "See, I am sending my messenger, to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed he is coming," says the Lord of hosts." (Malachi 3:1). The prophecy is also found in Isaiah - "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3). John's role is to help the people prepare for the arrival of Jesus. The true identity of Jesus was not known until he was baptised by John and began

his public ministry. John acknowledged the greatness of Jesus and announced his coming, calling the people to repent so their hearts would be ready to encounter God in the flesh. In a similar way, we are called to prepare our hearts during Advent through repentance as we prepare to encounter Christ in Christmas.

John the Baptist's life and mission reminds us how badly we need a Saviour to save us, in order that we might be all that we are called to be and do all that we have to do to live in the Light.

*Yes, joyful are those who live like this! Joyful indeed are those whose God is the Lord.*

....Psalm 144:15

**PLEASE NOTE THAT MASS TIMES HAVE CHANGED**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Sunday, December 24**

5:00 p.m. (Children's Christmas Pageant),  
7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Monday, December 25**

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

**Monday, January 1, 2018** - 10:00 a.m. and  
12:00 noon

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 8:00 A.M.**

*Intention Available*

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 7:00 P.M.**

S.I. Ajoy and Maureen Colaco

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 5:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**8:30 A.M.** *Intention Available*

**10:00 A.M.** + Gerd Schnoekel

+ Martina Hatch

**12:00 Noon** S.I. Parish Community

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5:00 P.M.** + Gerry Mayo

**7:00 P.M.** *Intention Available*

**9:00 P.M.** + Desmond Somers

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2018-19 school year, will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on Jan. 15\* from 7 – 9 p.m. and Jan. 17-19 from 9-3 p.m. \*A snow date has been designated on January 16 from 7-9 p.m. Registration materials will be available on the board website. For more information, parents/guardians call the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board at 905-890-1221.

## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Mark your calendars, beginning Thursday January 18th, St Francis of Assisi Prayer Group, will be hosting our annual Parish Life in the Spirit Seminars. The Seminars will start at 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, in the parish hall, and run for six weeks. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

## PARKING REGULATIONS – CHRISTMAS SEASON

During the Christmas Season, the church typically experiences an increase in attendance. Parishioners are reminded to observe all parking regulations when attending St. Francis of Assisi church. The parish will not be responsible for any tickets received for parking violations.



## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

In Canada, there are two Holy Days of Obligation other than the Sundays of the year: Christmas and January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This year, both Holy Days of Obligation fall on a Monday. To fulfill our duty to God, we must attend the Sunday Mass as well as the Solemnities of the Incarnation of the Lord (Christmas) and the Holy Mother of God (January 1<sup>st</sup>).

## ADVENT CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is the best way to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas. Please take advantage of the many opportunities available.

**St. Francis of Assisi** - Every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. and Fridays in Advent at 6:00 p.m.

**St. Christopher** - Dec. 19/20: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

## 2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2018 are now available at the back of the church. Please take any box and **PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS** on the first 4 envelopes you use in JANUARY 2018. Please

remember to finish using your 2017 offertory envelopes before using the 2018 ones. Also, please DO NOT use your 2017 envelopes after December 31, 2017. Thank you.

## PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

If you would rather make your regular offerings through Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), kindly complete a PAG Form, which are available at the back of the Church with the envelopes, and return to the Office. Please note you still need a box of envelopes for the other Special Collections.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Due to an error, there is no Christmas Offering envelope in your 2017 Offertory Envelope box. Ushers will help distribute Christmas offering envelopes this weekend and next weekend.

## DON'T FORGET

If you have a change of address or telephone number, please call the office at 905-822-8132.

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