

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2017

“For nothing will be impossible with God”

Love



A new era of grace and salvation begins with the miraculous conception and birth of Jesus. We begin to see the fulfillment of this prophecy and the unfolding of God’s plan of redemption in the events

leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah King. The new era of salvation begins with the miraculous conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favour with God (Luke 1:28). As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). The child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God’s promises. “...you will conceive in your womb and you will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High (Luke 1:31-32). “He will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The angel repeats to Mary, the daughter of the house of David, the promise made to King David: “The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end” (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 9:6-7).

Mary believed God’s word and gave her unqualified yes to God’s will. How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done in the past. Her question, “how shall this be, since I have no husband” is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and

trust. Mary’s prompt response of yes to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God’s promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God’s will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the “Mother of God” because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. Jesus, whom the Father sent from heaven, is true God and true man.

God gives us the grace to say yes to his will and to his transforming work in our lives.

We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God’s promises and do you yield to his grace?

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 25

8:30 A.M. Intention Available

10:00 A.M. + Martina Hatch
+ Christopher Staton
+ John Staton

12:00 NOON S.I. Jan Heini

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 – 8:00 A.M.

+ Phêrô Kinh Tran

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 – 8:00 A.M.

In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Amy and Antonio Tolentino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 – 5:00 P.M.

S.I. Parish Community

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8.30 A.M. Intention Available

10:00 A.M. + Marie Armstrong

12:00 Noon +Tom and Monica Simpson

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 should contact their local Catholic school, visit the Board website at www.dpcdsb.org, or call the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board at 905-890-1221.

MEET OUR NEWCOMERS!

As mentioned previously, the Saffar family who were affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crisis, arrived safely at the end of November, after more than two years of waiting in Jordan and are now busy settling in. The St Francis of Assisi Refugee Committee would like to invite you to a Meet and Greet get together in the Church Hall after the 12 pm Mass on Sunday January 14th. It is an opportunity for all of us to welcome them and understand how we can help integrate them as new Canadians. We look forward to seeing as many parishioners as possible at this joyful occasion.



HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

In Canada, there are two Holy Days of Obligation other than the Sundays of the year: Christmas and January 1st, 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 1st).

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Due to an error, there is no Christmas Offering envelope in your 2017 Offertory Envelope box. Christmas offertory envelopes are available in the vestibule.

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.

2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2018 are now available. If you would like a box, please come to the parish office. 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 and return to the Office. Please note you still need a box of envelopes for the other Special Collections.

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.

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