



# 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

## DEVOTIONS

### Holy Hour

Fridays (excluding holidays) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rosary

Wednesday during Mass  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:40

### 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  
Ministry of Consolation & Hope 905-822-8132 ext. 3  
RCIA 905-822-8132 ext. 4  
St. Vincent de Paul 905-822-8132 ext. 5  
Catholic Cemeteries 416-733-8544

## 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 16, 2018

## “What should we do?”

### Joy



Why did thousands come out to hear John the Baptist preach? And what was so unusual about his message? When John the Baptist appeared on the public scene and began to prophesy the whole nation of Israel took notice. It had been many hundreds of years since a prophet had spoken out and performed signs in the land of Israel. John broke the long silence with the sudden announcement that the Messiah was about to appear. God had long ago promised his people that he would send them a Redeemer who would save them from their sins, free them from oppression, fill them with the joy of his presence and bring them his everlasting kingdom of peace and righteousness. They came out to hear the good news which he preached to them. And they willingly submitted to his baptism of repentance at the River Jordan. John's task was to wake people up from spiritual sleep and indifference, and to turn them back to hear God's voice and obey his commandments.

John's message of renewal and repentance was very practical. He told the people three things: First, every follower of God must share what they possess with their neighbors. Second, John pointed out the sacred duty to give each and every person what is their due and to not take from them what rightfully belongs to them. And thirdly, John exhorted his listeners to be content with what they had and to avoid coveting what belonged to others. John basically called the people to turn back to God and to walk in his way of love and righteousness.

John's message of "good news" aroused in many people a new hope and joyful expectation that this was now the decisive moment for God's Anointed One to come with power, justice, and judgment to establish his reign of peace and righteousness. Many wondered aloud if John himself might be the promised Messiah, the one who would deliver them from oppression.

John's response was loud and clear - he was only the herald's voice who prepares the way for the Messiah's coming. When John compared his position with the Messiah, John humbly stated that he considered himself lower than the lowest slave. His task was simply to awaken the interest of his people for God's word, unsettle them from their complacency, and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive the Messiah when he came. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the "divine likeness," prefiguring what would be achieved through and in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters. Jesus is ready to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. The word of God has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Jesus Christ, the true light of the world. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Jesus Christ in the way you speak and live?

### 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. To fulfill our duty to God, we must attend the Solemnities of the Incarnation of the Lord (Christmas) and the Holy Mother of God (January 1<sup>st</sup>).

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24**  
5:00 p.m. (Children's Christmas Pageant),  
7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25**  
10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**  
**Monday, December 31, 2018** – 5:00 p.m. followed  
by a Holy Hour

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019** – 10:00 a.m. and 12:00  
noon

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 17 – 7:00 P.M.**

Intention Available

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 – 8:00 A.M.**

Intention Available

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 7:00 P.M.**

+ Shawn LeBlanc

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 7:00 P.M.**

Intention Available

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 5:00 P.M.**

Special Intention

+ Elsa Giovanelli-Macciachera

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**8:30 A.M.** S.I Parish Community

**10:00 A.M.** + Peter Kinh Tran

+ Michael Ward

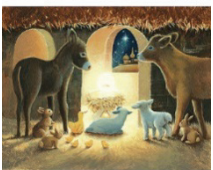
**12:00 P.M.** + Mrs. Olga Werbowski

+ Jackie Hendricks

+ Mauro Stampatori and Mario Micucci

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2019-20 school year will begin on November 26, 2018. Parents/guardians have the option to register online or in-person at their designated Catholic school. The online registration will begin on November 26 at [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org). For those unable to register at the school during school hours, a registration evening has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019 (Snow Date: January 17, 2019). For more information, parents/guardians should contact their local Catholic school, visit the Board website at [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org), or call the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board at 905-890-1221.



## DID YOU KNOW?

St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crib popular and turned it into a familiar part of Christian homes around the world. He presented a Bethlehem scene with live animals on Christmas Eve in

1223 in Greccio, Italy. He said "I wish to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem. I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardship of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger how with an ox and an ass standing by, he lay among the hay".

## 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.

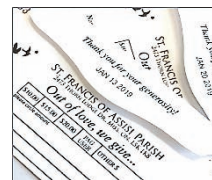
**St. Francis of Assisi** - Every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. and Fridays in Advent at 6:00 p.m.

**St. Martin of Tours** - Dec. 20 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

## 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.

## 2019 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2019 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

2019. Please **DO NOT** use these envelopes until January 2019.

## 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.

## A PRAYER FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might  
come among us;  
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,  
let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help  
and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,  
with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be honor and glory,  
world without end.

*Amen*



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