

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 23, 2018

"...blessed is the fruit of your womb"

Love



Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" (*makarios* in Greek) literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and

Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do you live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?



Dear friends:

As we celebrate, once again, the mystery of God's love at Christmas, I extend my sincere greetings to all who call St. Francis of Assisi parish their spiritual home. I am very grateful for your generosity and faith, and I pray that God's peace and joy may be yours this Christmas and into the New Year. I share the following quote from Pope Francis for your meditation:

"The sign of Christmas has also been revealed to us: "a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes" (Lk 2:12). Like the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we welcome in the Baby Jesus the love of God made man for us. And may we commit ourselves, with the help of his grace, to making our world more human and more worthy for the children of today and of the future." Pope Francis

Fr. Bernard

Mass Intentions  for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 P.M. S.I. Parish Community

7:00 P.M. + Jack and Joan Quigg

S.I. In Thanksgiving - Deposo Family

9:00 P.M. +Martina Hatch

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. S.I. In Thanksgiving – the Aquino and Padilla Family

12:00 P.M. + Martina Hatch

+ Charlotte Fitzpatrick

S.I. Jan Heini

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 – 7:00 P.M.

No Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 – 8:00 A.M.

No Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28 – 7:00 P.M.

No Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 – 5:00 P.M.

S.I Parish Community

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 – HOLY FAMILY

8.30 A.M. + Helen and Bill Yanchus

10:00 A.M. + Jan Kolbarz

12:00 P.M. + Clara Marsalado

+ Tan Naisoy

+ Tan Rizal

PARKING REGULATIONS

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.

A PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We beseech thee, Almighty God,
to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation,
that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in
us a mansion prepared for himself;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at office@st-francisofassisi.ca

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Mass celebrated here at St. Francis of Assisi on Wednesday, December 26, Thursday, December 27 or Friday, December 28. Parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass at one of the surrounding parishes.

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.

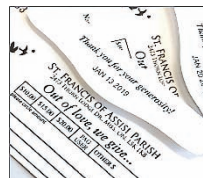
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. and

12:00 noon

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. 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 1st).

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 remember to finish using your 2018 offertory envelopes before using the 2019 ones. 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.

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