

# 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



*prepare the way...*

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2019

## "He will save his people from their sins"

### Love



Do you hold on to the promises of God at all times, especially when you are faced with uncertainty or adversity? The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope in a hopeless situation for Israel. When Ahaz, the apostate king of Judah and heir to the throne of David was surrounded by forces that threatened to destroy him and his people, God offered him a sign to reassure him that God would not abandon the promise he made to David and his descendants. King Ahaz, however, had lost hope in God and refused to ask for a sign of favour. God, nonetheless, gave a sign to assure his people that he would indeed give them a

Saviour who would rule with peace and righteousness. Like the prophet Isaiah we are called "in hope to believe against hope" that God can and will fulfill all his promises.

Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer and God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work.

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## And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)



Dear parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi parish:

As we prepare, once again, to commemorate the momentous event of God becoming one of us, I write this reflection with a deep sense of gratitude in my heart. Firstly, to God, who in His mercy has called me to serve Him and His family, the Church. I am also very grateful to all of you, for your faith, your kindness and generosity towards me these past few years.

If I were to have one request, it would be that the Catholic faithful never forget that priests are human too. Which means that, just like you, we are imperfect. And it is in our brokenness, that God sent His Son to save us. So, sometimes when you see the imperfections of your priests, please don't be quick to judge and criticize them. Just say a prayer for them. They need you, just as you need them!

So, thank you once again for your faith, love and generosity. And may this Holy Season be a time of joy, laughter and peace with family and friends.

*Fr. Bernard*

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## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 7:00 P.M.**

S.I. Maikel Michriky  
+ Mary Dutkiewicz

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**5:00 P.M.** S.I. Maikel Michriky  
**7:00 P.M.** + Bibiana Trigiani  
S.I. Vito Lamanna  
**9:00 P.M.** + Martina Hatch

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 – 7:00 P.M.**

**10:00 A.M.** + Rimando Aquino  
+ Marie Armstrong  
**12:00 P.M.** + Martina Hatch  
S.I. Maikel Michriky

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 – 8:00 A.M.**

No Mass

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 – 7:00 P.M.**

No Mass

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 – 5:00 P.M.**

+ Clara Marsalado  
+ Cecilio Eligido  
+ Bartolome Romero

### **SUNDAY, DEC. 29 – HOLY FAMILY**

**8:30 A.M.** S.I. Parish Community  
**10:00 A.M.** + Joseph Rego  
+ Francisco and Ophelia Papa  
**12:00 P.M.** + Olga and Alexander Werbowski  
+ Carmel Fleming  
+ Bibiana Trigiani

## PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Masses celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi on Thurs., Dec. 26, Fri., Dec., 27 and Mon., Dec. 30. Parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass at one of the surrounding parishes.

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

### **Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24**

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25**

10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

### **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God** (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020 – 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 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>).

## 2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2020 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

2020. Please remember to finish using your 2019 offertory envelopes before using the 2020 ones. Thank you.



Please note that the deadline for donations (included in the 2019 tax receipt) is **December 31, 2019**. Any donations **received after this date** will be counted towards your 2020 tax receipt.

## PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

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

## A FAREWELL

Our Pastor, Father Bernard Vellozo, is leaving Saint Francis of Assisi on January 1, 2020. A farewell reception will be held Sunday, December 29th following the noon Mass. Parishioners are invited to contribute to a parting gift for Father. Volunteers will be at the doors of the Church after all weekend Masses to collect your cash donations, farewell messages and a count of the number of guests. Please let us know if you plan to attend. For more information, please contact Kathy Valant (905) 823-1693.

## 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.

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