

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

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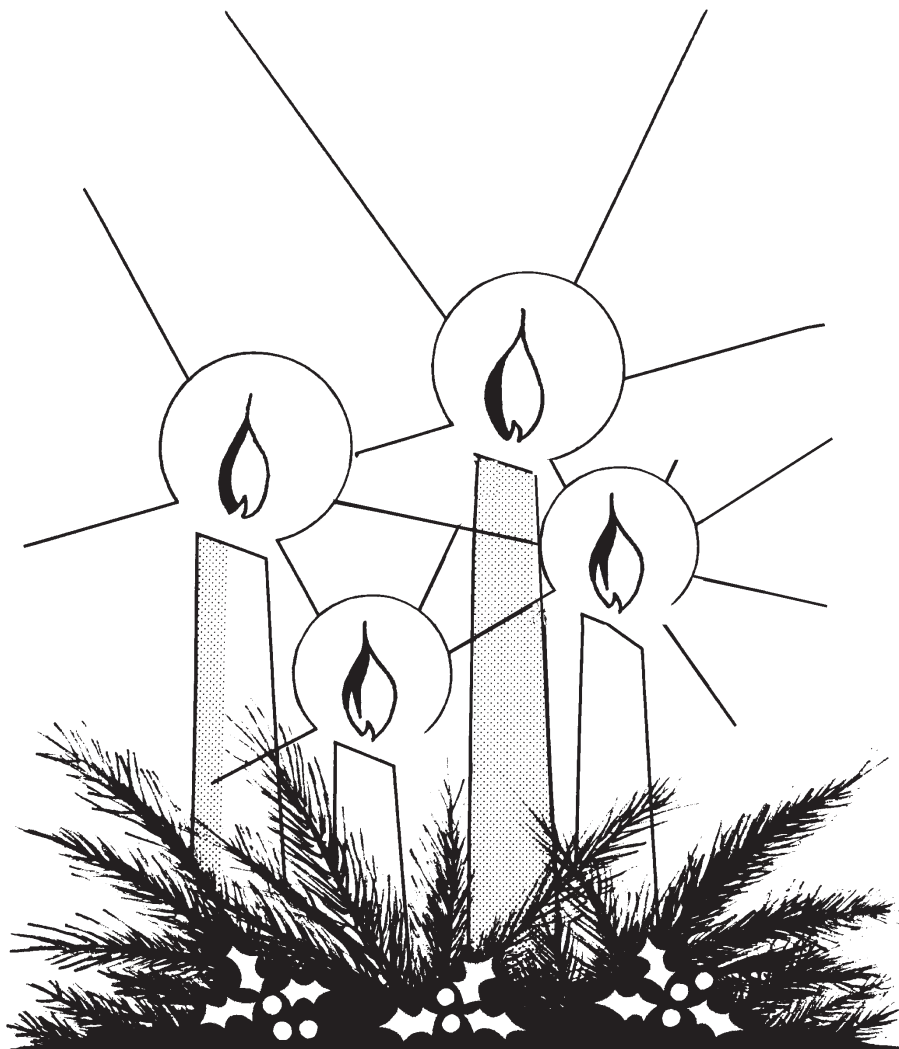
office@st-francisofassisi.ca

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Melinda Mayo, Office Administrator Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021

“What should we do?”

Joy



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?

Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more earnestly. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All.

SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE



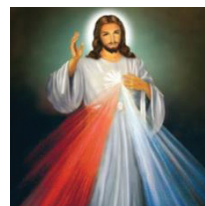
Mass is being live streamed on our Parish YouTube Channel on Sunday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 7pm (preceded by the Rosary at

6:40pm).

The link to our parish YouTube channel is:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCokoBfidkSQAZ_Buk3g-bhw?

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET ON FRIDAYS



We have resumed the practice of gathering in St. Francis of Assisi Church for Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. Since congregational singing is still not permitted, a recorded version of the sung chaplet will be played. Each participant must wear a face covering and physical distancing (6-feet) between members of different households is required. All are welcome.

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Jean Zielinski
+ Desmond Somers
+ Ann Cosgrove

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 8:30 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Merly Talag
S.I. Rebbie Santiago
S.I. Vickie Peralta

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. In reparation for sins committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 P.M. S.I. Deacon Don Roberts
S.I. Melinda Mayo

5:00 P.M. + Mary and Linley Forsyth
+ Mrs Frances Besserer LeMay

7:00 P.M. Intention Available

9:00 P.M. Intention Available

11:00 P.M. + Olga Werbowski
+ Alex Churchman
+ Martina Hatch

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

S.I. Parish Community

DECEMBER 26 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

S.I. Parish Community

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

3:00pm (Children's Mass live streamed)

5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm

11:00pm Solemn Christmas Midnight Mass (live streamed)

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

8:30am, 10:00am, (live streamed) and 12:00 noon

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Friday, December 31, 2021 – 5:00pm

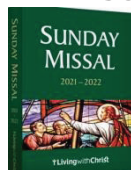
Saturday, January 1, 2022 – 8:30am, 10:00am

(live streamed) and 12:00 noon

Registration on EventBrite is required to attend any of the Christmas Masses. To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/nativity-of-our-lord-christmas-tickets-222457244607>

SUNDAY MISSALS FOR 2021-2022



Sunday Missals for the new Liturgical Year, which starts on the weekend of November 28, will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. The cost is \$5 each and the correct change would be greatly appreciated.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

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. Ignatius Loyola - Dec. 21 9:30-11:30am, 4-6 pm, 7-8:30pm

St. Christopher - Dec. 20, 21 and 22 10- 11am, 6:30-8:30pm

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2022 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 2022. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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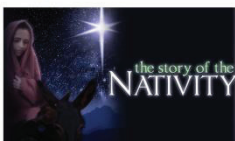
FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 19, 2021

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS
BY FULTON SHEEN
This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



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