

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor

Don Roberts, Richard Te, Richard Noronha, Deacons

Melinda Mayo, Office Administrator Brenda Penney, Parish Bookkeeper

Lay Pastoral Assistant - Arlene Morgan Rickeeann Kitchura - Office Assistant



The Nativity of the Lord

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2022

The Shepherds Glorified God for All They Had Seen



Have you read the news today - the "good news" of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and son of Mary who was born for us and for our salvation. The word *gospel* literally means *good news*! Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would descend from David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem.

The first to hear the good news of the Saviour's birth were not the rulers and religious leaders of Israel who were robed in riches and power. The angels first came to those who were humble and ready to receive the newborn king who was born in poverty and was now lying in a manger made for animals. Just as God had chosen and anointed David, a lowly shepherd of Bethlehem to become the shepherd king of Israel, so Jesus likewise chose the path of humility and lowliness in coming to Israel as the good shepherd king who would lay down his life for their sake and salvation. After the angels had sung their hymn of glory in the presence of the shepherds, the shepherds made haste to adore the newborn king and sing their hymn of glory as well.

In the feast of Christmas we celebrate present realities - Jesus Christ our redeemer who reigns in heaven and who also lives and reigns in our hearts through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. And we commemorate past events - the birth of the newborn Messiah King and his manifestation to Israel and to the gentile nations. We thank and bless God for the way in which he has saved us from the power of sin and the curse of death and destruction by sending his son to ransom us and give us pardon and abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. Today we celebrate the birthday of our King and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God wants to fill our hearts anew with joy and gratitude for the greatest gift he could possibly give us - his beloved Son Jesus. What can we give thanks for in this great feast of the Incarnation? We can praise and thank God our Father for the fact that the Son of God freely and joyfully assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. This day the Holy Spirit invites us to make haste - as the shepherds of Bethlehem did - to adore Jesus our King and Messiah.

This day the whole community of heaven joins with all believers of good will on earth in a jubilant song of praise for the good news proclaimed by the angels on Christmas eve: *Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).*

The joy of Christmas is not for a day or a season. It is an eternal joy, a joy that no one can take from us because it is the joy of Jesus Christ himself made present in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us (see Romans 5:2-5). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which no pain nor sorrow can diminish, and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of your salvation in Jesus Christ?

PLEASE NOTE

Mass on Boxing Day, Monday, December 26 will be celebrated at **10:00 a.m.**, instead of the usual 7:00 p.m.

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, December 26 to Monday January 2, 2023 inclusive. We will reopen Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

2022 DONATIONS AND EXPENSE CLAIMS

Thank you for all of your generous support during the past year. Any donations you wish to include for your 2022 charitable donation tax receipt must be received at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, December 28th.

Also, any remaining expense claims by parishioners must be submitted to the Parish Office no later than December 28th.

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 – 10:00 A.M.

+ Yves Faucher
+ Marie Salvati
+ Leonard Anthony Campos

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 – 8:30 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. In Thanksgiving from Max and Teresa Rodrigues
+ Francesco Greco

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 – 8:30 A.M.

Intention Available

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Ed and Olivia Devilles
S.I. Jaroslaw Szaran
S.I. Claro Deposo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31- 5:00 P.M.

S.I. Betty Tam Chong
+ Mrs. Benny D'Mello
+ Chin-Uk Kim

SUN., JAN. 1 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

S.I. Parish Community

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



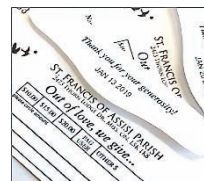
The Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day) will be celebrated on New Year's Eve (December 31) at 5:00 p.m. and New Year's Day (January 1) at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.

YOUTH CHOIR

Children grade 2 and up are invited to join the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Choir. Rehearsals will be held on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. starting on January 7, 2022. The choir will be a part of the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass starting January 21, 2023. We'd love for your children to join us! If you have questions, please contact Arlene Morgan at 905-822-8132 ext. 6.



2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2023 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 2023. Please remember to finish using your 2022 offertory envelopes before using the 2023 ones.

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.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED



The Knights of Columbus will be accepting non-perishable food items after all Masses the weekend of January 28 and 29. Our collected food will be delivered, sorted and stocked by the Knights at Eden Food for Change, our neighbourhood food bank serving those in need in our very own Erin Mills community. Thank you for your support.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at stfrancisofassisimi@archtoronto.org.

HOPELINE – A NEW HOTLINE TO HELP WITH ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE

Thanks to funding from ShareLife and co-ordination from Catholic Charities, the Archdiocese of Toronto now has a "hotline" for palliative care information called *HopeLine*, which is operated by Saint Elizabeth Health Care. By calling 416-619-5700, anyone in the Archdiocese of Toronto area, from Oshawa to Midland to Oakville, can learn more about what palliative care can do for you and your family, how to get access to palliative care services nearby, and how to advocate for better care.

A call to the *HopeLine* will prompt callers to leave a name, phone number and the location a person is calling from. Saint Elizabeth staff will get back to callers with relevant information. The hotline is not for crisis situations, but is intended for families and individuals trying to plan for hospice and palliative care.

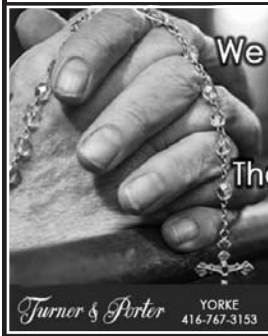
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