



4th Sunday of Advent - A

God, Emmanuel, **is with us**. The promise made long ago to King Ahaz is fulfilled. The king lacked trust in God, and feared to ask for a sign. Matthew applies this ancient prophecy to Jesus' birth, of a virgin who, at last, put total faith in God. But what was Mary's predicament?



We must not let false piety obscure what an earlier age saw clearly. Matthew tells the story from Joseph's point of view. We hear of an angel's visit to him rather than to Mary, for she was misunderstood and Joseph faced a dilemma. As a just man, he must obey the Law and repudiate his pregnant fiancée; as compassionate, he did not want to expose her to disgrace or punishment. He was about to divorce Mary quietly when God revealed his design. The child to be born, who will save from sin, shares with those closest to him the uncertainties and anguish of human life. Even his parents must learn to trust God completely. As Christmas nears, let us pray for trust like Mary's and Joseph's that God may work out his plan in each of us.



4th Sunday of Advent – A

December 22, 2013

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly "prepare the

way of the Lord"? If God is calling you, contact Fr. Hansoo Park at 416-968-0997 or on vocations@vocations.ca or call Fr. Victor at 416-757-2806 or at olfatima@rogers.com for more information.

Last few days in the **SOCK DRIVE** by the Knights of Columbus. New socks, mittens, gloves, scarf and hats will be passed on to the shelters and the homeless. *Our Lady of Fatima School* collected two bags full; a very generous gesture! Thank you – Staff, Students and Families – for your kindness. God reward you.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ... proceeds to the RENOVATIONS FUND

Buy your last tickets today ... you are still with a chance to win! Tickets are available this weekend only as the draw for our Nativity Set will be made later today, **Sunday, December 22**, at the end of our annual **FATIMA CHRISTMAS CONCERT** hosted by our Parish Choirs and Mr. David Lamb, the parish's Musical Director. Concert starts at 5.00 pm in the church hall; kindly be seated 15 minutes before. **SEE YOU THERE AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

FLOWERS for CHRISTMAS OFFERING

We welcome all generous offerings of support for the purchase of Christmas flower pots to decorate the altar during the coming festivities. Kindly pick up an envelope at the steps of the Fatima Shrine, fill in the requested information and your regular envelope number if you want your donation to be included in the tax receipt, seal envelope with your offering and place it in the candle box at the shrine or hand it in at the office. **Thank you very much.**



Mass for the Intentions for the Week		December 23 - 29 2013
Mon 23	8:00 am	Anthony Gomes (D)
Tues 24	8:00 am	Salvacion & Edwin Alconaba (D)
<i>Christmas Eve Family Mass</i>	6:00 pm	<i>Pastor's Intentions</i>
<i>Vigil Mass</i>	9:00 pm	<i>Pastor's Intentions</i>
<i>Midnight Mass of Nativity of the Lord</i>	Midnight	<i>Pastor's Intentions</i>

Merry Christmas!

Wed 25	9:30 am	Fernando (D)
<i>Christmas Day Nativity of the Lord</i>	11:00 am	Caruso Family (D)

Christmas Joy!

Thur 26	9:00 am	Sebamalai Mariai Antony Mutu (D)
<i>St. Stephen, 1st martyr</i>		
Fri 27	8:00 am	Geriel Taddeo Garcia (I) - Birthday
<i>St. John, apostle</i>		
Sat 28	9:00 am	Prim Jean Baptiste (D)
<i>The Holy Innocents</i>	4:30 pm	Family Fiorino (I)
Sun 29	9:00 am	Galipo & Baglieri Family (D)
<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	10:30 am	Rita Goodall (D)
	12:15 pm	Stella Silva (D)
		<i>& for the People of the Parish</i>

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine Presents Celebrate the Birth of our King

An Evening of Christmas songs performed by our 3 choirs

all are welcome

= Admission ... FREE
= Refreshments ... AVAILABLE
= LOVE OFFERING ... appreciated

TODAY, Sunday, December 22, 2013
at 5.00 pm in the church hall



A SPECIAL

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

at all Masses, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Your Christmas Gift to the Parish!

Thank you!



Christmas Blessings

The PASTORAL TEAM at Fatima, the Parish PASTORAL COUNCIL and the Parish FINANCE COUNCIL extend wishes for God's peace, joy and every blessing on all our parishioners and friends or family visiting them this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. Thank you all for your help and support. We are so blessed to have you and very proud of all of you.

Remember to regularly visit our website ...

www.fatimashrine.ca

Regularly updated with weekly Bulletin and Announcements

Parishioners!

We are grateful to all registered parishioners who have already requested a **tax receipt for 2013** by placing a self-addressed envelope in the collection basket during the past weeks.

To make it easier for everyone we have made available, at all church entrances, small, white envelopes [similar to the donation envelopes] with the heading: **My TAX RECEIPT request.**

Pick up one on your way into church, write your **name** and **box number** in the space provided, and drop it in the collection basket with your offertory envelope **ONLY** if you want a tax receipt.

Receipts for 2013 will only be issued when requested.



OFFICE HOURS during the festive Christmas Season:

Tue December 24, 2013 --- **half day:** 9:00 am to noon
 Wed December 25, 2013 --- **closed all day**
 Thu December 26, 2013 --- **closed all day**
 Fri December 27, 2013 --- **half day:** 9:00 am to noon
 Sat December 28, 2013 --- **closed all day**
 Sun December 29, 2013 --- **closed all day**
 Mon December 30, 2013 --- **half day:** 9:00 am to noon
 Tue December 31, 2013 --- **half day:** 9:00 am to noon
 Wed January 01, 2014 --- **closed all day**
 Thu January 02, 2014 --- **back to regular hours**



This Sunday – Sunday, Dec 22

NO Children's Liturgy meetings for now. These will resume in the New Year: on Sunday, January 5 at 10.30 am Mass.

The **Lord's Flock** prayer group is also not meeting for the next couple of weeks so that members can enjoy a break with their families.

CHRISTMAS DAY – Wednesday, Dec 25

As does every feast of the liturgical year, Christmas celebrates the miracle of our redemption. God has sought out his people to make us holy. He acts in history – world history and our own history – but who could imagine the ways he chooses? Luke's gospel shows us the least of Israel's poor gathered about a crib in wondering amazement, while Mary keeps in memory everything that is happening. She will live out her life in faith, pondering all the while on God's immense goodness. His gracious gift of Jesus to her is his gift to us, the people he loves. In his letter to Titus Paul reminds us that our relationship to Christ is completely undeserved; baptism has made us members of God's holy people and heirs with Christ our brother. The Light has appeared: the gift of faith allows us to recognize Christ as the savior sent by God. God's Christmas gift, his own Son, gives us reason to be joyful the entire year!

Boxing Day – Thursday, Dec 26

Daily morning Mass is at 9:00 am. A **Holy Hour** in the 9th month of the **INFANT JESUS NOVENA** begins at 10:00 am. The **FEAST OF THE INFANT JESUS** will this year be celebrated within the evening Mass on Wednesday, January 07, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Shorter Office Hours over the holidays – Friday, Dec 27

The Office is on half days and shorter hours during the holidays. Check the schedule or phone the office beforehand to avoid disappointment.

Octave of Christmas – Holy Family Sunday – Sunday, Dec 29

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christian Families, remembering them all in our Mass and prayers. The regular schedule for Sunday Masses is followed. **NO Children's Liturgy** or **The Lord's Flock** meetings today.

End-of-the-year Mass of Thanksgiving – Tuesday, Dec 31

Morning Mass at 8:00 am as usual. Reconciliation will be available between 4:00 – 5:00 pm End-of-year thanksgiving Mass will be at 5:30 pm.

DONATION ENVELOPES BOXES FOR 2014

The boxes with your donation envelopes for 2014 are ready for pick up at the back of the church. They are sorted in trays according to the family's last name, in alphabetical order.

Parishioners are to start using them from January 1st, 2014. *Thanks.*



THANKS from the **Knights of Columbus & Right to Life** for your support in their sale of **CHRISTMAS CARDS**, decorations for charity, and the **RAFFLE TICKETS** in our Christmas fund-raiser for renovations.

A 'Thank you' and a 'hug' from our Volunteers at our **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**; your plentiful and generous support to the **CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE** and **CHURCH COLLECTION** during the weeks of Advent has brought joy to many families in our parish.

