



Christmas Day – The Nativity of the Lord



Christmas Day is truly an amazing grace for all humankind. It's a day that has been eagerly awaited by generations of believers and entertained through the many and hopeful oracles of biblical prophets. Today, the promises of God are now fulfilled through the amazing birth of a child in the night of Bethlehem and in the chillness of a manger. First, Mary and Joseph are the only witnesses of such a marvel. But soon, the good news is proclaimed twice to humble shepherds *keeping watch over their flock by night by an Angel of the Lord*, joined later by a *multitude of the heavenly host*.

This was only the beginning of the greatest good news ever proclaimed on earth. In Luke's narrative, it's not only the number of heavenly messengers that increases, but also that of human recipients: *on earth peace among those whom (God) favours*. Born in the city of David, this child is not only the Saviour and Messiah awaited by Israel: he is no less, as the Letter to Titus puts it, *the grace of God... bringing salvation to all*. Let us rejoice then – both as people who believe in this Saviour and Messiah, and together with all nations on earth whom God favours.

Christmas Day – Dec. 15, 2016

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Chris at 416-968-0997 or email at vocations@archtoronto.org or call Fr. Victor on 416-757-2806 or email him at olfatima@rogers.com for more information.



The annual **SOCK DRIVE** by the #5080 St. Francis Council of the **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** closes after New Year's Day. Proceeds are given to needy persons living on the streets or in the various Shelters. Thank you so much to the good hearts that already contributed.

Family Dinner & Dance & Karaoke Night

Get your tickets from the office or our volunteers at the back of the church

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

Last chance to get tickets ... from the OFFICE!

		Dec 26, 2016 – Jan 01, 2017
Mon 26 <i>St. Stephen, 1st Martyr</i>	9:00 am	Floro Rabadon [I] – Thanksgiving
Tues 27 <i>St. John, Apostle</i>	9:00 am	Felix Pingol [D]
Wed 28 <i>Holy Innocent, Martyrs</i>	7:00 pm	Stella Silva [D]
Thur 29 <i>Christmas Octave – 5</i>	8:00 am	Nilda Resurreccion [D]
Fri 30 <i>The Holy Family</i>	8:00 am	Jon Kuitkovic [D]
Sat 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	9:00 am	Jose Bautista Family [I] – Thanksgiving
	5:00 pm	End-of-year Thanksgiving Mass & for the People of the Parish
Happy New Year		
Sun 01 <i>New Year's Day</i>	9:00 am	People of the Parish
<i>Mary, Mother of God</i> <i>World Day of Peace</i>	10:30 am	Galipo & Baglieri Family [D]
	12:15 pm	FV Foods [I] – Thanksgiving Mass
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD		



The PASTORAL TEAM at Fatima, the Parish PASTORAL COUNCIL and the FINANCE COUNCIL wish to extend to parishioners, their families and visitors heartfelt wishes for a blessed, peaceful and prosperous 2016. Thank you all for your help and support. We are really proud and privileged to be with you in the service of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ... result of draw

The draw for the artistic Nativity Set took place last Sunday December 18, at the end of the 6:00 pm *Christmas Novena Mass*. The holder of the winning number has been notified. The number will be published in the next bulletin.



Thank you all for your support.

DONATION ENVELOPES BOXES FOR 2016

The boxes with your donation envelopes for 2017 are ready for pick up at the back of the church. They are sorted in trays in alphabetical order according to the family's **last name** and will come in use as of Sunday, January 1st 2017.

Registered parishioners are kindly asked to inform the office of any changes to their personal data. **New** parishioners are encouraged to register and get their personal box number so that at the end of the year their contributions will be acknowledged in a tax receipt. **Thank you.**





Our Parish

St. Stephen – Boxing Day – Monday, Dec 26
Daily morning Mass is at 9:00 am. A **Holy Hour** in the 9th month of the **Infant Jesus Novena** starts at 10:00 am. The **FEAST OF THE INFANT JESUS** will this year be celebrated within the evening Mass on Wednesday, January 04, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

St. John, Evangelist – Holiday – Tuesday, Dec 27
Daily morning Mass is at 9:00 am and the office and church will be closed for the rest of the day.

Feast of the Holy Family – Friday, Dec 30
Today we celebrate the Feast of Christian Families, remembering them all in our Mass and prayers.

New Year's Eve – Saturday, Dec 31
The morning Mass is at 9:00 am as usual. The **End-of-year Thanksgiving Mass** begins at 5:00 pm. Doors open at 7:00 pm, in our church hall, for the **New Year's Eve Family Night**. Get your tickets by Wednesday.

SPECIAL COLLECTION



in all the Masses on New Year's Eve
and New Year's Day.
Your Gift to the Parish
on the Octave Day of Christmas
Thank you!

NEW YEAR'S DAY – Mary, Mother of God – Sunday, Jan 01, 2017
Time and again the Old Testament considers the birth of a child, especially a first-born son, to be God's greatest blessing. But a more pessimistic strain occurs also, for to be human is to know uncertainty, pain and death. None can avoid this law. In his letter to the Galatians this is Paul's starting point. God's Son, a Jew born of Mary, knew the subjection of human life even to undergoing his people's custom of circumcision. His perfect acceptance of human life has filled it with glorious possibilities. Before we were slaves; now in the name of Jesus and through his Spirit we can call God Father. But what have these readings to do with Mary, mother of God? From the fifth century, January 1, was celebrated in Rome as her feast. The mother of this child must be remembered with him. Mary's assent to God's plan marks the new age of humanity allowing us to pass from slavery to the freedom of God's children. How blessed were we when God chose Mary to be the mother of his Son!



OFFICE HOURS during the festive Christmas Season:

Mon. December 26, 2016	---- closed all day
Tues. December 27, 2016	--- closed all day
Wed. December 28, 2016	---- half day: 9:00 am to noon
Thur. December 29, 2016	---- half day: 9:00 am to noon
Fri. December 30, 2016	---- half day: 9:00 am to noon
Sat. December 31, 2016	--- closed all day
Sun. January 01, 2017	----- closed all day
Mon. January 02, 2017	----- closed all day
Mon. January 03, 2017	----- back to regular hours



**May your
NEW YEAR
be
Joyous & Fruitful**

SPECIAL OFFERING

FLOWERS for CHRISTMAS offering;
Thanks for supporting the purchase of Christmas flowers to decorate the altar and the church during the festivities. Use these envelopes, and 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.



Thank you for your generous support!



Kindergarten Registration in Elementary Schools for Sept. 2017

Kindergarten Registration begins on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – for children born in the years 2013 – at 10 am**. Registrations will be accepted online at <http://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>. Information at: www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration or phone: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314.



For more details contact the Schools office

The
happiest
people
in life
are the
givers,
not the
getters.



JESUS IS BORN

Hush hush, the silence of the dawn,
The star shines bright the child is born,
The manger, the cattle, a place for the poor,
The wise men have traveled to praise and adore.

Isaiah foretold the virgin birth
Peace and goodwill to people on earth,
Jesus the king, God's only son,
Will teach and heal to everyone.

Light up the dark, of sin and damnation,
Bring forth the joy of hope and salvation,
Follow him carefully and hear him say,
I am the light, the truth, and the way.

By the grace of God Dennis Hayes Christmas-2016