

## SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAMS

2014 – 2015

<b>FIRST EUCHARIST</b> “Invited to the Feast” (Grade 2)	<b>CONFIRMATION</b> “Anointed for Mission” (Grade 8)
<u>Parents' Meeting</u> <b>Saturday, February 21</b> <b>9:30 – 10:00 am (coffee/tea) in the Parish Centre</b> <b>10:00 – 11:30 am (meeting) in the Church (parents only)</b>	<u>Sessions I – IV</u> <b>Jan 10, 17, 31 &amp; Feb 7</b> <b>in the Parish Centre</b> <b>9:00 am – 10:30 am or</b> <b>11:00 am – 12:30 pm (as scheduled)</b>

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors:

During the Parish Mission in November, Fr. Philip Chircop, S.J., invited us to work on three projects this Advent, based on three sacred and life-giving moments in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

1. LISTEN to God's whisper in the silence of our hearts (Annunciation); 2. RESPOND to the needs of others (Visitation); 3. BE PATIENT and allow God's word to take root and grow within us so that we can give birth to the gospel (Incarnation). How are we doing? We all need remain focused and not become discouraged. A fruitful Advent leads to a joyful Christmas.

Stripped of its consumerist and materialist tendencies, Christmas can become an occasion to welcome the message of hope that emanates from the mystery of Christ's birth. What is this message of hope? It is that God truly cares about us, all of us, including the poor, the sick, the broken-hearted, sinners, unbelievers. God wants all of us to know Him, to accept His love and be saved. The Prologue of John's Gospel, which we read during the Mass of Christmas Day, states: "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). God united Himself indissolubly with humanity and willingly gave up His life on the cross to make eternal life possible for all.

It is curious that the King of kings came into the world in poverty and as a vulnerable baby. Perhaps human beings would have submitted more easily before the power of God, but God does not want our submission. Instead, God appeals to our heart in order to receive our free decision to accept His love. The birth of a child moves everyone to tenderness,

regardless of culture or religion. Consequently, even those who do not profess to be believers can perceive something extraordinary in the encounter with the newborn Jesus at Christmas.

Contemplating Christ in the poverty of the manger, how can we not think about so many children who, even today, see the light from the darkness of poverty? How can we not think about the children, who are rejected or abandoned as newborns, or even before they are born? How can we not think of parents who desire the joy of a child and do not see this hope fulfilled?

Let us anticipate the birthday of our Saviour as an event capable of renewing our faith and our relationships today. May our encounter with the Child Jesus help us to hear more clearly God's whisper in the year ahead so that we are responsive to the needs of our sisters and brothers which are within our capacity to meet. Then we can be for the world a LIVING GOSPEL.

Merry Christmas!

*Fr. Damian Ali, Pastor*

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION -

Following the 5:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's Eve (beginning around 6:15), there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church until 9:00 p.m., concluding with Benediction. Then Fr. Damian will host a small social with light refreshments in the St. Joseph Room. If you do not have any other plans, or are by yourself on December 31st, and you would like to spend some time with the Lord and fellow parishioners, please join us. You can

stay for the whole time of prayer or come and go as you please. All are welcome!

**The Theme is Love – God's love for us and our love for God and others**



### Suggested Daily Readings

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.

All: May the Lord's peace be with us all.

Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.

All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.

All four candles are lit. During the week, relight whenever the family gathers together.

Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.

All: Amen

### **Scripture**

Sunday	Micah 5: 2
Monday	Isaiah 7: 10; 13; 14
Tuesday	Luke 1: 26, 27, 30-33
Wednesday	Luke 1: 38



**Masses For The Week**

Sat. Dec 20 – 5pm

**+Bill MacAdam**

*req. by His Wife & Family*

Tues. Dec 23 – 8:20am

**+Raffaele & Rosetta La Torre**

*req. by Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Morra*

Wed. Dec 24 5pm, 8pm, 11pm

**NO INTENTION**

Thur. Dec 25 – 9am, 11am, (3pm Spanish)

**NO INTENTION**

Fri. Dec 26 – 9am  
**+Rosina, Salvatore & Carmelo  
 Molica Lazzaro**  
*req. by Angela D'Angelo & Family*  
 Sat. Dec 27 – 9am

**In Thanksgiving**

*req. by the Yearwood Family*  
 Sat. Dec. 27 - 5:00pm  
**+Nada & Andy Batinic**  
*req. by Kaya Batinic*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
 Mark McGowan will present:  
 "Two men named Francis:  
 A Saint and a Pope  
 Thursday January 29, 2015 at 7:30 –  
 9:00pm in the church.

**St. John the Evangelist Prayer  
 Group**  
**The Prayer Group will resume  
 meeting on Wednesday January 7,  
 2015 at 1pm in the Parish Centre.**

 **CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND**  
*Special envelopes are  
 available at the back of the  
 Church for donations to offset the cost  
 of decorating at Christmas. We  
 appreciate your support and assistance  
 at this time of year!*

**2015 Envelopes** are available in the  
 parish office for pickup. The envelopes  
 will not be available from the foyer.  
 Each family will be assigned an  
 envelope box in 2015. Thank you!

**Pilgrimage to Shroud of Turin  
 - May 10 – 23, 2015**

Pope Francis has decreed that the  
 Shroud of Turin be publicly displayed  
 in the spring of 2015, to coincide with  
 his visit to Turin. Fr. Martin Hilbert of  
 the Oratory, Pastor of Holy Family  
 Church Toronto, will lead a pilgrimage  
 to see the Shroud and also a replica of  
 the other burial cloth of Christ (the  
 Sudarium) in Oviedo, Spain. Along the  
 way, the group will also visit Fatima,  
 Santiago de Compostela, Lourdes,  
 Torreciudad, Montserrat, Barcelona,  
 and Avignon. Call Fr. Hilbert at 416-  
 532-2879 or visit  
<http://www.ihtours.com/itinerary=244>  
 for more information.

**The best presents are the  
 ones that can't be  
 wrapped.**

**This Christmas give the gifts of  
 Friendship, Understanding,  
 Kindness, Love and  
 Compassion.**

**Keep *Christ* in  
 Christmas**

*Knights of Columbus*



St. John the Evangelist Choir will sing  
 Christmas Carols beginning at 10:30pm  
 on Christmas Eve prior to the 11:00pm  
 Mass.



**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Wed. Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas  
 5:00 pm **Incense**  
 8:00 pm  
 11:00 pm **Incense**  
 Thu. Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord  
 9:00 am  
 11:00 am  
 \*3pm – Spanish Mass  
 Fri. Dec. 26 Feast of St. Stephen,  
 first Martyr  
 9:00 am  
 Sat. Dec. 27 Feast of St. John  
 (Patron Saint)  
 9:00 am, followed by  
 Refreshments  
 Sat/Sun Dec. 28 Feast of Jesus, Mary  
 & Joseph  
 5 pm, 9 am 11 am  
 Wed. Dec 31 7<sup>th</sup> Day Octave of  
 Christmas  
 5:00 pm  
 Wed. Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary,  
 Holy Mother of God  
 9:00 am  
 11:00 am **Incense**

**Please note** the Parish Office is closed  
 at noon Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and  
 will reopen on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am.

**Special Mass & Celebration for  
 the Feast of our Patron,  
 St. John the Evangelist**

**Saturday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am**  
 Please join us at Saturday,  
 December 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am for mass  
 celebrating the Feast of Our  
 Patron, St. John, and join us for  
 refreshments in the parish  
 centre,  
 hosted by Pastoral Council

*From Fr. Philip Chircop's Mission Week*  
 Disturb us, Lord, when...

We are too well pleased with  
 ourselves,  
 When our dreams have come true  
 because we have dreamed too little,  
 When we arrived safely  
 Because we sailed too close to the  
 shore.  
 Disturb us, Lord, when the abundance  
 of things we possess, we have lost our  
 thirst for the waters of life;  
 Having fallen in love with life, we have  
 ceased to dream of eternity  
 And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
 We have allowed our vision of the new  
 Heaven to dim.  
 Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
 To venture on wider seas where  
 storms will show your mastery;  
 Where losing sight of land, we shall  
 find the stars.  
 We ask You to push back the horizons  
 of our hopes;  
 And to push into the future In strength,  
 courage, hope and love.

**Look at the Candy Cane**



What do you see?  
 Stripes that are red  
 Like the blood shed for me  
 White is for my Savior  
 Who's sinless and pure!  
 "J" is for Jesus,  
 My Lord, that's for sure!  
 Turn it around and a staff you will see  
 Jesus my shepherd, was born for Me

**Toronto Serra Clubs**

There was a man named John, sent by  
 God, who came as a witness to testify to  
 the Light, so that through this person all  
 people might believe. Is it possible God  
 could be calling your name to witness to  
 the Light of Christ in our day? If you think  
 God is calling you to a Church vocation,  
 call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director,  
 Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997  
 email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)