

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 26, 7 p.m.

+Ken MacDonald req by
MacDonald Family

+Carmin Plastina req by Family

Tuesday, December 27, 9 a.m.

+Barbara Tice req by Mike Tice

Wednesday, December 28, 7 p.m.

+Drago Zibert req by Zibert Family

Thursday, December 29, 9 a.m.

+Marguerite Gillard req by Family

Friday, December 30, 7 p.m.

+Antonino Henriques req by

Jennifer Black

+Pat Bourke req by Anne Bourke

+Victoria Pulito req by Pulito Family

+Maria & Francesco Ignazzitto req by
Palazzolo Family

Saturday, December 31

5 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for the healing and recovery of all the sick members of our parish especially: Maureen Keogan, Reginald Wade, Wayne Scott, Grace Hancock and Shirley Barrett.

2017 Envelopes are in the lobby by the office. Please verify that the information on the envelope box is correct. Please use the parish information form in the lobby for any changes that are necessary. Please use your **new** envelopes in January and recycle your old one.

SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS

Over the years the Grade 7/8 Students of St. Paul C.S. have helped out their neighboring Seniors/Sick by shoveling their driveways after snow storms as part of their Community Service. If you require help or know anyone else that may, please call the school office at 905 7287011

To read Fr. Marijan's message for the Feast of Holy Family, please check our Parish Blog at <https://holyfamilywh.archtoronto.org/>



PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

At this season we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ – our Priest, Prophet and King. Encourage someone on your gift list to grow in faith and knowledge with the gift of our **New Bible Study – Priest, Prophet, and King**. This experience will provide a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and who we are because of Him.

Jesus is the Anointed One – the ultimate priest, prophet and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. We will deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ through Fr. Robert Barron's new DVD-based Study Program: *Priest, Prophet, and King*. Explore the biblical archetypes of priest, prophet and king and see how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of each one.

On Monday, January 16, 2017 our parish will begin the *Priest, Prophet, King* Study program. **There will be 2 sessions: Morning at 10:30am and Evening at 7:30pm.** For more information and to purchase the study materials visit the table at the back of the church after all masses this weekend. You may also contact the church office to purchase the **Priest, Prophet, King Study Program Workbook**.

YOUTH MINISTRY ADVENT REFLECTION

The Word is Made Flesh

Merry Christmas from everyone in the Youth Ministry! May the peace and hope of Christ's birth be with you now and in the year ahead!

Since the moment of the Fall, humanity was cut off from God. In our sinful state, to see the face of God would result in death. God was too big to handle. But on this day we celebrate the moment that humanity, long waiting, sees God's face in the newborn child. It is the day that humanity, aching for redemption, hears the voice of God in the cry of a baby. God is with us. We behold His face in all its glory and in total humility.



C.W.L.

The Catholic Women's League of Holy Family Parish is holding a General Meeting on **Wednesday, January 4th, 2017** after the 7 pm Mass in the Parish Hall. All ladies of the parish are most welcome to attend. Come out and meet the new executive for 2017-2018 & share your ideas and toast the New Year.



KEN MACDONALD COLUMBIAN SQUIRES

The **Ken MacDonalld Columbian Squires of Whitby** would like to wish you and your family all the best during this Christmas season! We will be starting back up again on January 11th. The meetings are always every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6pm-7pm in the Knights room. All boys 10-18 years of age are welcome to join! Remember the Squires motto: **Esto Dignus - Be Worthy!**

ALPHA COURSE: COMING TO HOLY FAMILY IN JANUARY 2017!



Ask anything about life, faith, and God. Try Alpha! Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge; it's just an open, informal, and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. **We will be running Alpha at Holy Family starting January 31, 2017 to April 18, 2017, Tuesdays at 7pm in the parish hall.** Details will be announced in a few weeks. Please make time to attend and experience having a personal encounter with the Lord. Please RSVP at the back of the church or online: <https://holyfamilywh.archtoronto.org/>

DECEMBER 25, 2016

MERRY JESUS' BIRTH IN YOUR HEART – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Holy Family Parish in Whitby, Merry Christmas!

Christmas is the Birth of God as a human, by which the Second Divine Person has been made man, one of us, Jesus Christ. Together with you I wish to reflect on the mystery of Christmas at that time, and its importance for us today.

In the Christmas event and Season, we are celebrating the very beginning of Jesus' 1st coming to humanity, when He came to live among us for 33 years as a man. His 2nd *coming* (Gr. *Parousia*, Lat. *Adventum*), refers to Jesus' coming in glory on the last day when 'He will come to judge the living and the dead,' as we profess in the Apostles Creed. St. Bernard says that Jesus' 3rd coming to us is invisible, it is "the hidden coming, [in which] only the chosen see Him, and they see Him within themselves; and so their souls are saved"¹. He continues, "[f]or this is what this coming will do: 'just as we have been shaped in the earthly image, so will we be shaped in the heavenly image' (*ibid.*, 1 Cor. 15:49)." That is, as Jesus is coming to us, and we welcome Him continually with our whole being, He is shaping us from the fallen image of the first Adam, to the restored image and likeness of New Adam – Jesus (Gen 1:26). We are being shaped and transformed in the heavenly image when we welcome Jesus through the Word of God and the Sacraments (especially of Reconciliation and the Eucharist), prayer, and sacred reading. As our sins disfigure our similarity to God, our open heart and welcoming attitude makes a fruitful encounter with Jesus possible by whom we are saved from sins and are restored to the likeness of God. Accordingly, we may see Him in ourselves, rather, see ourselves being restored in Him, to His likeness.

How can you and I experience Jesus' coming as a child in Bethlehem more than merely a past event? During His 1st coming in Bethlehem, He was born as a child to poor parents in a stable, "a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:12). The Child Jesus wishes to be born to us in His 3rd hidden coming as well, today and every day. Jesus would love to be born in our hearts, and not in a rich but a poor heart. To be poor in heart means to be poor from all fake human riches such as pride, hate, wrath and other sins; it means to grow poor in selfishness, self-centeredness, and greed. Only a poor heart can receive God. A heart impoverished, i.e. free from sin, may be pure enough to receive God and to be immersed in Him.

When we welcome Jesus into the poverty of our hearts, He brings there the riches of His graces. God wants us to share generously from His riches, especially the spiritual one, that He has over abundantly entrusted us with. To be generous in this way means: that we recognize God's presence in others for they are our brothers and sisters in Christ; that we have a poor and pure heart when relating to them; to welcome them as God welcomes us first, just as we welcome God in the poverty of our hearts. To be generous means to be hospitable, especially toward those who are poor in the spiritual, moral, and even material sense, welcoming everybody in the power and love of the Holy Spirit. He wishes to fill our poverty with His divine presence and overflow Himself into the hearts of others. When we are welcoming, we are living the ministry of hospitality (that we are presently implementing in our Parish), as evangelizing, missionary disciples of Christ. This kind of encountering and welcoming Jesus is a practical love that has power to transform each and every one of us to the true likeness of God, making us effective representatives of God's mercy for Whitby, and this world. When we are generous, welcoming, and hospitable to others, we manifest to all the face of Christ, who is born, welcomed, and wrapped in the swaddling clothes of a humble, tender love and laid in the mangers of our hearts.

Therefore, brothers and sisters of Holy Family Parish and Friends, we are celebrating Christmas as the beginning of the 1st coming of Jesus. We are also celebrating the Birth of our God in His 3rd coming among us, *in* us. He wants to come, be born in us, and transform the poverty of our hearts by His presence so that we may see Him in us and be saved. Moreover, Jesus wishes that we welcome Him in others so that He may evangelize all persons through us, especially the poor, in whose hearts He desires to be born. In welcoming the poor and everyone, we welcome God, thus allowing others to be more aware of their dignity of beloved children of God in whose hearts baby Jesus wishes to rest.

My thoughts and prayers go especially to those who suffer in pain, who are sad, who are experiencing any loss, especially of their loved ones. May the Newborn Lord console you. Come, Lord Jesus, come into our hearts. Help us to prepare a place for you. Be born and live in us, among us.

I ask for your continual and mutual prayers for every parishioner of our Parish. On behalf of Fr László and our Parish Staff to you and your families, I wish Merry Christmas, Happy Birth of Jesus in your hearts, and Happy New Year, 2017.

Fr Marijan

¹ <https://enlargingtheheart.wordpress.com/2009/12/02/bernard-of-clairvaux-christs-advent-within-the-heart/>