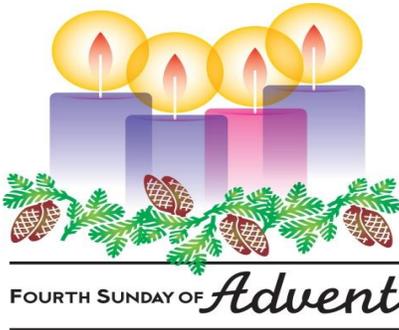


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, December 25

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule:

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, and 12:30pm

Tuesday, December 26, 9 a.m.

Sp Int for Fr. Marijan Sisko

Wednesday, December 27, 7 p.m.

+Wayne Scott req by CWL Members

+Sabina DeSouza req by Merle Chew

+Rocco Soldo req by Carmela & Rocco Volpe

Sp Int for Antonietta Orecchio req by Her Children and Grandchildren

Thursday, December 28, 9 a.m.

+Corrine Mass req by Marg & Mike Burke

Friday, December 29, 7 p.m.

+Antonino Henriques req by Maria Henriques and Family

+Pietro Iacoviello req by Carmela & Rocco Volpe

+Phil Kehelly req by Family & Friends

Saturday, December 30

9 a.m. +Larry Vandusen req by Carmela & Rocco Volpe

5 p.m. +Cheryl Cordick req by Mom & Dad



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

PLEASE PRAY for all of the sick members of our parish especially: Pat Moloney, Linda Vidulich, Jim Cushnan, Maureen Keogan, Reginald Wade, Grace Hancock, Shirley Barrett and Irene Misiaszek.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

The Holy Family Parish New Year's Dinner Dance will be held on **Sunday December 31st** in the church hall. Tickets are \$60 per person and include a four-course dinner with wine, a great DJ, a sweet table and champagne at midnight as well as door prizes. Get your tickets today!



HOLY FAMILY PARISH HAS AN APP~ DOWNLOAD IT TODAY!

Our new Parish App is now up and running. Follow the steps below to download and explore.

Step 1: Download the App

- Either scan the QR code or visit myparishapp.com/download in the web browser on your mobile device.
- click on **"Get the App"**
- Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play (as applicable)

Step 2: Sign-in

- Open the **myParish** app on your mobile device
- Once the app opens, click **"skip intro"** at the bottom-left corner of the screen
- Find Holy Family parish by typing **"Whitby"** into the search box
- Select **"Holy Family Parish"** from the menu; tap **"get started"**; you will now be on the main page for our parish's app
- Tap the **menu icon** ☰ in the top-left corner of the screen and select "sign in" from the menu the 'create an account'
- Enter your name, email address, and create a password; then tap **"sign-in"** > **You are now logged in.**



Step 3: Explore

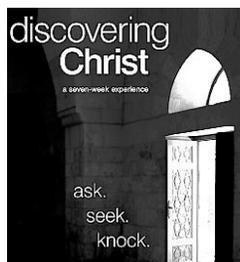
- Tap on the **messages icon** 💬 on the main page
- View Father Laszlo's introductory video and the other tutorial videos by tapping the links in the first two messages
- On the main page, tap on the **groups icon** 👥; tap **"find a group"**; browse through the groups and tap **"join"** on any of the groups you would like to join. When your join request is approved by the app administrator, you will be able view discussions and start discussions in the group(s) you have joined.
- On the main page, tap on the **calendar icon** 📅; tap on **"featured events"** to browse through the various calendars to see what events are coming up in the parish; to add an event directly to your calendar in your phone, click the **add icon** + next to the event you wish to add.

EXCITING NEW CHRISTLIFE SERIES COMING THIS JANUARY.

Do you have unanswered questions about God, and the meaning of your life?

Have you been through Alpha? Do you desire to go deeper in your faith?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then Discovering Christ is for you!



In *Discovering Christ* anyone and everyone is invited to hear the Good News and come to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. This experience helps people to enter into or renew a relationship with Jesus, experience the love of God the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The purpose of *Discovering Christ* is to expose anyone and everyone— the unbaptized, non-practicing Christians, as well as practicing Catholics— to "the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 36).

Each session starts with a **meal**, this gives us an opportunity to get to know each other in a casual setting; a short time of **prayer** follows; then there is a **video presentation** which simply proclaims the Gospel message and helps us get to know Jesus better; then, finally, there is time for **small group discussions**, where in smaller groups we have the chance to share with one another our impressions from the presentation. Through this combination of fellowship, teaching and small group discussion over the course of seven weeks, we will be given an opportunity to encounter Christ personally, an *encounter that is always life-changing*.

Interested? Come and join us! Holy Family will be running the Discovering Christ program on Tuesdays starting on January 16th; morning sessions at 10:30am, evening sessions at 7:00pm.

To learn more about Discovering Christ visit
www.christlife.org/christlife-series/discovering-christ

Email: Michael Czesnik at faithformation.holyfamily@gmail.com. We hope to see you!

OREMUS ~ A GUIDE TO PRAYER

Join us for our next Adult Faith Formation on Oremus: A Guide to Prayer.

This program will help you make prayer an important part of your life. *Oremus* will open your mind and heart through authentic dialogue with Jesus. For most of us, prayer is just a habit and sometimes we find ourselves having difficulty communicating with the Lord. This course will allow you to discover how to place yourself in the presence of God and how to make prayer an integral part of your daily life. This 8 week study will take place on Mondays starting on **Jan 15th**. Choose between Mornings 10:30am or Evenings 7:30pm. Workbooks will be available for \$40 at the back of the church after all Masses.



Rejoice and be glad!! While you open up your presents and prance around in the snow, don't forget about the reason for this season: our most amazing Lord Jesus Christ!

All Youth Ministry activities go into hibernation for a bit this Christmas break. Life Teen and EDGE will return on January 8 and 11!



Steubenville 2018 – Save The Date!

“REVEALED” is the theme for 2018’s Steubenville Toronto Conference! Steubenville is a conference that is happening from July 13-15 for **all high school students**. It is a chance to listen to speakers who are known around the world, attend Mass with 2,000 people, and worship with so many other teens whose hearts are on fire for Christ!! One teen has said “words cannot express how true, good, and beautiful these conferences are. I loved having the opportunity to spend the weekend growing in love for the Lord!” If this sounds like something you are interested in, please contact Camille at hfwym91@gmail.com for more details. Don't wait!!

This summer, EDGE Camp celebrates its 10th year!! If you are currently in grade 5, 6, 7, or 8, join us for five days of celebrating the beauty of the Mass, outdoor activities, friendly competitions between hundreds of youth, incredible praise & worship sessions, and a whole lot of fun! For more information, pls. email Camille at hfwym91@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS MAKES YOU FREE

**We need to hear the good news at Christmas from the angels “Fear not.”
(Ps 27:1; Mt 2:1-12)**

“Fear not,” said the angels at Christmas. Then the doctor’s office calls, and there’s a problem with the tests, maybe a serious problem. You need to come in and have a talk.

“Fear not,” said the angels. Then the office calls, and they say, “You know that project you’ve been working on so long, the one you put so much into? We’ve been rearranging the plans, and the whole thing may be going out the window. We may need to think in a different way about your future.”

“Fear not,” said the angels. Then the other students in school let you know there’s a brand-new student at school, and he’s a star athlete, and he’s going for your position.

“Fear not,” said the angels. Then a loved one reaches out to you and says, “This is hard to talk about, but this relationship isn’t working.”

“Fear not,” the Bible says, in one way or another 365 times, as if God wanted us to get this message every day of our lives. Yet, a major university did a poll of its students asking them to identify the number one problem they faced. The administration expected to have answers like too much to do or too little time to study or things like that. The number one problem 75 percent of the students named was fear, insecurity, lack of self-confidence, and it was eating away at their own ability to do their best in the studies before them.

Almost everyone around you is in one way or another wrestling with fear, with insecurity, with anxiety. We often put on a bold front. We try not to let it show. But as that fear eats away at us, it eats away at our ability to step forward and grow into the people God most wants us to be and created us to be, and that we in our heart of hearts most want to be.

God did not create you to live in fear, and He intends for you to move beyond that fear. We really can learn to move away from the anxiety and insecurity with which we usually live to an assurance and boldness and confidence more durable than the mountains themselves.

You can see this divine expectation in the language the angels use at Christmas, the expectation that we will move from fear to joy, from anxiety to assurance. Whenever the angels say “fear not”—and they say it all the way through the Christmas story—they are using the imperative form of the verb. That means when the angels say, “fear not,” it’s not like, “Oh, don’t be worried. Everything is going to be okay.” It’s not a gentle encouragement. It’s a command. It’s the same verb form a mother uses when she tells her kids to straighten up. The angel is commanding us to dump the fear and choose the joy coming into the world!

The reason the angel can say it is because at Christmas God gave the world the gift of Himself in Jesus. That gift comes with power to transform our lives from the inside out, so that our fears can be dispelled and we can experience true joy.

And the reason I am bringing this message today is that I see way too many good people believing in Jesus without ever really accepting the gifts He was born to give, unconsciously choosing fear rather than joy.

The essence of the angel’s message is, “accept the gifts and become the person God created you to be.” I invite you to remember the person Christmas is all about. In these sacred times, open your heart to the gifts He has come to bring. And as the angels said so long ago, fear not.

On behalf of Fr. Matthew and our parish staff, I wish you and your family, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr. László Nagy
Pastor