

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Monday, December 19, 7 p.m.

+Paul & Durvalina Leonardo req by
Dina Leal

Tuesday, December 20, 9 a.m.

Sp. Int. Fr. Marijan Sisko req by
Santa Teresa

+Domenic Orecchio req by
Antoinetta Orecchio

Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m.

+Katherine Agnus MacLean req by
Paul & Charlotte Mulhern

Thursday, December 22, 9 a.m.

+Mr. & Mrs. R. La Torre req by
Mr & Mrs. A. Morra

+Elmer Mella req by Maureen Licsi

Friday, December 23, 7 p.m.

+Anne & Gopal Gehani req by
Jacinta & Josephine

+Michael Perera req by Perera Family

+Cheryl Cordick req by Family

+Pat Bourke req by Anne Bourke

+Jeanette & Joyce Coe req by
Maurice Coe

+Fred Bernales req by Padilla Family

+Roger Tyron Fernando req by
Mary Fernando

Sp Int for Residence of Sunny Crest
req by Legion of Mary Members

+Ernest Berry req by Dorothy, Don &
Shawn Berry

Saturday, December 24

Mass Times: 6pm, 8pm, 10pm, 12mn

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.

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.

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, 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, 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 session: 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**

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 every Tuesday until April 18, 2017 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://hollyfamilywh.archtoronto.org>.

YOUTH MINISTRY ADVENT REFLECTION

4th Sunday of Advent- Coming Soon

Imagine how hard it must have been for people in the Old Testament to envision when and where Jesus would come. They knew God promised to send a Messiah to save us. They heard random prophecies spread over decades and centuries giving them "clues" about where He would be born, what He would be called, or what He would be like. But piecing it all together would have been really difficult to wrap their heads around. God had ever walked among them like He would now.

- Mary and Joseph weren't expecting to become the parent of the Son of God. Can you think of a time in your life when God did something unexpected, but it turned out better than you originally planned? What can this experience teach you?
- When Joseph awoke from his sleep, he immediately did what God had asked. Is God asking you to do something you've been hesitant to do? What's holding you back?
- Is it hard for you to remember that God is always with you? Why?

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

Our refugee family is prayerfully awaiting further decision on their release from their Ghanaese refugee camp. We also have a very benevolent benefactor who is reserving one of their homes for the Adzamega family until they arrive. Most recently, we held a novena at our parish to spiritually pray for their arrival here. One of our parish refugee team members just recently came back from Ghana and visited with two of the Adzamega family members. The conversation and meeting was richly blessed with hope, Christian love, joy and peace. All our efforts and funds are in wait mode within our church until we can embrace our fellow Catholic Christian refugee family - hopefully shortly. Pray with us for them and many blessings of Christmas with God's comforting love!
Alan Perron and our Parish Refugee Team.

FR. LEO AUSTIN GRADE 8 INFORMATION NIGHT

Fr. Leo Austin is inviting you to attend their **Grade 8 Parent Information Night at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafetorium on Wednesday January 18, 2017.** If you have any questions or for more details please contact the school at (905) 666-2010.



RUN TO JESUS! AN ADVENT REFLECTION

By Msgr. Charles Pope

The Lord's coming is near. And though we have all been well taught that the word "Advent" means "coming," there is the danger that we think that we are only passively waiting for Him to come. It is not just that the Lord is coming to us; we are also journeying to Him. In fact, as the Advent prayers in the Roman Missal instruct, we ought to run, not walk, and hasten to greet Him as He draws near.

This notion of running to meet God is set forth as a consistent theme in the prayers of the Roman Missal. Consider the following prayers and how the theme of our hastening to go out to meet God, even as He is coming to us, is set forth:

1. *Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom* (First Sunday of Advent).
2. *Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company* (Second Sunday of Advent).
3. *Stir up your mighty power, O Lord, and come to our help with a mighty strength, so that what our sins impede, the grace of your mercy may hasten* (Thursday of the First Week of Advent).
4. *Grant that your people, we pray, almighty God, may be ever watchful for the coming of your Only Begotten Son, that, as the author of our salvation himself has taught us, we may hasten, alert with lighted lamps, to meet him when he comes* (Friday of the Second Week of Advent).
5. *May the reception of your sacrament strengthen us O Lord, so that we may go out to meet our savior, with worthy deeds when he comes, and merit the rewards of the blessed* (Post-communion, Dec 22).

So, more than merely waiting passively, we should be running and hastening to meet the Lord.

The image of the prodigal son comes to mind. In this parable, the father sees his son and runs toward him. But at the same time, the son is hastening toward his father with contrition and hope. In the same way, we look for the Lord's coming during Advent. But the Lord also looks for us to come to Him by faith. Like the prodigal son, we should consider our need for salvation. With contrition (have you been to confession recently?) we should hasten to meet our Lord, who by faith we know is coming to us.

Thus, we are not counseled to wait for the Lord in a passive sense, as though we were sitting around waiting for a bus to arrive. Rather, we are counseled to wait for the Lord in an active sense, in much the same way that a waiter in a restaurant waits on tables. Alert and aware, the waiter carefully observes the needs of the patrons in his care and serves them. Good waiters strive to avoid distraction and to do their job of serving well with an alert swiftness.

Notice, too, how the prayers above indicate what it means to run to the Lord. We should not run aimlessly or in circles. Rather, running to the Lord means

1. being engaged in righteous deeds (holiness) by God's grace,
2. not being hindered by worldly preoccupations and distractions,
3. learning heavenly wisdom,
4. receiving the Lord's mercy unto the forgiveness of our sins,
5. being alert and ready for the Lord's coming, with the lamp of our soul trimmed (humble and purged of sin) and burning (alive with fiery love), and
6. being strengthened by the Eucharist, which is our food for the journey.

Are you running to meet the Lord or are you just waiting passively? Advent involves looking and waiting, but it also means running to meet the Lord, who is coming to us. Run, don't walk, to the nearing Jesus!