

Holy Family Parish

91 RIBBLESDALE DRIVE, WHITBY, ONTARIO CANADA L1N 6Z3

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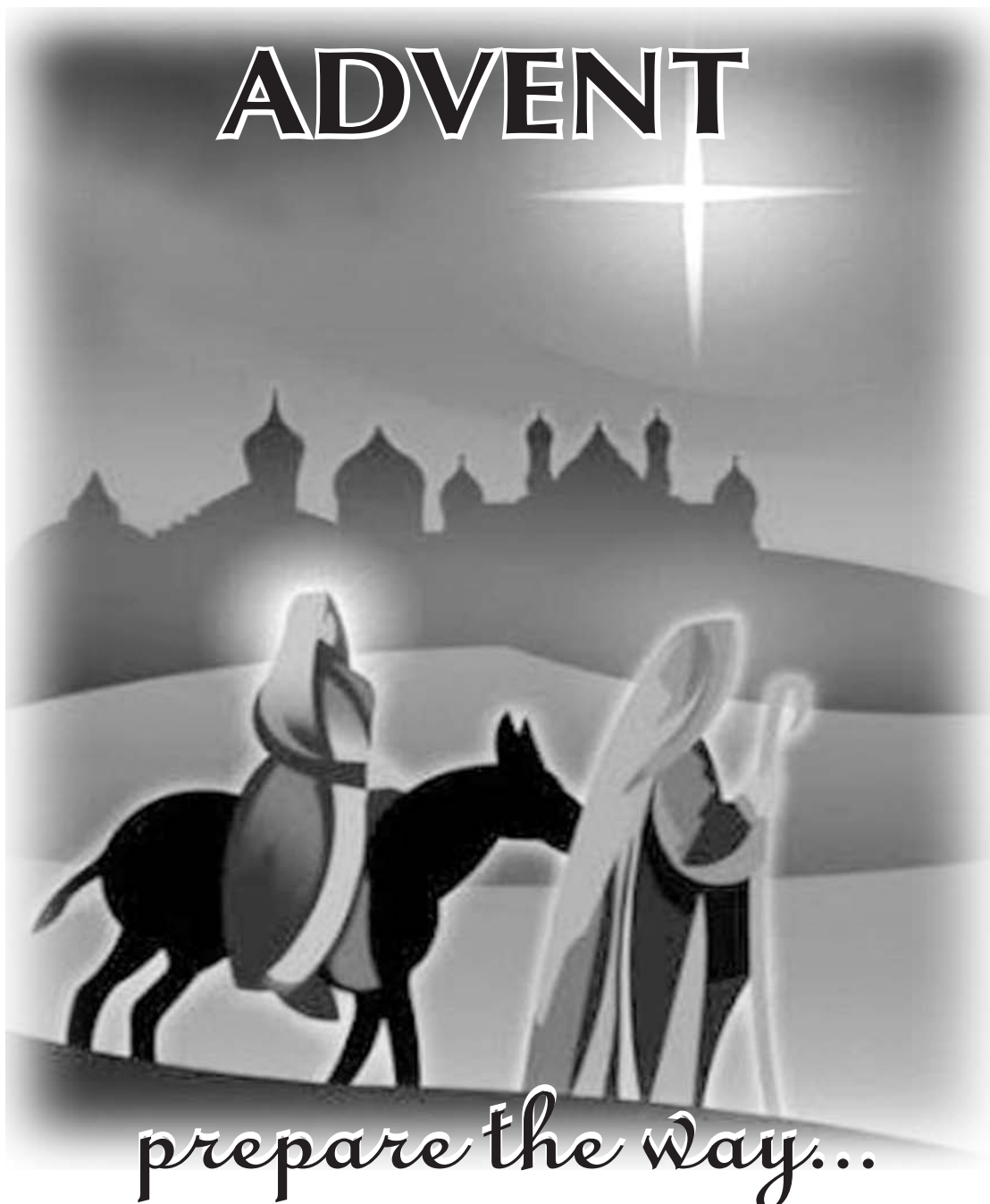
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PASTOR: Rev. Fr. Laszlo Nagy

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Ravibabu Kakumanu

OFFICE MANAGER: Tess Bondoc **Youth Minister:** Stephanie Paglia

Office Assistant: Sue Kanemy **Lay Pastoral Assistant:** Karina Doyle



prepare the way...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Monday Dec 19, 7:00pm

+Arlynn Best req by Debbie & Paddy Cauley

Tuesday Dec 20, 9:00am

+Douglas & grace Hancock req by Hancock Family

Wednesday Dec 21, 7:00pm

+Helen Augustus req by Madonna Augustus

Thursday Dec 22, 9:00am

+Drago Zibert req by Family
+Alvin Penafior req by Jun Padua and Family
+Nelson de Jesus req by Jun Padua and Family
+Ignatius Pereira req by Reggie Fernandes and family

Friday Dec 23, 7:00pm

+Melissa George req by Mum and Dad
+Jose Durvalina & Paul Leonardo req By Dina Leal
+Douglas & Grace Hancock req by Hancock Family

2023 Offertory envelopes

are ready for pick up at the back of the church. We encourage everyone to have church envelopes. Even if you are in our PAG (pre-authorized program), putting your weekly envelopes in the collection bag shows the congregation your support. The act of putting your envelope in the collection bag is a sign of your worship and love for God. Scan the QR Code to request for 2023 envelopes:



Thank You!

YOUR SUPPORT CAN MAKE CHANGE POSSIBLE!

This year seems to have gone so quickly, but another year is coming to a close. Here at Holy Family Parish, we've taken the opportunity to reflect on this past year's many blessings and accomplishments.

All of this could not have been accomplished without your help. As a Church, we rely on your support and generosity. We at Holy Family work hard to support and to keep you spiritually fed, intellectually stimulated, and evangelically inspired. *If you've been impacted by our work, we kindly ask you to consider us in your end-of-year giving.* We are continuously overwhelmed by your generosity and genuinely grateful for your unceasing support of our mission.

In Christ,
Fr. László



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass, Saturday, December 24th

6:00 pm 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm and 12:00 Midnight (with Incense)

Christmas Day, Sunday December 25th

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

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31st 5:00pm

New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1st, 2023

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

**Office closed on December 26 and 27
and on January 2, 2023**



Come and Join us for a 9 day Novena Mass as a preparation for the coming of our Lord on Christmas

At Holy Family Parish

91 Ribblesdale Dr., Whitby

Dec. 15-23, 2022 from 7-8pm





OUR JOURNEY TO JESUS: AN ADVENT REFLECTION

Be prepared for the Lord's coming. 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 journeying 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. *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).
2. *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).
3. *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).
4. *May the reception of your sacrament strengthen us O Lord, so that we may go out to meet our saviour, 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 in our journey 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.**

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

May you open your hearts and remove all the things that would hinder you from receiving Christ with joy this season of Advent.



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